

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 24 March 2025

### India-Italy Military Cooperation Group Meeting

- The 13th edition of the India-Italy Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was successfully conducted from 20-21 March 2025 in Rome, Italy.
- The discussions were focusing on identifying new avenues to expand the scope of bilateral military focused cooperation. Key agenda points included enhanced exchange programs, capability development efforts and strengthening collaboration between the Indian and Italian armed forces.
- The MCG serves as a key institutional mechanism to enhance defence cooperation between the armed forces of both nations, fostering stronger military-to-military engagements and strategic collaboration.
- India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029
- Connectivity: Enhance collaboration on maritime and land infrastructure within the framework of India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
- Science and Technology: Agreed on expanding cooperation in critical technologies like AI & digitalization, with implementation of 2025-27 Executive Programme for Scientific & Technological Cooperation.
- Introduced a new Indo-Italian Innovation and Incubation Exchange Program to foster academic & industrial collaboration.
- Defense cooperation: Decided to hold annual Joint Defense Consultative (JDC) meetings & Joint Staff Talks (JST) to improve coordination in defense matters.
- Discussed establishing a Defense Industrial Roadmap to foster cooperation in defense manufacturing.



## Project 1135.6 built by GSL Launched

- The second frigate of Project 1135.6 Additional Follow-on Ships, named 'Tavasya', built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), was launched.
- The ship has been named '**Tavasya**', after the mace of legendary warrior '**Bhima**' from the '**Mahabharata**', representing the indomitable spirit and growing strength of the Indian Navy.
- The contract for building two Project 1135.6 Follow-on frigates was signed between the Ministry of Defence and Goa Shipyard Limited on 25 Jan 19. The **first ship 'Triput'**, was launched on 23 Jul 24.
- These ships are designed for surface, sub-surface and air combat operations. 'Triput' and 'Tavasya' are 124.8 m long and 15.2 m wide, with a draught of 4.5 m. The displacement is approximately 3600 tons with a maximum speed of 28 knots.



## Keel Laying of Yard 1281 And 1282

- Keel Laying ceremony of the second and third Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV), to be constructed by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL), was held at M/s Yeoman Marine Services Private Ltd (YMSPL), Ratnagiri on 23 Mar 25.
- Main hull blocks of Yard 1281 and Yard 1282 are being fabricated at the premises of YMSPL, Ratnagiri as part of GSL's build strategy.
- The NGOPVs with an approximate tonnage of 3000T, are designed for Coastal Defence & Surveillance, Search & Rescue operations, Protection of Offshore Assets and Anti-Piracy missions.
- The 11 NGOPVs are being built in consonance with the nation's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' and are poised to augment the Indian Naval maritime prowess.





## General Electric To Deliver First of 99 F-404 Engines

- GE Aerospace is set to deliver the first of 99 F-404 engines for the TEJAS MK-1A fighter jets by the end of March 2025, following a two-year delay in fulfilling its contractual obligations. This delivery is part of a \$716 million contract signed in 2021 between **GE and HAL**.
- The first engine is currently undergoing testing and is expected to be handed over shortly. As per the agreement, GE will deliver 12 engines in 2025 and subsequently supply 20 engines annually to meet its commitments.
- Meanwhile, HAL and GE are also collaborating on the development of the more powerful GE-414 engine, which will power India's future **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**.
- This collaboration is part of a technology transfer agreement finalized under the **India-US iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies)** framework, aimed at strengthening defence ties between the two nations.



### General Electric may deliver engines for LCA by March or April; India invokes penalty clause

Dinakar Peri  
NEW DELHI

After several delays, the F-404 jet engines, meant to power the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A, are expected to be delivered by the U.S. engine manufacturer General Electric (GE) by March or April 2025, according to sources in the know. The contractual obligations in terms of penalty for delayed deliveries have been invoked, sources have said.

The deal is between the GE and the defence public sector undertaking Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL). However, sources said there were no politics involved, and termed the delay in deliveries a "pure logistical issue".

In February 2021, the Defence Ministry had signed a ₹48,000-crore deal with the HAL for 83



Indigenously built: The first aircraft of the Tejas LCA-Mk1A series took to the skies from the HAL facility in March. ANI

LCA-Mk1A, a more capable fighter than the current LCA-Mk1 in service. Following this, in August 2021, the HAL signed a \$716-million deal with GE Aviation for 99 F-404 aircraft engines and support services for the LCA-Mk1A.

As per contract, three jets were to be delivered to the IAF in February 2024 and 16 aircraft per year for

subsequent five years.

"The GE issue is purely logistical. There are no politics involved," the first source said, saying that GE has supply chain issues with the engines and they are now trying that up to restart regular production.

There are two engines available with GE for now that are being given to India, sources said. They will

be used to deliver two jets to the Indian Air Force (IAF) while regular deliveries are awaited.

The engines are now expected by March or April next year, which is a two-year delay from the contractual terms.

