

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Armenia Intensifies Push For India's Su-30MKI

- Armenia is recalibrating its air-power strategy by accelerating negotiations with India to acquire the Su-30MKI fighter aircraft, a move directly prompted by Azerbaijan's \$4.6 billion deal to purchase 40 JF-17 Thunder Block-III jets from Pakistan.
- This procurement by Azerbaijan, featuring advanced Chinese avionics and long-range PL-15 missiles, is seen as a significant shift in the regional air-power balance, compelling Armenia to seek a credible counterweight.
- Yerevan's renewed interest in the Su-30MKI—an advanced, multi-role fighter co-developed by India and Russia and produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)—reflects both operational necessity and strategic calculation.
- India has emerged as a critical defence partner for Armenia since the 2020 **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict**, supplying advanced systems such as the Akash-1S medium-range surface-to-air air defence missile and the Pinaka multiple launch rocket system.



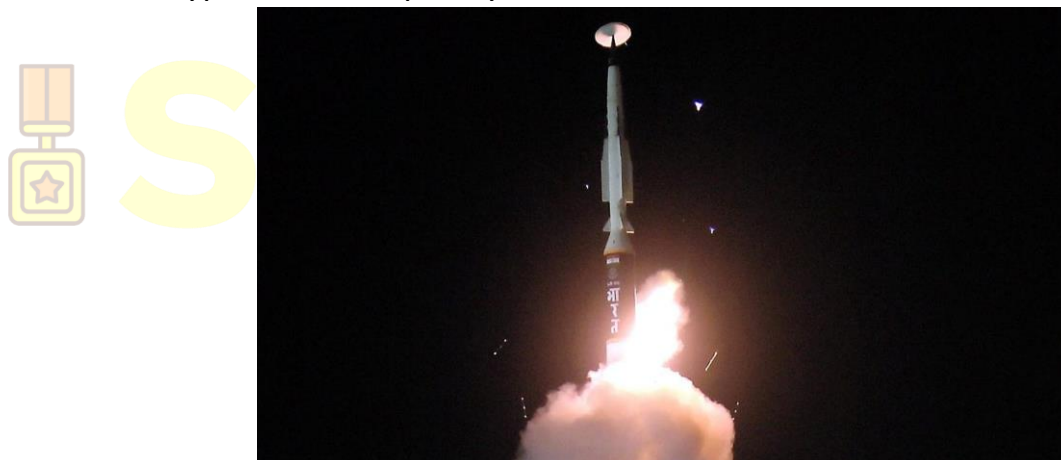
Military Exercise Khaan Quest

- The Indian Army contingent reached Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for the Multinational Military Exercise KHAAN QUEST, which is scheduled to be conducted from 14th to 28th June 2025.
- The exercise will bring together military forces from around the world to collaborate and enhance their peacekeeping capabilities. Last edition of Exercise KHAAN QUEST was conducted in Mongolia from 27th July to 9th August 2024.
- The exercise first started as a bilateral event between USA and Mongolian Armed Forces in the year 2003. Subsequently, from the year 2006 onwards the exercise graduated to a Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise with current year being the 22nd iteration.
- The Indian Army contingent comprising 40 personnel is being represented mainly by troops from a Battalion of the KUMAON REGIMENT along with personnel from other Arms and Services. One Woman Officer and two Women Soldiers will also form part of the contingent.
- KHAAN QUEST is to prepare Indian Armed Forces for peacekeeping missions while operating in a multinational environment, thereby increasing interoperability and military readiness in peace support operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.



India Preparing To Test Hypersonic Cruise Missile

- India is on the verge of a significant breakthrough in its defence capabilities as it prepares to test the **Extended Trajectory-Long Duration Hypersonic Cruise Missile (ET-LDHCM)**, developed indigenously by the DRDO under the classified initiative '**Project Vishnu**'.
- This advanced missile is designed to achieve speeds up to Mach 8—approximately 11,000 km/h—enabling it to cover three kilometers every second and boasts a strike range of about 1,500 kilometers.
- The ET-LDHCM can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads weighing between 1,000 and 2,000 kg, making it suitable for a wide spectrum of strategic missions.
- Once operational, the ET-LDHCM will position India among a select group of nations—including the **United States, China, and Russia**—that possess functional hypersonic weapon systems.



Govt To Sign ₹2 Trn In Defence Contracts In FY26

- Defence contracts worth around Rs 2 trillion will be signed in the current financial year, with the bulk once again going to the domestic industry, as the MoD aims to sustain the pace of contract signings achieved in 2024–25 (FY25), Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said.
- Underscoring that the value of contracts awarded by the MoD in FY25 had touched Rs 2.09 trillion—the highest ever and double the previous record set in FY24—the Secretary said: “I won’t speak about next year, but going forward, we should be able to sustain higher levels of expenditure.
- For instance, this year we’ve already begun strongly, having achieved nearly 22 per cent of our annual spend early on.”

