

Daily Defence Current Affairs

11 June 2025

Axiom Mission Postponed

- SpaceX early Wednesday morning called off the **Axiom-4 launch** owing to a snag it has been unable to fix in the **Falcon-9 rocket**. The Elon Musk firm had, earlier on Monday, said that the issue could be fixed before the launch scheduled for 5.30pm on June 11.
- Late Tuesday night Eastern Time, the firm said: “Standing down from tomorrow’s Falcon-9 launch of Ax-4 to the International Space Station to allow additional time for SpaceX teams to repair the **LOX (liquid oxygen) leak** identified during post-static fire booster inspections. Once complete – and pending range availability – we will share a new launch.”
- “The issue dated back to the booster’s previous Starlink mission. We discovered that we had not fully repaired the booster... we’re installing a purge that will essentially mitigate the leak if it continues,” he said.
- In addition, a thrust vector control issue with engine five was also identified. The affected components have since been replaced, and he had said that all work was expected to be completed by the evening before launch.
- Gerstenmaier had stressed on the company’s continued focus on safety and precision, noting that “space flight is really hard, and we’re learning every day.” The dry dress rehearsal, he said, was very successful.



11 Years of India's Defence Sector

- India's defence sector has witnessed an extraordinary transformation over the last eleven years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. The sector saw a steady rise in its defence budget, resulting in record-breaking production and a surge in exports.
- The defence budget has steadily risen, from Rs 2.53 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs 6.81 lakh crore in 2025-26. This sharp increase reflects India's commitment to strengthening its military foundations, according to a government release.
- India's defence manufacturing has seen a remarkable transformation in the last eleven years. In 2023-24, the country recorded its highest ever defence production, touching Rs 1.27 lakh crore. This is a sharp rise of 174 per cent compared to Rs 46,429 crore in 2014-15, according to the release.
- The shift from import dependence to domestic production has been both strategic and swift. With clear political direction and consistent reforms, India has moved towards true self-reliance in defence. The focus has been on developing a strong industrial base anchored in indigenous design and manufacturing.
- The government's push to prioritise domestic procurement in defence acquisition has further boosted production. Public sector undertakings and private companies are both contributing to this new era of growth. From aircraft

and missiles to surveillance systems and artillery, the range of indigenous products continues to expand.



Resounding mandates in key states reflect a growing trust in performance-driven governance



From startup surge to semiconductor push, a bold new chapter of self-reliance takes shape



Welfare schemes, defence reforms, and digital innovation anchor India's inclusive growth story



Hardeep Puri

Democracies are rightly subjected to a higher standard of scrutiny in the delivery of goods and services to the underserved and underserved. In India, that test is exacting. No slogan survives without substance, no claim without consequence. Real transformation must reach the last person because in our democracy Antyodaya casts a vote. That is why one year into Modi 3.0, the resounding mandates in Delhi, Maharashtra and Haryana are not just political milestones — they are a reaffirmation that in today's India delivery, not rhetoric, earns trust.

Programmes anchored in the philosophy of 'Sarvodaya' through Antyodaya ensure that no Indian is left behind. More than 25 crore people have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) has disbursed over Rs 3.68 lakh crore to more than 11 crore farmers. The 'Lakshpati Didi' initiative has empowered over one crore rural women to achieve annual incomes exceeding Rs 1 lakh. Nearly 3 crore houses have been sanc-

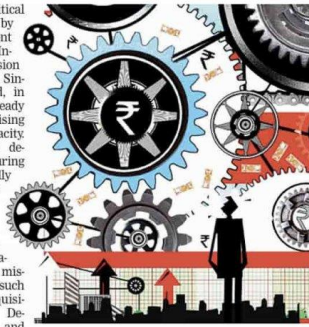
tioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

The Jal Jeevan Mission has provided tap water connections to over 15.44 rural households. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) has been expanded to offer free health coverage of ₹5 lakh per year for all citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of income. This is expected to benefit approximately 6 crore senior citizens, providing them with comprehensive healthcare access and financial protection. Additionally, the scheme has been extended to include frontline community health workers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to zero tolerance policy against terrorists was evident in the swift response to the Pahalgam attack, where terrorists had targeted innocent tourists. The nation mourned the loss but stood united, executing Operation Sindoor with precision and dominance, reaffirming its resolve to combat terrorism and protect its citizens. The world witnessed Indian defence forces' technological and strategic superiority, backed by the strong and decisive leadership of the PM.

