

Daily Defence Current Affairs

11 March 2025

INS Imphal To Participate In Mauritius

- Indian Naval Ship Imphal makes her maiden port call at Port Louis, the capital city of Mauritius, on 10 Mar 25. The ship will participate in the 57th Mauritius National Day celebrations on 12 Mar 25.
- The ship will field a marching contingent, naval band and helicopter for the flypast at the National Day Parade at Champs de Mars. **Shri Narendra Modi**, the Hon'ble PM of India, will be the **Chief Guest** at the celebrations.
- The planned interactions are firmly underpinned by India's 'Neighborhood First' policy and vision of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** – espoused by the Hon'ble PM exactly a decade ago at Mauritius on the occasion of the commissioning of **MCGS Barracuda**, the **first Indian-built warship** to be inducted into the **Mauritius National Coast Guard** on 12th Mar 15.
- Commissioned in Dec 23, Imphal is the third of the four **Project 15B** (Visakhapatnam class) indigenous destroyers. Equipped with state-of-the-art weapons, sensors and machinery, she ranks amongst the largest and most technologically advanced warships in the world.



India, Armenia Focus On Defence Ties

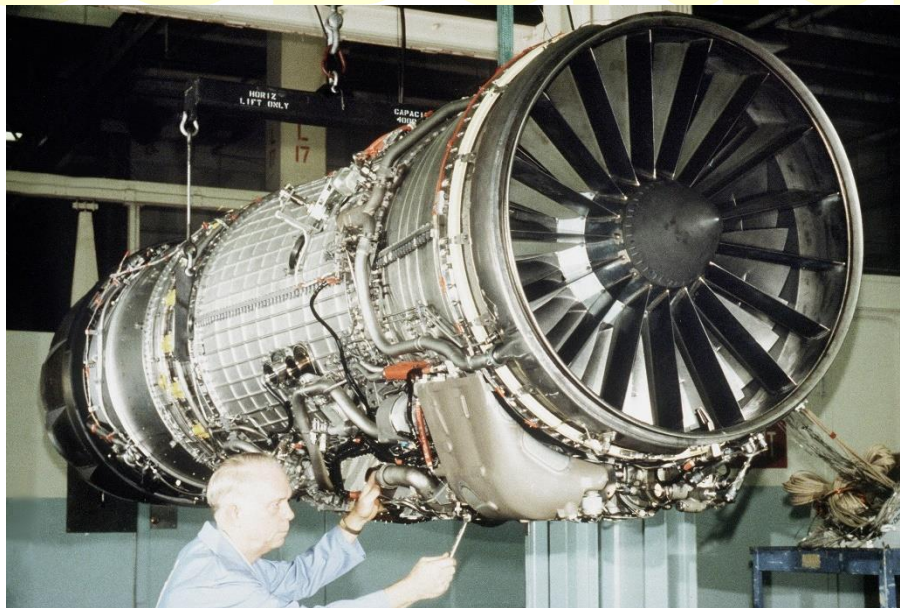
- India and Armenia on Monday held threadbare discussion on stepping up strategic partnership, including defence engagement and connectivity via Iran through **INSTC and Chabahar Port**.
- Visiting Armenian foreign minister Ararat Mirzoyan and S Jaishankar engaged in detailed conversation on expanding defence trade and connectivity initiatives, it is learnt. There was also focus on launching direct flights and enhancing business and people-to-people ties.
- "Armenia has always regarded India as a close partner - a nation with which we share deep civilizational bonds and a long history of amicable relations... Today, Armenia and India enjoy multifaceted cooperation that continues to evolve dynamically. The comprehensive deepening of our partnership with India constitutes a foreign policy priority for Armenia."



Advanced Military Grade Turbofan-Engines

- India is reportedly engaging in discussions with four major countries—**United States, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom**—to initiate an advanced jet-engine program domestically by the end of the year.
- This initiative involves significant investment, with estimates suggesting expenditures of **₹40,000 Crores to ₹50,000 Crores** over the next decade or more

- This initiative reflects India's strategic efforts to enhance its aerospace capabilities and reduce dependence on foreign technology. The country has existing defence collaborations with these nations, which have been pivotal in shaping its military modernisation.
- A significant part of these discussions involves finalizing a deal with General Electric (GE) for the **GE-414 engine**, which is crucial for powering **TEJAS MK-2** and potentially its fifth-generation fighter aircraft, the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**.
- This partnership, agreed upon in 2023, aims to transfer critical jet engine technologies to India, marking a substantial step towards achieving self-reliance in critical technologies.
- The F414 powers several prominent aircraft, including the **Boeing F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and the Saab Gripen Next Generation**, showcasing its versatility across different military platforms.
- It is a derivative of the successful F404 engine, offering a significant increase in thrust—up to **22,000 pounds** with an afterburner—while maintaining ease of maintenance and operability.



Ukraine Replaces India As World's Top Arms Importer

- Ukraine has recently surpassed India as the world's top arms importer, according to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

(SIPRI). This shift is largely due to the ongoing conflict with Russia, which began in February 2022, according to a report by SIPRI.