- Of the 193 contracts signed by the MoD in FY25, 177 (92 per cent) were awarded to the domestic industry, with a value of about Rs 1.69 trillion, accounting for 81 per cent of the total value.
- The Secretary also assured that nearly all major programmes would be awarded through competitive bidding—not nomination—to enable price discovery and ensure private sector participation.



Denmark approves US Military Bases On Danish Soil As Trump Eyes Greenland

- Denmark's Parliament on Wednesday approved a bill to allow US military bases on Danish soil, a move that comes as President Donald Trump seeks to take control of the kingdom's semi-autonomous territory of Greenland.
- Critics say the vote ceded Danish sovereignty to the US.
- The legislation widens a previous military agreement, made in 2023 with the Biden administration, where US troops had broad access to Danish airbases in the Scandinavian country.
- The new parameters follow Trump's coveting of the strategic, mineral-rich Arctic island even as the US and Denmark are NATO allies.
- Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, in a response to lawmakers' questions, wrote that Denmark would be able to terminate the agreement if the US tries to annex all or part of Greenland.
- Ninety-four lawmakers voted for the bill, with 11 against. The legislation now goes to Danish King Frederik X for his signature.

- Greenland's prime minister previously said US statements about the island have been disrespectful and it "will never, ever be a piece of property that can be bought by just anyone."



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Where is the Multinational Military Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2025 being held?**
A. India
B. Kazakhstan
C. Mongolia
D. Russia

ANSWER: C

2. **Which fighter aircraft is Armenia negotiating to acquire from India?**
A. Tejas Mk1A
B. Rafale
C. Su-30MKI
D. MiG-29

ANSWER: C

3. **The JF-17 Thunder Block-III jets, for which Azerbaijan signed a \$4.6 billion deal, are being acquired from which country?**
A. China
B. Turkey
C. Iran
D. Pakistan

ANSWER: A

4. What is the name of the hypersonic cruise missile developed under Project Vishnu?

- A. Nirbhay-II
- B. Shourya
- C. ET-LDHCM
- D. BrahMos-X

ANSWER: C

5. According to Defence Secretary Rajesh K Singh, how much worth of defence contracts are expected to be signed in the current financial year?

- A. Rs 1 trillion
- B. Rs 1.5 trillion
- C. Rs 2 trillion
- D. Rs 2.5 trillion

ANSWER: C

6. The Submarines In The Project-75 Scorpene Class Are Powered By

- A. Diesel-electric propulsion systems
- B. Nuclear Powered Submarine
- C. Hydrogen Fueled Submarine
- D. None

ANSWER: A

7. Who Is The Responsible Minister Of The Defence Acquisition Council?

- A. Home Minister
- B. Defence Minister
- C. External Affairs Minister
- D. PM

ANSWER: B

8. 'Air Independent Propulsion System' Is Inducted

- A. Helicopter
- B. UAV
- C. Submarine
- D. Destroyer

ANSWER: C

9. Regimental Centre of GARHWAL RIFLES Is In

- A. Happy Valley, Shillong, Meghalaya
- B. Ranikhet, Uttarakhand
- C. Lansdowne, Uttarakhand
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

10. Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

- A. Desert Eagle
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Indradhanush

ANSWER: D

11. 'Nirdeshak' Ship Is built by

- A. MDL
- B. GRSE
- C. CSL
- D. DRDO

ANSWER: B

12. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island Is Located At

- A. A&N
- B. Ladakh
- C. J&K
- D. Puducherry

ANSWER: A

13. V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust Is Located In

- A. T.N
- B. M.H
- C. Goa
- D. A.P

ANSWER: A

14. Full-Form of ATAGS Is

- A. Adventure Towed Artillery Gun System

- B. Advanced To Artillery Gun System
- C. Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System
- D. Advanced Towed Artillery Gum System

ANSWER: C

15. At Which Of The Following Places Is The Heavy Vehicles Factory Located?

- A. Kanpur
- B. Khadki
- C. Avadi
- D. 24 Paraganas

ANSWER: C

16. Sofia Is The Capital Of

- A. Brunei
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Bulgaria

ANSWER: D

17. "Prashata Ranvirta" Is A Motto Of

- A. Jammu And Kashmir Rifles
- B. Gorkha Regiment
- C. Punjab Regiment
- D. None

ANSWER: A

18. Exercises B/w India And Bangladesh Is Called:

- A. GARUDA SHAKTI
- B. SLINEX
- C. SAMPRITI
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: C

19. Barrett M95 Is A

- A. Sniper Rifles
- B. Helicopter
- C. ATAGS
- D. ATGM

ANSWER: A

20. Astra Is A

- A. Air-to-air Missile
- B. Air-to-surface Missile
- C. Air-to-sea Missile
- D. None

ANSWER: A

