

Daily Defence Current Affairs

22 April 2025

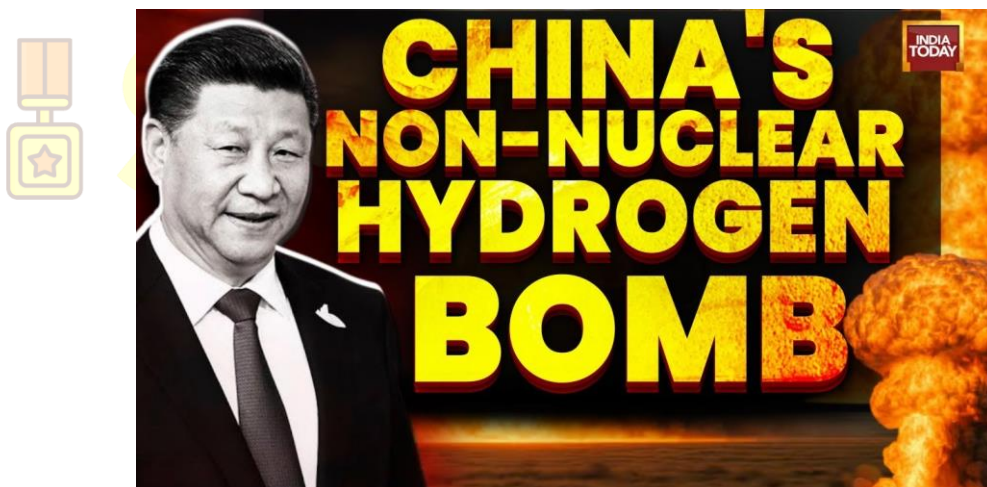
Vice President Vance Meets PM Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met US Vice President JD Vance on Monday, and the two leaders noted continued efforts towards enhancing cooperation in energy, defence, strategic technologies, and other areas.
- PM Modi and Vice President Vance welcomed the “significant progress” in the negotiations for a mutually beneficial India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement
- The US Vice President, who is on a four-day official visit to India, arrived in the national capital on Monday.
- This is Vice President Vance’s first visit to India. He will also visit Jaipur and Agra before departing for Washington DC.
- The high-level visit comes amid trade negotiations between the two countries following the US decision to impose reciprocal tariffs on several countries, including India. The US has reduced new tariff rates on most of its trade partners to 10 per cent for 90 days to allow trade negotiations.



China Develops Non-Nuclear Hydrogen Explosive

- China has successfully developed and tested a powerful non-nuclear hydrogen explosive with significant military potential for precision thermal strikes.
- This device, weighing about 2 kilograms, was detonated in a controlled field test by the China State Shipbuilding Corporation's (CSSC) 705 Research Institute, known for its expertise in underwater weapon systems.
- Unlike traditional nuclear hydrogen bombs, this weapon uses a **magnesium-based solid-state hydrogen storage** material called **magnesium hydride**, which can store more hydrogen in a compact and stable form compared to pressurised tanks.
- China has also invested in large-scale production of magnesium hydride, establishing a factory in Shaanxi capable of producing 150 tons annually using a safer and more cost-effective "one-pot synthesis" method.



Ground Station Network

- India's Space PSU **New Space India Limited** (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO, is initiating a significant project to involve private sector players in building a comprehensive ground station network for **low Earth orbit** (LEO) satellite operations across mainland India.
- This network will consist of around 25 dual-band and tri-band antennas capable of operating in multiple frequency bands (S/X/Ka bands) to support telemetry, tracking, command (TTC) operations, and satellite data download.

- The move to rope in private players for ground station infrastructure complements the Indian government's vision to increase the country's share in the global commercial space market from 2% to 8% by 2033.
- NSIL has already facilitated technology transfers to private companies, such as the Indian Mini Satellite-1 (IMS-1) bus technology to start-ups like **Dhruva Space and Alpha Design Technologies**, enabling them to build satellite platforms and ground station solutions.



Chinese Aggression Escalates in Disputed PMZ Waters

- China is now stepping up its game in the Yellow Sea by constructing a massive steel rig, following similar aggressive posturing in the South China Sea.
- This development has become a fresh source of conflict between China and South Korea. Korean ships attempted to examine the steel structure, leading to a recent standoff between the coast guards of the two nations.
- The Eurasian Times reported that the altercation occurred on the afternoon of February 26 in the **Provisional Maritime Zone (PMZ)**, close to Socotra Rock, southwest of Jeju Island in South Korea.
- The PMZ is a jointly administered area in the Yellow Sea--referred to as the West Sea in Korea--where South Korea's and China's exclusive economic zones (EEZs) overlap.



