

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India's First High-powered Laser Weapon

- India has successfully demonstrated its first high-powered laser weapon—a 30KW laser beam capable of neutralising drones, UAVs, and static targets—at the National Open Air Range (NOAR) in Kurnool.
- The milestone marks a major step in India's **directed energy weapons** (DEW) program, over a decade in the making.
- The foundation for laser-based defence began with a 2012 research paper advocating indigenous development. The programme took shape under DRDO, initially through LASTEC and later through the CHESS lab in Hyderabad.
- Under the codename **Sahastra Shakti**, the aim was clear: create weapons to disable enemy drones, optics, and electronic systems.
- Progressive upgrades: From MK1 to MK2A
- Mk1 (2024): A 2KW laser system effective against small drones at 1 km. Successfully shot down a Pakistani drone this month.
- Mk2: Combined six 2KW lasers into a powerful 12KW beam, extending range to over 2 km.
- Mk2A (2025): India's first true high-powered laser at 30KW. Uses six 5KW beams, with a range of 4 km. Can target drones, helicopters, and enemy sensors. Fully indigenous and truck-mounted.
- What's next
- Deployment: System is in trials and expected to be field-ready within two years.
- Future Variants: DRDO is developing versions with 50–100KW power to counter cruise missiles, jets, and even artillery shells.
- Next-gen Platforms: Miniaturized pods for aircraft, naval systems, and eventually space-based lasers are in the pipeline.



AIKEYME 2025

- The **Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME) 2025** was inaugurated on 13 Apr 25 in **Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania**, marking a significant step in strengthening maritime cooperation between India and African nations.
- AIKEYME 25, meaning '**Unity**' in Sanskrit, will be conducted over six days with participation from **Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa**, alongside **India and Tanzania**.
- The exercise will include a harbour phase with joint training and exercises focused on piracy and information sharing, followed by a sea phase to enhance maritime security cooperation.



All India Forensic Science Summit 2025

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addressed the All India Forensic Science Summit 2025 organized by the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** in New Delhi today as the Chief Guest.
- The theme of the conference was '**Role of Forensic Science in Effective Implementation of New Criminal Laws and Combating Terrorism**'.
- Union Home Minister said that to strengthen the criminal justice system, the Government of India has brought three new criminal laws in the form of **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)**.
- He said that it is a matter of joy for him that when the **National Forensic Sciences University** was established on **1 October 2020**, Shri Narendra Modi was the Prime Minister and he was the Home Minister of the country.



Indian Army uses new DRDO laser

- A Chinese-origin drone, reportedly operated by the Pakistan Army, was brought down near the Line of Control in Jammu by the Indian Army using an indigenous anti-drone system.
- Defence sources confirmed that the drone was spotted near Indian territory in the 16 Corps area, south of the Pir Panjal ranges. Army Air Defence units responded quickly.
- The unmanned aerial vehicle was intercepted using the **Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System**, designed and developed entirely in India.

- At its core is a **2-kilowatt laser beam** that can shoot down drones from a range of **800 to 1,000 metres**. It also supports other methods of disruption, making it adaptable to a wide range of threats.



Britain Sends Ukraine Second Part Of \$3 Billion War Loan

- Britain sent Ukraine 752 million pounds (\$990 million) to buy air defences and artillery on Monday, part of a broader \$50 billion international loan programme backed by frozen Russian assets, Britain's government said.
- "The world is changing before our eyes, reshaped by global instability, including Russian aggression in Ukraine," finance minister Rachel Reeves said.
- The Group of Seven advanced economies agreed an outline lending package in October 2024 - before the election of Donald Trump as president changed the United States' approach to the conflict - and Reeves and her Ukrainian counterpart Serhiy Marchenko finalised details of Britain's contribution in March.
- Pressured by the United States' increased reluctance to provide security in Europe, Britain's government announced in February that it would raise defence spending from about 2.3% of national income to 2.5% by 2027 and 3% some time after 2029.
- Monday's payment to Ukraine is the second of three instalments totalling 2.26 billion pounds. The first was on March 6 and the final part will be paid next year.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the range of the 2-kilowatt laser beam used in the Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System developed by DRDO?

- A. 500 to 700 metres
- B. 800 to 1,000 metres
- C. 1,200 to 1,500 metres
- D. 1,500 to 2,000 metres

ANSWER: B

2. Where did India successfully demonstrate its first high-powered 30KW laser weapon?

- A. Pokhran Test Range
- B. Chandipur Integrated Test Range
- C. National Open Air Range (NOAR), Kurnool
- D. Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur

ANSWER: C

3. What capability does the 30KW laser weapon demonstrated by India possess?

- A. Destroying satellites
- B. Neutralising submarines
- C. Neutralising drones, UAVs, and static targets
- D. Intercepting ballistic missiles

ANSWER: C

4. When was the National Forensic Sciences University established?

- A. 15 August 2019
- B. 26 January 2021
- C. 1 October 2020
- D. 2 October 2020

ANSWER: C

5. Where was the Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME) 2025 inaugurated?

- A. Mombasa, Kenya
- B. Cape Town, South Africa

- C. Port Louis, Mauritius
- D. Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

ANSWER: D

6. What Is SARVATRA In The Context Of The Indian Army's Defence Capabilities?

- A. Special Operations Force
- B. Tactical Reconnaissance System
- C. Rapid Deployment Platform
- D. Mobile Bridging System

ANSWER: D

7. C295 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 Hawker Siddeley HS 748 Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Transport Aircraft

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