The resolute political will is matched by strategic investment in self-reliance. India's swift precision during Operation Sindoor was enabled, in part, by years of steady focus on indigenising defence capacity. Post-2014, India's defence manufacturing has been rapidly modernised, with exports rising substantially. This transformation is not accidental. Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission, key reforms such as the Defence Acquisition Procedure, Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy and the opening of 100% FDI in certain sectors have enabled homegrown firms to thrive.

The introduction of two dedicated PLI schemes for drones and components has further catalysed next-gen



innovation. Today, Indian-designed missile systems, armoured vehicles and naval platforms are not only deployed in our forces but exported to over 80 countries, reinforcing India's image as a regional security provider

at a time when global trust in reliable defence partners is at a premium.

Manufacturing is at the centre of this vision. India is making strides in the semiconductor sector, driven by major investments and government incentives. Tata Electronics is constructing a ₹27,000 crore semiconductor assembly and testing plant in Assam, expected to begin operations

by mid-2025 and create around 27,000 jobs. Meanwhile, a ₹3,706 crore joint venture between HCL and Foxconn is set to establish a semiconductor unit in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, focusing on display driver chips, with production starting in 2027.

India is now the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world, with over 1.57 lakh recognised startups — including more than 100 unicorns and over 3,600 deep-tech ventures focused on AI, biotech and semiconductors. Our space sector alone has given rise to more than 200 startups, signalling the rise of a confident innovation economy.

The startup ecosystem has already created more than 17.2 lakh direct jobs and ignited a new generation of problem-solvers and entrepreneurs.

Meanwhile, India has quietly emerged as the world's most connected democracy. With over 90 crore internet users and 136 crore Aadhaar enrolments, it hosts the largest digital identity programme on the planet. We now account for 46% of global digital payments, powered by platforms like UPI that have democratised financial transactions. These systems have not only empowered citizens but made governance smarter, faster and more transparent.

The budget for 2024-25 embodied the government's decisiveness. Total expenditure was pegged at ₹44.6 lakh crore, with capital outlay raised to an unprecedented ₹10 lakh crore. Tax exemptions were widened, middle-class rebates doubled, and the angel tax — long a concern for startups — was abolished. These reforms consolidate consumption, catalyse entrepreneurship and cement India's long-term growth trajectory.

One year into Modi 3.0, the momentum is unmistakable. Roads, factories and solar panels are not just signs of progress, they are foundations for aspiration. In every sphere — economic, social and strategic, India is scripting a new chapter of national renewal. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the decisive decade is well underway.

The Author is Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas



SSB Crack

EXAMS

BIG PICTURE

NATION FIRST: NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN POLICY

Operation SINDOOR

100+
terrorists killed,
9 terrorist
bases struck
with missile



Defence export
reached an all
time high of
₹23,622
crore in FY25



**Article 370
& Article 35A**
removed from
the Indian
Constitution

Operation Kaveri

3000+
Indians brought
back from
conflict-torn
Sudan



22,500+
Indians
evacuated from
Ukraine



75%
defence capital
acquisition budget
earmarked for
domestic
production in
FY26



1.8 crore+
passengers
facilitated
through
Vande Bharat
flights



**34-fold
rise**
in Defence
Exports since
2014



Violent
incidents
related to LWE
dropped by
81%



2 lakh
Covid-19
vaccine doses
gifted to UN
peacekeepers



30 crore+
vaccine supplied
to 100+ countries



5,000+
items added to
the defence
indigenisation
lists

RISE IN DEFENCE EXPORTS

FROM BUYER TO BUILDER:
INDIA'S DEFENCE EXPORT BOOM

₹1,941 crore

(2014)