US Commander Gives Strident Warning About China's Threat

- Almost everywhere one looks, China is ramping up pressure against neighbours and would-be adversaries. This is happening diplomatically, economically and militarily, even as Chairman Xi Jinping rapidly builds up the combat capabilities of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and prepares China for a drawn-out "struggle".
- Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM), addressed these concerns in a House Armed Services Committee testimony on 10 April. He warned, "China continues to pursue unprecedented military modernisation and increasingly aggressive behaviour that threatens the US homeland, our allies and our partners."
- Military threats are just one element in China's toolbox for those who disagree with its imperious perspective. As Paparo explained, "China employs a multifaceted approach combining military pressure, cognitive and cyber operations, and economic coercion."
- Andrew Erickson, a professor at the US Naval War College, commented on Paparo's credentials: "Nobody outside of China," he related, "has a better view into developments of concern regarding China's armed forces than Admiral Sam Paparo..." He has led INDOPACOM since 3 May 2024, and before that, he was in charge of the Pacific Fleet from 5 May 2021.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The PMZ is a jointly administered area located in which sea?

- A. East China Sea
- B. South China Sea
- C. Yellow Sea
- D. Arabian Sea

ANSWER: C

2. What is the primary objective of NewSpace India Limited's (NSIL) new project?

- A. To build nuclear satellites
- B. To develop underwater weapons
- C. To involve private players in building LEO ground station networks
- D. To collaborate with foreign space agencies

ANSWER: C

3. Which Chinese institute tested a non-nuclear hydrogen explosive with potential for precision thermal strikes?

- A. Chinese Academy of Sciences
- B. CSSC's 705 Research Institute
- C. PLA Strategic Support Force
- D. China National Space Administration

ANSWER: B

4. The __ edition of Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' 2025.

- A. 4th
- B. 5th

- C. 6th
- D. 7th

ANSWER: C

5. Full Form of 'SAMAR' is

- A. System for Advance Manufacturing Assessment and Rating
- B. System for Array Manufacturing Assessment and Rating
- C. System for Advance Manufacturing Assessment and Rate
- D. None

ANSWER: A

6. Where is the world's highest battlefield, Siachen Glacier, located?

- A. Near the Indo-Pak Line of Control
- B. On the Indian Peninsula
- C. In the Southern Naval Command (SNC) region
- D. In the Indian Search and Rescue Region (ISRR)

ANSWER: A

7. Manufacturing Facility For Production Of Airbus C295 Aircraft To Come Up In ____.

- A. New Delhi
- B. Chennai
- C. Vadodara
- D. Noida

ANSWER: C

8. On 1 Apr 1954, the President's Colours Were Presented To The IAF By Which President Of India?

- A. Rajendra Prasad
- B. V.V. Giri
- C. Radhakrishnan
- D. Pratibha Singh Patil

ANSWER: A

9. Ex GARUDA SHAKTI, IND-INDO CORPAT, IND-INDO BILAT Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar

- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Indonesia
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

10. SIMBEX Series Of Exercises Began In 1994 And Were Initially Known As

- A. Exercise Lion King
- B. Exercise Asia King
- C. Exercise Jungle King
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

11. Northrop Grumman Is The Defence Manufacturing Company of Which Nation?

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

ANSWER: A

12. The Unending Game Book Written By

- A. Vikram Sood
- B. Shivshankar Menon
- C. Ravi Shastri
- D. Salman Rushdie

ANSWER: A

13. What Is The Capital Of Andorra?

- A. Maseru
- B. Andorra la Vella
- C. Yamoussoukro
- D. Addis Ababa

ANSWER: B

14. "The School for Good Mothers " Book Written By

- A. Jessamine Chan
- B. Beatrice Hitchman
- C. Hew Strachan

D. Nikki May

ANSWER: A

15. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration Is In

A. H.P

B. U.P

C. U.K

D. M.H

ANSWER: C

**16. "Discipline and united action are the real sources of strength for the nation."
Said By**

A. Gandhi Ji

B. Lal Bahadur Shastri

C. Pt. Nehru

D. Gopal Krishna Gokhale

ANSWER: B

17. PVSM Stands For

A. Param Vishisht Seva Medal

B. Param Vishisht Sainik Medal

C. Param Vishishthtm Seva Medal

D. None

ANSWER: A

18. Commodore Rank Of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Which Rank of IAF?

A. Air Commodore

B. Air Marshal

C. Wing Commander

D. Major

ANSWER: A

19.Ex GARUDA Conducted b/w India &

A. Qatar

B. Sri Lanka

C. France

D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

20.Ex Desert Eagle Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C