

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 12 March 2025

### MoU On `Scorpene' Class Submarine Maintenance Between India-Brazil

- India and Brazil are nearing the finalisation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focused on the maintenance of Scorpene-class submarines, marking a significant step in their growing defence partnership.
- This collaboration aims to leverage Brazil's extensive expertise in submarine maintenance to enhance India's naval capabilities and accelerate its self-reliance in defence production.
- The foundation for this partnership was laid during a landmark visit by a Brazilian naval delegation in 2022, led by Vice Admiral Liberal Enio Zanelatto.
- Brazil is particularly interested in forming a "**Scorpene Club**" with nations operating these French-origin submarines to exchange best practices and technologies.
- The MoU is expected to address cost reduction strategies for submarine maintenance, technical cooperation, and training programs.



## Starlink's Super-Fast Internet In India Soon

- Airtel and Elon Musk's SpaceX have announced a significant partnership to bring Starlink's high-speed internet services to India. This agreement marks the first of its kind in the country and is contingent upon SpaceX obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals to sell Starlink services in India.
- The collaboration aims to enhance Airtel's connectivity solutions by integrating Starlink's satellite technology, allowing them to offer comprehensive and seamless connectivity packages to enterprises, businesses, and communities across India.
- As part of this partnership, Airtel and SpaceX will explore various opportunities, including offering Starlink equipment in Airtel's retail stores and providing satellite broadband services to business customers
- Airtel will assess how Starlink can bolster its existing network infrastructure, while SpaceX may leverage Airtel's ground infrastructure in India to enhance its offerings.
- Despite regulatory hurdles, India remains a crucial market for satellite internet providers due to its vast demand for rural broadband connectivity.



## Ukraine Agrees To Ceasefire Proposal

- Ukraine endorsed an American proposal for a 30-day ceasefire and agreed to immediate negotiations with Russia in crunch talks in Jeddah on Tuesday after three years of grinding war.

- The positive response from Ukraine prompted President Donald Trump's administration to lift a freeze on military aid and to predict the beginning to an end to three years of war.
- With Trump stunning allies by applying intense pressure on Kyiv and reaching out to Moscow, Ukrainian officials came to talks in Saudi Arabia eager to make up and had proposed a partial truce on air and sea attacks.
- Trump's advisers pressed for more and said Ukraine agreed to their proposal for a full month-long ceasefire in a war that has claimed tens of thousands of lives.
- In a joint statement, Ukraine and the United States said they would conclude "as soon as possible" a deal securing US access to Ukraine's mineral wealth, which Trump demanded as compensation for billions of dollars in US weapons under his predecessor Joe Biden.



## **Over 100 Hostages Rescued From Hijacked Train In Pakistan**

- Over a hundred hostages have been freed after armed rebels hijacked a train carrying over 400 passengers in Pakistan's restive Balochistan region. Authorities said at least 16 rebels have been killed in a firefight with the forces.
- Armed militants attacked and hijacked a passenger train in Pakistan's Balochistan province, killing three people and taking over 450 passengers hostage. Pakistani security forces launched an operation, rescuing more than 150 people while killing 27 militants, according to AFP.

- Heavy gunfire continued overnight as security forces worked to clear the area. At least 20 soldiers were also killed in the exchange of heavy ambush.
- "Security forces have safely rescued 155 passengers. 27 terrorists have been eliminated," a security source said, adding the operation was still "ongoing".
- The attackers, identified as members of the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), blew up the railway track, forcing the train to stop in a remote area. They then boarded the train and took control, separating men from women.
- The BLA claimed responsibility for the attack, continuing its insurgency against the Pakistani state. The group has escalated violence in Balochistan, targeting civilians and security forces.
- Balochistan, Pakistan's largest but poorest province, has long been home to separatist movements.
- Militants claim that the region's natural resources are exploited by outsiders, leaving little benefit for locals. Violence has intensified since the Taliban regained control in Afghanistan, with Pakistan accusing Kabul of harboring militants—an allegation the Taliban denies.
- In 2013, Balochistan saw highest militant violence in nearly a decade.