A source said that contractual terms will have to be implemented. High-value defence contracts typically have a penalty clause for delays or violations. Another source confirmed that the penalty clause in the deal has been invoked.

Minister discussed

The engine delays were also discussed between the National Security Advisers of the two countries when they met and was also taken up during the visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

In response to a query from *The Hindu*, a GE Ae-

rospace spokesperson reiterated its earlier response, "The Aerospace industry continues to experience unprecedented supply chain pressures. The GE Aerospace is working with our partner HAL and suppliers to resolve constraints and deliver F-404-IN20 engines for the LCA-Mk1 programme."

The Security of Supply Arrangement (SoSA) that India and the U.S. concluded recently enables this kind of cooperation, sources noted.

In addition to the 83 Mk1A aircraft on order, the Defence Ministry has given approval for procurement of another 37 of them.

This would eventually make 180 LCA-Mk1A jets and 220 jets of the Mk1 variant.

The combined cost of the 180 Mk1As is an estimated at ₹1.15-lakh crore.



## US says kills 'key' Houthi leaders in Yemen strikes

- A U.S. military campaign of strikes in Yemen launched just over a week ago has so far taken out key Houthi leadership, including the group's top missile specialist, White House National Security Adviser Mike Waltz said on Sunday.
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- The U.S. military has so far released few details about the operations, launched after Houthi threats to renew its attacks on Red Sea shipping over the war in Gaza.
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- "We've hit their headquarters, we've hit communications nodes, weapons factories, and even some of their over-the-water drone production facilities," Waltz told CBS News.
- Waltz did not identify the slain missile specialist and gave no details on the other leaders who have been killed.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Under which contract is GE Aerospace delivering 99 F-404 engines for the TEJAS MK-1A fighter jets?
  - A. \$500 million contract with DRDO
  - B. \$716 million contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
  - C. \$1 billion contract with the Indian Air Force
  - D. \$600 million contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited

**ANSWER: B**

2. What is the approximate tonnage of the NGOPVs being constructed by GSL?
  - A. 1000T
  - B. 2000T
  - C. 3000T
  - D. 4000T

**ANSWER: C**

3. What is the name of the second frigate of Project 1135.6 Additional Follow-on Ships built by GSL?
  - A. Vikrant
  - B. Tavasya

- C. Kalvari
- D. Shivalik

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Which countries participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> Military Cooperation Group Meeting on March 2025?**

- A. India and China
- B. India and Italy
- C. India and Nepal
- D. India and Russia

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Who assumed charge as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy?**

- A. Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla
- B. Rear Admiral Manoj Kumar
- C. Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
- D. Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Which organization signed a MoU with ICG for the supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium?**

- A. Tata Steel
- B. Hindalco Industries
- C. Reliance Industries
- D. JSW Steel

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Deesa Airbase Of IAF Is Located In Which District Of Gujrat?**

- A. Surat
- B. Banaskantha
- C. Vapi
- D. None

**ANSWER: B**

**8. \_\_\_ Is The Largest Air Command Of The IAF?**

- A. Eastern
- B. Western
- C. Southern
- D. Northern

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Indian Navy Sailing Championship 2022 Was Organised By**

- A. IMA
- B. SNC
- C. INA
- D. NDA

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Kamikaze Drones Developed By**

- A. India
- B. Russia
- C. Ukraine
- D. Iran

**ANSWER: B**

**11. Tapas-BH Stands For**

- A. Tactical Airborne Platform for Advanced Surveillance- Beyond Horizon
- B. Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance- Beyond Horizon
- C. Tactical Airborne Prime for Aerial Surveillance- Beyond Horizon
- D. None

**ANSWER: B**

**12. Which Indian Navy Ship Participated In IBSAMAR Exercise?**

- A. INS Utkrosh
- B. INS Kochi
- C. INS Tarkash
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Newly Created 'Weapon System Branch' Is Made Up For**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**14. M777 Ultra-Light Howitzer Have A Range Of Up To**

- A. 20 km
- B. 25 km
- C. 30 km
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Recently QRSAM Missile Was Tested By**

- A. Indian Navy & ISRO
- B. Indian Army & ISRO
- C. Indian Army & DRDO
- D. ICG & ISRO

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Bogota Is The Capital Of**

- A. BAHRAIN
- B. BANGLADESH
- C. BARBADOS
- D. Colombia

**ANSWER: D**

**17. "Lal Salam" Book Written By**

- A. Smriti Irani
- B. JK Rowling
- C. Jhumpa Lahiri
- D. Amitav Ghosh

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Vajra Prahar Exercise Conducted B/W Bharat And?**

- A. USA
- B. UK
- C. Israel
- D. Qatar

**ANSWER: A**

**19. VL-SRSAM Developed By**

- A. ISRO
- B. DRDO
- C. NASA
- D. JAXA



**ANSWER: B**

**20. Hq Of The MOD Is In**

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

**ANSWER: B**

