

Daily Defence Current Affairs

23 June 2025

US Attack on Iran's Nuclear Facilities

- The United States attacked three key nuclear installations in Iran on Sunday morning (June 22), with President Donald Trump claiming that all the three facilities had been “completely and totally obliterated.” The US attacks follow a series of missile strikes by Israel last week, also targeting Iran’s nuclear installations, most notably Natanz, which was a target of Sunday’s US bombing as well.
- Sunday’s attacks targeted **Fordow, Isfahan and Natanz nuclear facilities**, all of them key uranium enrichment sites that house the infrastructure to convert natural uranium into highly-enriched uranium (HEU) that can potentially be used to make a nuclear bomb.
- **What bombs did US use to strike Iran?**
- The US forces used six B-2 bombers to drop 12 bunker-buster bombs on Fordow, reported CNN. Navy submarines fired 30 Tomahawk cruise missiles at Natanz and Isfahan, while a B2 dropped two bunker busters on Natanz.
- These B-2 stealth bombers are equipped with the GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator, a 30,000-pound bunker-buster bomb designed to dismantle heavily fortified underground targets. This type of bomb is unique to the US arsenal and is considered the only weapon capable of effectively targeting Iran’s most protected nuclear facilities.
- **Why has the US attacked Iran now?**
- The US has for long opposed Iran possessing a nuclear weapon and was in talks with the country to strike a nuclear deal when Israel attacked Iran on June 13, triggering retaliation from Iran. Though Iran has maintained that its nuclear programme is solely for peaceful purposes, Trump and Israeli leaders believed Iran could potentially assemble a nuclear weapon, making it a looming threat.

- Last week, the IAEA Board of Governors censured Iran for the first time in 20 years for not working with its inspectors. It happened amid talks between the US and Iran for the removal of economic sanctions on Iran in exchange for reducing or ending uranium enrichment.



'Economic Suicide': US on Possible Strait of Hormuz Closure by Iran

- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Sunday reacted to reports claiming that the Iranian parliament has approved a measure to close the Strait of Hormuz, saying that it would be an “economic suicide”.
- Speaking at Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo" show, Rubia called on China to encourage Iran not to shut down the Strait of Hormuz after Washington carried out strikes on Iranian nuclear sites.
- The Strait of Hormuz is situated between Iran and its Arabian Gulf neighbours. According to Bloomberg, this route enables the daily transportation of roughly one-fifth of global oil supplies.
- "I encourage the Chinese government in Beijing to call them about that, because they heavily depend on the Straits of Hormuz for their oil," Rubio was quoted
- **WHY STRAIT OF HORMUZ IS SIGNIFICANT FOR INDIA?**
- The Strait of Hormuz, which lies between Iran to the north and Oman and the United Arab Emirates to the south, serves as the main route for oil exports from

Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and the UAE. Many liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments, especially from Qatar, also pass through the strait.

- India, the world's third-largest oil-importing and consuming nation, imports about 90 per cent of its crude oil, with over 40 per cent of those imports originating from Middle Eastern countries whose exports transit the Strait of Hormuz.