### REBELS WARN OF 'SEVERE CONSEQUENCES'

> **Jaffar Express with 500 passengers** was en route from Quetta to Peshawar, a distance of 1,600km, when it was hijacked

> **Train was attacked around 1.30pm (IST) near Sibi**, and brought to a halt near a tunnel

> Militants bombed tracks before storming the train, **severely wounding the driver**

> A rly officer in Quetta said around **60 passengers** had left the train and **arrived safely at Panir**

> **Balochistan Liberation Army** warned of 'severe consequences' if forces attempt a rescue op



9-coach Jaffar Exp started from Quetta stn



**Armed militants of Baloch Liberation Army hijack Jaffar Express train in Pehro Kunri area**



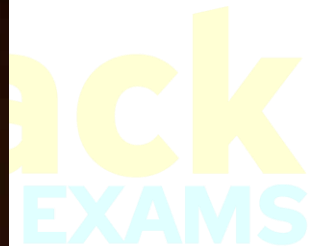
SSB

Crack EXAMS



## Tulsi Gabbard to Attend Intel Chiefs' Meet in New Delhi

- US national intelligence director Tulsi Gabbard will visit India soon to attend the annual meeting of intelligence chiefs that New Delhi is hosting, making her the first senior official from the Trump administration to undertake a trip to this country.
- Gabbard took to X to announce her visits to Japan, Thailand and India, with a brief stop in France before returning to Washington, D.C.
- India hosts a meeting of intelligence chiefs of various countries annually ahead of the Raisina Dialogue and it is scheduled for March 16-17 in New Delhi.
- Canada's intelligence chief Daniel Rogers will also visit India to attend the meet, in what would be an initial signal of thawing of ties that were at a nadir under PM Justin Trudeau. Other participants will include intelligence chiefs from West Asian nations and representatives from Russia.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Vindhyagiri is the sixth ship of the Project 15A.**
- 2. 100 percent of the orders for equipment and systems of Vindhyagiri ship are from indigenous firms.**
- 3. Vindhyagiri ship has been designed in-house by Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau.**

**How many of the above is/are not correctly matched?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. All 3
- D. None

**ANSWER: B**

**2. What is the primary role of a Frigate in naval warfare?**

- A. Anti-aircraft defense
- B. Coast defense
- C. Anti-submarine warfare
- D. Long-range operations

**ANSWER: C**

**3. Which ship is described as a fast and powerfully armored warship designed for anti-aircraft and anti-submarine defense?**

- A. Corvette
- B. Destroyer
- C. Cruiser
- D. Frigate

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Which project of the Indian Navy involves the construction of Scorpene class attack submarines?**

- A. Project 17 Alpha
- B. Project 75
- C. P-15B
- D. Project 17A

**ANSWER: B**

**5. When was the first submarine under Project 75, INS Kalvari, delivered?**

- A. 2015
- B. 2017
- C. 2019
- D. 2021

**ANSWER: B**

**6. How many submarines built under Project 75?**

- A. Four

- B. Five
- C. Six
- D. Seven

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Which company is involved in the construction of Project 17 Alpha frigates?**

- A. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- B. Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- C. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- D. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

**ANSWER: D**

**8. How many ships are planned under Project 17 Alpha frigates?**

- A. Three
- B. Seven
- C. Five
- D. Six

**ANSWER: B**

**9. What is the naming convention for the ships under Project 17 Alpha frigates?**

- A. Named after Indian cities
- B. Named after Indian rivers
- C. Named after Indian hill ranges
- D. Named after Indian states

**ANSWER: C**

**10. How many warships are planned under the P-15B (Visakhapatnam Class) destroyer program?**

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Five

**ANSWER: C**

**11. What is the primary purpose of a Destroyer in naval warfare?**

- A. Coast defense



- B. Long-range operations
- C. Anti-submarine warfare
- D. Anti-aircraft defense

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Which ship is the fourth submarine under Project 75?**

- A. INS Kalvari
- B. INS Khanderi
- C. INS Karanj
- D. INS Vela

**ANSWER: D**

**13. When was INS Khanderi, the second submarine under Project 75, deployed?**

- A. 2015
- B. 2017
- C. 2019
- D. 2021

**ANSWER: C**

**14. Pangong Tso lake is located in**

- A. Kashmir
- B. Ladakh
- C. Odisha
- D. Kochi

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Priyadarshini is a fast patrol vessel of**

- A. ICG
- B. IAF
- C. Indian Navy
- D. BSF

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Which port is located in the western coast of India?**

- A. Kandla
- B. Kolkata
- C. Mangalore
- D. Visakhapatnam

**ANSWER: A**

**17. AAI Stands For**

- A. Airport Author of India
- B. Air Authority of India
- C. Airport Authority of India
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**18. India Purchased Boeing 737 from**

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Indian Army Flag Consist Colours of \_\_\_ Colours.**

- A. Gold, Red And Black
- B. Gold, Red And Blue
- C. Gold, Rose Black And Black
- D. Green, Red And Black

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Operation Talwar Was Conducted In**

- A. 1978
- B. 1988
- C. 1998
- D. 1999

**ANSWER: D**