THEN



NOW



₹23,662 crore
(2024)



Growth: Over 1,100%

Viksit Bharat ka Amrit Kaal
Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan ke

11 SAAL

SURGE IN INDIGENOUS DEFENCE PRODUCTION

BHARAT BUILDS ITS OWN MIGHT

₹46,429
crore
(2014)



THEN

NOW



₹1,27,434
crore
(2025)



Growth: 174%

Viksit Bharat ka Amrit Kaal
Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan ke

11 SAAL

**INDIA'S DEFENCE EXPORT
FOOTPRINT!**

100+ COUNTRIES

Indian defence exports now reach over 100 nations — up from 0 in 2014 for many systems.

AI-Enabled Light Machine Guns In High-Altitude

- India has taken a significant leap in modernizing its military capabilities by successfully testing an artificial intelligence-enabled light machine gun (LMG) system in high-altitude terrain.
- The trials, conducted at an elevation of 14,000 feet in collaboration with the Indian Army, featured the AI-powered Negev LMG developed by Dehradun-based BSS Material Ltd.

- This system showcased its ability to autonomously identify and engage targets in the challenging conditions typical of India's mountainous border regions, marking a crucial advancement for operations in such rugged environments.
- With the integration of AI in weapons like the Negev LMG, India aims to extend its strategic reach into remote and high-risk zones, reducing dependence on manpower and enhancing the safety and effectiveness of its forces.



We'll liberate LA, Donald Trump Tells Soldiers

- US President Donald Trump blasted California's leadership, using a speech honouring US soldiers to defend his deployment of Marines and National Guard troops to Los Angeles amid ongoing immigration protests. Calling the city a "trash heap" overtaken by "transnational gangs," Trump blamed unchecked immigration for the chaotic situation.
- "Within the span of a few decades, Los Angeles has gone from being one of the cleanest, safest and most beautiful cities on earth, to being a trash heap," Trump said at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. "Entire neighbourhoods are under the control of transnational gangs and criminal networks."
- The remarks came as Trump marked the 250th anniversary of the US Army with a show of military strength and patriotism. His appearance at Fort Bragg, where he observed demonstrations by special forces and missile launchers, coincided with preparations for a massive parade in Washington on Saturday to celebrate the Army and his own 79th birthday.
- Trump defended his deployment of 700 Marines and 4,000 National Guard troops to Los Angeles following clashes between protesters and law enforcement that erupted after a series of immigration raids.

- "What you're witnessing in California is a full-blown assault on peace, on public order and on national sovereignty, carried out by rioters bearing foreign flags," Trump declared. "Very simply, we will liberate Los Angeles and make it free, clean, and safe again."
- California officials, including Governor Gavin Newsom, have accused Trump of abusing federal power and inflaming tensions for political gain. But Trump rejected those claims, saying the troops are protecting both federal property and the integrity of the nation.



Ex-ISRO Chief Warns: 'India needs hundreds of satellites'

- As aerial and cyber fronts reshape modern combat, space has emerged as the decisive domain for national defence. Former ISRO chief S. Somanath warned that without a massive satellite boost, India's armed forces risk blind spots in crisis, an unacceptable vulnerability in an era where wars play out above the clouds.
- Speaking on a recent episode of the podcast From Code to Culture, Somanath emphasised, "The importance of space for defence has been understood very well now. It has been demonstrated very well in some of the recent conflicts. For example, the Ukraine conflict. It has shown it very well how it played a role, and recently in India also."
- He then turned to one of the most urgent modern threats, hypersonic missiles, and the need for a corresponding leap in space-based surveillance. "The hypersonic missiles are very difficult to intercept using standard technologies. You need an observation that is going to come from another domain. So you

need to observe deep into the terrain of other nations, even before it starts, and you need to be aware of it,” he explained.

