

Daily Defence Current Affairs

18 July 2025

India Successfully Test-fires Prithvi-II and Agni-1

- India on Thursday conducted back-to-back test-firings of two short-range ballistic missiles—Prithvi-II and Agni-1—from its missile testing facility in Chandipur, Odisha. The Ministry of Defence confirmed the successful launch of both systems, stating they met all mission objectives.
- The Ministry posted on social media platform X that both launches were conducted under the **Strategic Forces Command**, the military arm responsible for **managing India's nuclear arsenal**.
- Prithvi-II missile has a range of around 350 kms and it is capable of carrying a payload of up to 500 kgs. It can carry both conventional as well as nuclear warheads.
- The Agni-I missile has a range of 700-900 kms and it can carry a payload of 1,000 kgs. Both Prithvi-II and Agni-I missiles have been an integral part of India's nuclear deterrence.
- India also test-fired the indigenously developed **Akash Prime missile** in Ladakh. This missile is designed to operate at altitudes above **4,500 meters**.
- Akash Prime is an upgraded version of the Akash weapon system for the Indian Army. The test-firing in Ladakh is important because of its proximity to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).



IRRPL to Complete AK-203 Rifles Delivery 22 Months Early

- Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), a joint venture company which manufactures AK-203 assault rifles in Uttar Pradesh's Korwa, will complete the delivery of all 6.01 lakh rifles nearly 22 months ahead of schedule.
- The company, mandated under a Rs 5,200 crore contract to supply 6,01,427 rifles to the armed forces by October 2032, plans to finish deliveries by December 2030, Maj Gen S K Sharma, CEO and Managing Director of IRRPL.
- "Around 48,000 rifles have been delivered so far. Another 7,000 will be handed over in the next 2-3 weeks and 15,000 additional by December this year".
- The AK-203, a modernised version of the **Kalashnikov series**, will become the primary assault rifle for soldiers deployed along the northern and western borders, including the Line of Control and the Line of Actual Control.
- IRRPL has achieved 50 per cent indigenisation and aims to deliver the first fully indigenous AK-203 by December, after which production will ramp up to 1.5 lakh rifles annually.
- The AK-203 rifles replace the INSAS in service. Initially, 70,000 rifles were imported to meet urgent requirements before full-scale production began at IRRPL under the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.

- The joint venture brings together Russian partners **Rosoboronexport** and **Concern Kalashnikov** with Indian shareholders **Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL)** and **Munitions India Limited (MIL)**.



India, France Ignite Next-gen Jet Engine Pact

- The defence ministry has recommended a collaboration with France to develop next-generation fighter jet engines, marking a breakthrough for the mega project that will bring advanced manufacturing and design technologies and is a key step towards self-reliance.
- Sources said after a consultative process, which included feedback from stakeholders and a technical committee that went deep into all aspects of fighter jet engine manufacturing, a decision has been taken to recommend a collaboration with France, as the proposal was found to be more beneficial for India.
- **Safran and India: Background**
- The French firm has a joint venture with HAL-SAFHAL Helicopter Engines Pvt Ltd to develop new-generation helicopter engines in India.
- By way of background, India has long been working to develop indigenous jet engines under its atmanirbhar (self-reliance) push.
- In the past, India focused on the afterburner GTX-35VS Kaveri engine, developed by the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE). The Kaveri engine was deemed inadequate to power the LCA, which resulted in India's turn to GE for LCA engines.



SIMBEX Exercise 2025

- The Indian Navy will participate in the **32nd edition** of exercise SIMBEX as part of its engagement with the Singapore Navy. It is one of the longest uninterrupted maritime exercises for India, High Commissioner to Singapore Shilpak Ambule has said.
- The Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is conducted annually by the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). It will be held in Singapore later this month.
- It was previously known as **Exercise Lion King**.
- The Indian naval ships' visit is happening as India and Singapore celebrate the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations.



HAL Receives First Set of Wing Assemblies for LCA

- The first set of wing assemblies for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A, produced by Larsen & Toubro, was handed over to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, the Ministry of Defence said.
- Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar attended the event virtually, as General Manager (LCA Tejas Division) M Abdul Salam received the assemblies on behalf of HAL from the Precision Manufacturing and Systems Complex unit of L&T.
- L&T is set to supply four wing sets annually, with plans to scale up production to 12 sets per annum through advanced assembly processes and automation.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The first set of wing assemblies for LCA Mk1A was produced by which company?
A. Bharat Dynamics Limited
B. Tata Advanced Systems
C. Larsen & Toubro
D. DRDO

ANSWER: C

2. What is the name of the maritime exercise between India and Singapore?

- A. MILAN
- B. SLINEX
- C. VARUNA
- D. SIMBEX

ANSWER: D

3. Where is the Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) facility located?

- A. Nagpur, Maharashtra
- B. Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- C. Korwa, Uttar Pradesh
- D. Hyderabad, Telangana

ANSWER: C

4. Which two short-range ballistic missiles were successfully test-fired by India from Chandipur?

- A. Agni-III and BrahMos
- B. Nirbhay and K-15
- C. Prithvi-II and Agni-1
- D. Akash and Trishul

ANSWER: C

5. Under which command were the ballistic missile test-firings conducted?

- A. Indian Army Western Command
- B. Southern Naval Command
- C. Integrated Defence Staff
- D. Strategic Forces Command

ANSWER: D

6. Aero India Show 2025 Was Held In

- A. Chennai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Noida
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: B

7. Ex EASTERN BRIDGE Conducted B/W India &

- A. UK

- B. Oman
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. USA

ANSWER: B

8. Duty, Honour, Courage Is The Motto Of

- A. Maratha Light Infantry
- B. The Grenadiers
- C. Rajput Regiment
- D. Jat Regiment

ANSWER: A

9. Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation Hq Is In

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

ANSWER: A

10. Surface Mine Clearing System on Sarath manufactured by

- A. Ordnance Factory Medak
- B. HAL
- C. DRDO
- D. MDL

ANSWER: A

11. College of Defence Management Is In

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

ANSWER: A

12. GAGAN Stands For

- A. GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigate
- B. GPS Aided Geography Augmented Navigation
- C. GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

13. 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

14. Harare Is The Capital Of

- A. Uzbekistan
- B. Qatar
- C. Zambia
- D. Zimbabwe

ANSWER: D

15. "Forging Mettle : Nrupender Rao and the Pennar Story" Book Is Written By

- A. Vijay Sharma
- B. Manish Kumar
- C. Sumit Nayar
- D. Pavan C Lall

ANSWER: D

16. The Eurocopter Tiger Is A

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

ANSWER: A

17. INS Jalashwa Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Amphibious transport dock

ANSWER: D

18. CDAC Stands For

- A. Centre for Development of Advanced Concept

- B. Centre for Development of Adert Computing
- C. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
- D. None

ANSWER: C

19. Heckler & Koch PSG1 Is A

- A. Tank
- B. Missile
- C. Sniper Rifle
- D. Submarine

ANSWER: C

20. MBT Arjun Is A

- A. Tank
- B. Missile
- C. Sniper Rifle
- D. Submarine

ANSWER: D