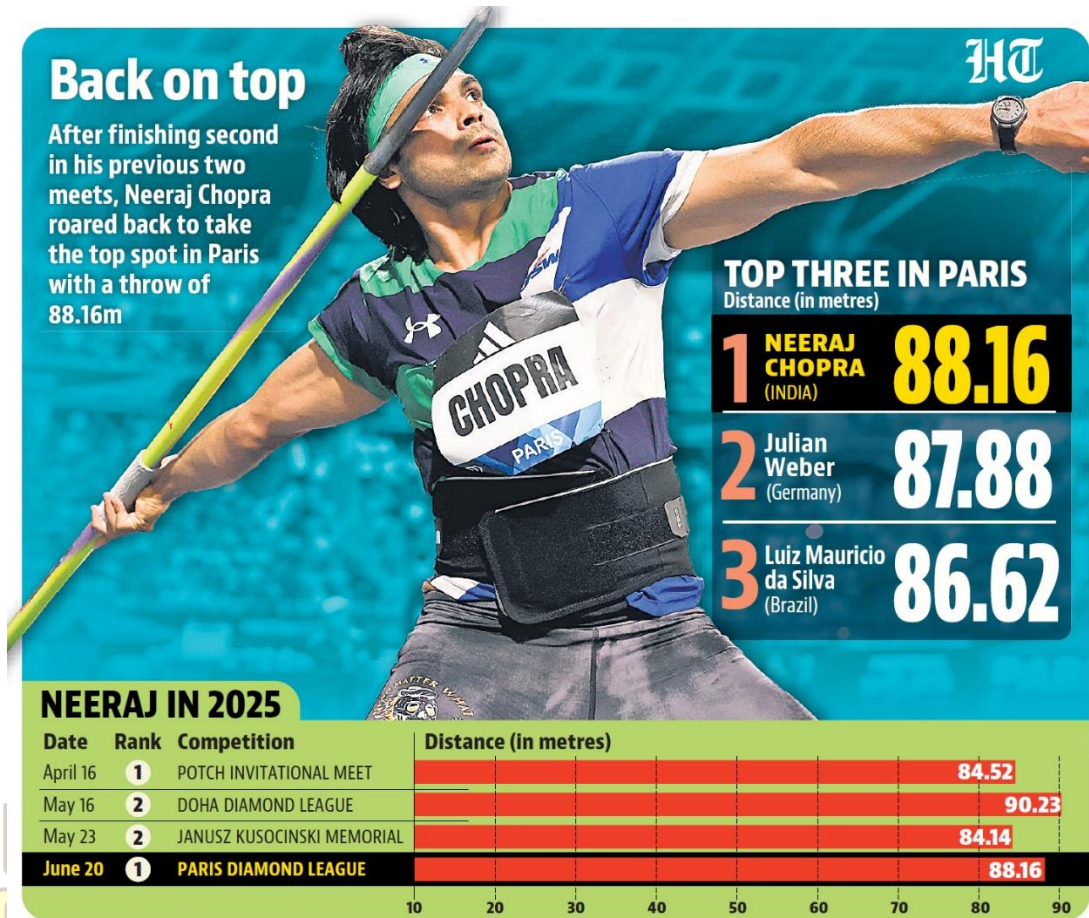
Indian Navy Set To Commission Tamal

- The Indian Navy is all set to commission its latest stealth multi-role frigate on 01 Jul 2025 at Kaliningrad, Russia.
- Christened “Tamal”, it is the eighth in the series of Krivak class frigates inducted from Russia over the past two decades. Tamal is the second ship of the Tushil Class, which are the upgraded versions of their predecessors, Talwar and Teg classes having three ships each.
- The ship has 26% indigenous components, including the BrahMos long-range cruise missile for targeting both at sea and land.
- Tamal punches well above its weight with a very high tonnage to firepower ratio, extended endurance, and a top speed in excess of 30 knots.
- Upon commissioning, Tamal will join the ‘**Sword Arm**’ of the Indian Navy, the Western Fleet, under the **Western Naval Command**.



Neeraj Chopra wins Paris Diamond League

- At some point this year, or maybe at a really big event in the future, Neeraj Chopra will leave an event both satisfied with the distance his javelin travelled in its parabola and the fact that it was sufficient for him to win the event on the day. For now, he'll have to wait for that. In Doha earlier this year, he crossed 90m for the first time in his career but called it bittersweet because he was pipped at the finish line by Germany's Julian Weber. On Friday night in Paris, his first throw of 88.16m was enough to beat the field, including a consistent but below-par Weber. But afterward, he was analyzing his technique with a tinge of disappointment, not completely satisfied with the speed of his run-up and the control of his throwing motion.
- "I'm happy with the throw. It was my first throw and it was a good start, but I was hoping for really good throws today," Neeraj said in the mixed zone later. "My run-up was really fast today. I can't control my speed, but I'm happy with the result and with first position."
- When it all comes together, it is bound to be glorious, but as such, it was another fruitful international outing for India's foremost track and field athlete as he clinched his first Diamond League meet win of the season.