- “It started with radars or deep, powerful radars. But now, recently, America has announced that they are going to create a 500-satellite constellation for looking at a dome for the Americans against missile attack, especially hypersonic missile attack. Dome is nothing but an early warning system and a neutralising system. So if a missile is coming to your terrain, you should be able to know about its origin, its progress and likely impact point and you should be able to launch a countermeasure so as to neutralise it before it hits.”
- He highlighted that over half of future space-based applications will be defence-oriented, adding, “More than 50% of the space-based applications will be in defence.” As state-backed military programmes come to dominate the economics of space, he cautioned that India must not remain dependent on commercial or foreign satellite services during crises.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In which Indian state did COAS Upendra Dwivedi inaugurate the community radio station 'Ibex Tarana 88.4 FM'?
- A. Himachal Pradesh
 - B. Jammu & Kashmir
 - C. Uttarakhand
 - D. Sikkim

ANSWER: C

2. Which Indian company has partnered with Dassault Aviation to manufacture the fuselage of Rafale fighter aircraft in India?

- A. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- B. Tata Advanced Systems
- C. Reliance Defence
- D. Bharat Electronics Limited

ANSWER: B

3. What is the projected Indian defence budget for the year 2025-26?

- A. Rs 5.25 lakh crore
- B. Rs 6.00 lakh crore
- C. Rs 6.81 lakh crore
- D. Rs 7.10 lakh crore

ANSWER: C

4. What is the name of the AI-enabled Light Machine Gun (LMG) tested by India in high-altitude terrain?

- A. INSAS LMG
- B. Negev LMG
- C. Trichy LMG
- D. Arjun LMG

ANSWER: B

5. Infantry Day Celebrated Every Year On

- A. 26 October
- B. 27 October
- C. 29 October
- D. 30 October

ANSWER: B

6. India's Shared Vision Of 'SAGAR' Stands For

- A. Security and Grown of All in Region
- B. Security and Growth of All in Rim
- C. Security and Growth of All in Region
- D. None

ANSWER: C

7. Motto of NSG Is

- A. शं नो वरुणः
- B. नभः स्पृशं दीप्तम्
- C. सर्वत्र सर्वोत्तम सुरक्षा
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

8. In Which Operation NSG Didn't Take Part?

- A. Operation Talwar
- B. Black Thunder
- C. Ashwamedh
- D. Vajra Shakti

ANSWER: A

9. SAG & SRG Stands For

- A. Special Act Group & Special Ranger Group
- B. Special Action Group & Special Roger Group
- C. Special Action Game & Special Ranger Group
- D. Special Action Group & Special Ranger Group

ANSWER: D

10. The Highest Rank Structure In NSG Is

- A. Director General
- B. Inspector General
- C. Deputy Inspector General
- D. Group Commander

ANSWER: A

11. INS Tarangini Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Sailing Ship
- C. UAV
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

12. FGM-148 Javelin Is Made By

- A. Boeing

- B. Lockheed Martin
- C. Raytheon
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

13. Ex PRABAL DOSTYK Conducted B/W India And

- A. France
- B. China
- C. Kazakhstan
- D. Kyrgyzstan

ANSWER: C

14. Q.M.HAV Stands For

- A. Quarter Havildar
- B. Quartermaster Havildar
- C. Quartermaster Hawadar
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

15. Santiago Is The Capital Of

- A. Oman
- B. Colombia
- C. UAE
- D. Chile

ANSWER: D

16. "Vahana Masterclass" Book Is Written By

- A. Alfredo Covelli
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. R. Kaushik

ANSWER: A

17. "Balidanam Vir Lakshanam" Is The Motto Of

- A. JKLI
- B. THE MAHAR REGIMENT
- C. THE BIHAR REGIMENT
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

18. Prithvi III Is A

- A. Air to Air Missile
- B. Surface to Air Missile
- C. Surface to Surface Missile
- D. Air to Sea Missile

ANSWER: C

19. Shishumar Is a

- A. Air to Air missile
- B. Sniper Rifle
- C. Anti-tank Guided missile
- D. Submarine

ANSWER: D

20. Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL) Centre Is Located In

- A. Hyderabad, Telangana
- B. Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- D. Tezpur, Assam

ANSWER: A