

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Government Revamps National Security Advisory Board

- The Union government has revamped the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB). **Alok Joshi**, a former Chief of the RAW has been appointed as the head of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB). Six more members have also been inducted on the board.
- The members include Former Western Air Commander Air Marshal P.M. Sinha, former Southern Army Commander Lieutenant General A.K. Singh, and Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, all retired military officers.
- Rajiv Ranjan Verma and Manmohan Singh are the two retired members of the Indian Police Service. B Venkatesh Varma is a retired IFS officer in the seven-member board.
- This development follows the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which left 26 civilians dead, including one Nepalese national, and injured several others.
- In response to the incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) at his residence. The CCS reviewed the situation and discussed the country's preparedness and strategic response. Sources revealed that cross-border linkages to the attack were presented during the briefing. The attack comes at a time when the Union Territory has been witnessing peaceful elections and signs of economic progress.



Defence Ministry Extends Ban On Six Firms For Another Three Years

- The Ministry of Defence has extended the ban on six defence firms for an additional three years, continuing the restriction on their dealings with the ministry.
- The companies include Singapore Technologies Kinetics Ltd, Israel Military Industries Ltd, TS Kisan and Co Pvt Ltd, RK Machine Tools Ltd, Rheinmetall Air Defence (Zurich), and Corporation Defence (Russia).
- These companies were initially debarred from doing business with the Ministry of Defence for 10 years, starting April 11, 2012, with the ban first extended to three more years in 2022.



Rajnath Singh To Represent India At Moscow's Victory Day Parade

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at the upcoming Victory Day Parade in Moscow on May 9, marking the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.
- This decision comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi received an invitation from Russian President Vladimir Putin but has opted not to attend, reportedly due to heightened security concerns following a recent terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians.
- The Victory Day Parade, held annually on Red Square, is a major event in Russia, showcasing military strength and commemorating the end of World War II in Europe.
- Rajnath Singh's participation underscores the ongoing strategic partnership between India and Russia. Singh last visited Russia in December 2023 for the commissioning of the **Indian Navy's INS Tushil in Kaliningrad**.



'600 North Korean Soldiers Killed Fighting For Russia'

- South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) has reported that approximately 600 North Korean soldiers have been killed and around 4,700 injured while fighting alongside Russian forces in Ukraine, according to multiple briefings to lawmakers and media reports on April 30, 2025.

- This marks one of the first official and public acknowledgments of North Korea's direct military involvement in the Ukraine conflict, following recent confirmations from both Pyongyang and Moscow.
- Of the casualties, roughly 2,000 injured North Korean soldiers have been repatriated to North Korea this year, where they are reportedly held in isolation in Pyongyang and other locations. The bodies of those killed were cremated locally in Russia before being returned to North Korea.



US Puts India On "Priority Watch List"

- The United States has placed India, along with China and Russia, on its "priority watchlist" of countries on its radar for alleged deficiencies and violations of intellectual property rights (IPR). Citing New Delhi's "inconsistent progress", the Special 301 Report of 2025, released by the US Trade Representative's office, called India one of the "most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of IP."
- USTR's annual report lists eight countries on its "priority watch list" for deficiencies and violations of IP rights-- including India, Mexico, China, Chile, Argentina, Indonesia, Russia and Venezuela. At least 18 other countries have also been put on the watch list, including Vietnam, Brazil, Algeria, Barbados, Belarus, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey.

- **What Is 'Special 301' Report**

- The Special 301 Report is an annual review by the US of countries on how they protect and enforce IPR. Each year, after research and analysis of more than 100 trading partners, USTR draws a list of countries that fail to address US concerns.
- USTR conducts this review under Section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974, which allows America to take actions against countries that engage in unfair or discriminatory trade practices, burdening US commerce. These actions can range from imposing tariffs to investigating trade practices and even taking retaliatory measures.

- **Why India Is On The List**

- The report said that India has been retained on the list, particularly due to continuing patent issues. "Among other concerns, the potential threat of patent revocations and the procedural and discretionary invocation of patentability criteria under the Indian Patents Act impact companies across different sectors," the report said.
- "Moreover, patent applicants generally continue to confront long waiting periods to receive patent grants and excessive reporting requirements. Stakeholders continue to express concerns over vagueness in the interpretation of the Indian Patents Act," it added
- The report also acknowledged the actions taken by India to promote and enforce IP protection in some areas and steps taken to partially address long-standing issues with patent pre-grant opposition proceedings and cumbersome reporting requirements by notifying the Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2024.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who has been appointed as the head of the revamped National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)?

- A. Ajit Doval
- B. Samant Goel
- C. Alok Joshi
- D. Rajnath Singh

ANSWER: C

2. Which Indian minister will represent India at the Victory Day Parade in Moscow on May 9?

- A. S. Jaishankar
- B. Rajnath Singh
- C. Amit Shah
- D. Nirmala Sitharaman

ANSWER: B

3. According to the USTR's Special 301 Report, why has India been placed on the 'priority watch list'?

- A. Weak military ties with the US
- B. Inadequate cyber security
- C. Weak protection and enforcement of IP rights
- D. Delay in climate action policies

ANSWER: C

4. 'Konkan – Naval Exercise' Conducted b/w India

- A. Singapore
- B. Oman
- C. Indonesia
- D. United Kingdom

ANSWER: D

5. Permanent Secretariat of Colombo Security Conclave Is In

- A. Accra, Ghana
- B. New Delhi

- C. Colombo
- D. Mauritius

ANSWER: C

6. Defence Industrial Corridors Was Inaugurated In

- A. 2018
- B. 2021
- C. 2022
- D. 2016

ANSWER: A

7. The Karakoram Range covers parts of

- A. Afghanistan, China, Indonesia
- B. Afghanistan, China, India
- C. Afghanistan, China, India, Pakistan, and Tajikistan
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

8. Army War College Is In

- A. Mhow
- B. New Delhi
- C. Noida
- D. Nagpur

ANSWER: A

9. Sarvatra Vijay Is The Motto Of

- A. RAJPUT REGIMENT
- B. DOGRA REGIMENT
- C. SIKH REGIMENT
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

10. Where Is The Training Command of The IAF?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

11. Exercise Cope India Conducted b/w

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

ANSWER: A

12. "Kartavyam Anvatma" (Duty before death) Is The Motto Of

- A. RAJPUT REGIMENT
- B. DOGRA REGIMENT
- C. SIKH REGIMENT
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

13. The Cheetah Is A

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

ANSWER: A

14. INS Khanderi Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Tank

ANSWER: C

15. Which of the following is NOT a landlocked country?

- A. Laos
- B. Serbia
- C. Ethiopia
- D. Cambodia

ANSWER: D

16. "THE ROOM ON THE ROOF " Book Is Written By

- A. Ruskin Bond
- B. Satyajit Ray

- C. Manohar Malgonkar
- D. Nirad C. Chaudhuri

ANSWER: A

17. Exercise Lamitiye Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Seychelles

ANSWER: D

18. Rashtriya Raksha University Is In

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

ANSWER: A

19. HSTDV Stands For

- A. Hypersonic Technology Vehicle
- B. Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle
- C. Hypersonic Technology Detonator Vehicle
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

20. Joint Ex B/w The India And Singapore Is Called:

- A. Bold Kurukshetra
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A