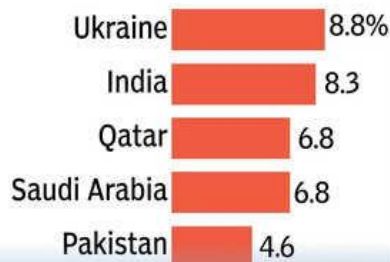
- Ukraine's arms imports have increased dramatically, with the country becoming the largest recipient of heavy weapons globally between 2020 and 2024.
- During this period, Ukraine's arms imports rose nearly a hundredfold compared to the previous five years, with almost 9% of all global arms exports going to Ukraine.
- Russia remains India's largest arms supplier, accounting for 36 per cent of its imports during 2020-24. However, this share is significantly lower than in previous periods, such as 55 per cent in 2015-19 and 72 per cent in 2010-14.
- The surge in European arms imports, which increased by 155% from 2020 to 2024, is also attributed to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, as other European nations have sought to bolster their defences in response to Russian aggression.
- India, which had previously been the world's largest arms importer, saw its share of global arms imports decline from 9.8% to 8.3% during the same period.



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WITH 43% SHARE, US TOP EXPORTER

Top Arms Importers (global share)



Top Arms Exporters (global share)



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HFCL Bags Order of ₹44.36 Crore From Indian Army

- HFCL Ltd material subsidiary, HTL Limited, has secured a contract worth ₹44.36 crore from the Indian Army.
- The contract involves the supply of tactical optical fibre cable assemblies, which are indigenously manufactured and designed to withstand harsh battlefield conditions.
- These assemblies feature optical fibre cables capable of withstanding heavy armoured vehicle loads and are equipped with specialized military-grade connectors. They are engineered for rapid deployment in challenging environments and are lightweight enough to be carried by infantry in backpacks.



World's First Commercial Space Surveillance Satellite

- Digantara, a Bangalore-based Indian start-up, has successfully commissioned the world's first commercial space surveillance satellite, named **SCOT (Space Camera for Object Tracking)**.
- This satellite was launched on January 14, 2025, aboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 rocket and began operations on March 9, 2025.
- **SCOT's** inaugural image captured a breath taking view of Earth's limb with the city of Buenos Aires glowing against the planet's curvature while passing over South America.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where has the Sea Dragon 2025 naval exercise commenced?

- A. Guam coast
- B. Hawaiian Islands
- C. Philippine Sea
- D. East China Sea

ANSWER: A

2. Which country has recently surpassed India as the world's top arms importer, according to SIPRI?

- A. China
- B. Pakistan
- C. Ukraine
- D. Saudi Arabia

ANSWER: C

3. Which Indian company has secured a contract worth ₹44.36 crore from the Indian Army for tactical optical fibre cable assemblies?

- A. Bharat Electronics Limited
- B. Tata Advanced Systems
- C. HFCL Ltd (HTL Limited)
- D. Larsen & Toubro

ANSWER: C

4. What is the name of the world's first commercial space surveillance satellite commissioned by Digantara?

- A. SAT-1
- B. ASTROSAT
- C. SCOT (Space Camera for Object Tracking)
- D. SKYNET

ANSWER: C

5. Which of the following aircraft is powered by the General Electric F414 turbofan engine?

- A. Dassault Rafale
- B. Sukhoi Su-30MKI
- C. Boeing F/A-18E/F Super Hornet
- D. MiG-29

ANSWER: C

6. What is the significance of INS Imphal's visit to Mauritius?

- A. Participation in joint naval exercises
- B. Humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations
- C. Participation in the 57th Mauritius National Day celebrations
- D. Signing of a new maritime defense agreement

ANSWER: C

7. A400 Atlas Aircraft Manufactured By

- A. Boeing
- B. Airbus
- C. HAL
- D. None

ANSWER: B

8. Indian Space Science Data Centre Is Located At

- A. Chennai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. New Delhi
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: B

9. __ Becomes Indian Army's First Woman Sky Diver

- A. Roop Rai
- B. Lance Naik Manju
- C. Corporal Manju
- D. None

ANSWER: B

10. __ Plans To Establish The National Government Cloud To Store Sensitive Data.

- A. MOD
- B. MEA
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

11. The F 22 Raptor Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: D

12. 'Swift and Sure' Is The Motto Of

- A.** Army Aviation Corps
- B.** Sikh Regiment
- C.** Rajput Regiment
- D.** Gorkha

ANSWER: A

13. Which Regiment Has Motto: "Veer Bhogya Vasundhara"?

- A. RAJPUTANA RIFLES
- B. RAJPUT REGIMENT
- C. DOGRA REGIMENT
- D. SIKH REGIMENT

ANSWER: A

14. ICMF Stands For

- A. Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility
- B. Integrated Cry Engine Manufacturing Facility

- C. Integrated Cryogenic Engine Make Facility
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

15. "Bolo Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ki jai" Is The War Cry Of

- A. Maratha Light Infantry Regiment
- B. Grenadiers
- C. Punjab Regiment
- D. Parachute Regiment

ANSWER: A

16. Rabat Is The Capital Of

- A. Morocco
- B. Montenegro
- C. Monaco
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

17. "Without Fear or Favour" Book Written By

- A. R K Narayan
- B. Khushwant Singh
- C. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: C

18. Exercises B/w The India And Bangladesh Is Called:

- A. GARUDA SHAKTI
- B. SLINEX
- C. SAMPRITI
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: C

19. __ Is The Legal Branch Of The Indian Army.

- A. Army Court
- B. Supreme Court
- C. Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Department
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

20. Exercises B/w India And Kyrgyzstan Is Called:

- A. KHANJAR
- B. SLINEX
- C. NOMADIC ELEPHANT
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A