HAL Gets Full Access to ISRO's SSLV Rocket

- In a big move for India's space sector, HAL has been awarded the full contract to manufacture, market, and launch the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), following a first-of-its-kind technology transfer from the ISRO.
- This strategic decision is set to turbocharge India's ambitions in the commercial space launch market, opening the doors to greater private sector participation and innovation.
- With SSLV now under its full control, HAL is set to become a major player in the booming small satellite launch market as India eyes a big piece of the pie.
- The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is a small-lift launch vehicle developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to deliver 500 kg (1,100 lb) payload to low Earth orbit (500 km (310 mi)) or 300 kg (660 lb) payload to Sun-synchronous orbit (500 km (310 mi)).



'Will Never Be Restored': Amit Shah On Indus Waters Treaty

- India's Home Minister Amit Shah has categorically declared that the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan "will never be restored," marking a significant and unprecedented shift in South Asia's water diplomacy.
- This announcement follows India's decision to place its participation in the 1960 treaty "in abeyance" after a deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians.
- The Indus Waters Treaty, brokered by the World Bank, has historically governed the allocation and usage of the Indus river system between India and Pakistan, guaranteeing water access for about **80% of Pakistan's farms** through three rivers that originate in India.
- Amit Shah's unequivocal statement and India's ongoing actions represent a major departure from decades of water-sharing cooperation, with significant implications for regional stability, agricultural livelihoods in Pakistan, and the broader framework of international water treaties.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which organization has been awarded the full contract to manufacture, market, and launch the SSLV?

- A. ISRO
- B. BEL
- C. HAL
- D. DRDO

ANSWER: C

2. The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) technology was transferred from which Indian organization?

- A. DRDO
- B. HAL
- C. ISRO
- D. NAL

ANSWER: C

3. The Indus Waters Treaty was brokered by which international organization?

- A. United Nations
- B. World Bank
- C. International Court of Justice
- D. SAARC

ANSWER: B

4. What percentage of Pakistan's farms receive water through rivers covered under the Indus Waters Treaty?

- A. About 50%
- B. About 60%
- C. About 70%
- D. About 80%

ANSWER: D

5. Where was the Tushil-class ship 'Tamal' built?

- A. Garden Reach Shipbuilders, India
- B. Sevmash Shipyard, Russia
- C. Yantar Shipyard, Russia
- D. Mazagon Dock, India

ANSWER: C

6. Taragiri, a Project 17A Frigate Made By

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

ANSWER: A

7. Naib Subedar Jeremy Lalrinnunga is related with

- A. Table Tennis
- B. Cricket
- C. Boxing
- D. Weightlifting

ANSWER: D

8. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port is located At

- A. Paradip
- B. Cochin
- C. Kolkata
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: D

9. 'Iron Beam' new laser-based air defence system Made By

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

ANSWER: C

10. First Submarine Developed Under P-75 Is

- A. INS Kalvari
- B. INS Khanderi
- C. INS Karanj
- D. INS Vela

ANSWER: A

11. Who Wrote The Book New Dimensions Of India's Foreign Policy?

- A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- B. Abdul Kalam Azad
- C. Amit Chaudhuri
- D. Raghuram Rajan

ANSWER: A

12. Mechanical Training Institute (MTI) Of IAF Is In

- A. Yelahanka, Bengaluru
- B. Jalahalli, Bengaluru
- C. Tambaram Chennai
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

13. Central Statistical Organization Hq Is In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

14. Ex SHAKTI, Ex VARUNA, GARUDA India conducted with

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

15. Yaounde Is The Capital Of

- A. Cameroon
- B. Canada
- C. UAE
- D. Burundi

ANSWER: A

16. "The Oath of the Vayuputras" Book Is Written By

- A. Amish Tripathi
- B. Issac Newton
- C. Mahashweta Devi
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

17. SITMEX Ex Is Done Among

- A. India, Singapore, and Thailand
- B. India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- C. Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

18. Commander Rank Of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Rank Of IAF Is

- A. Wing Commander
- B. Squadron Leader
- C. Group Captain
- D. Flying Officer

ANSWER: A

19. INS Visakhapatnam (D66) Manufactured By

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

ANSWER: B

20. War Cry of the BIHAR REGIMENT

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Rhino Charge
- C. Jai Bajrangbali
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: C