

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 25 July 2025

### Why Thailand and Cambodia are Fighting

- Tensions between Thailand and Cambodia have once again turned violent, with fighter jets, landmines, and diplomatic expulsions marking the worst escalation in years. At the centre of the dispute is the **11th-century Preah Vihear Hindu temple**, located near their shared border.
- The Preah Vihear temple, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, sits atop the **Dangrek mountain range**. It's an impressive piece of Khmer architecture, but also a source of national pride and dispute.
- The border clashes on Thursday led to at least nine civilian deaths and over a dozen injuries. Explosions hit a petrol station in Thailand's Si Sa Ket province, killing several Thai civilians.
- In response, Thai jets launched airstrikes on Cambodian military positions near the disputed temple. Cambodia accused Thailand of bombing nearby roads. Skirmishes were reported in six different areas along the border.
- The violence follows weeks of growing tension. In May, a Cambodian soldier was killed, and in July, two Thai soldiers were badly injured in landmine blasts.
- Diplomatic relations quickly worsened, both countries expelled each other's ambassadors and recalled their envoys, blaming one another for aggression and border violations.
- In 1962, the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** ruled that the temple belonged to **Cambodia**, based on a 1907 French-drawn map. **Thailand disagreed** with the decision, arguing the map was not properly accepted.
- Still, the court decided Thailand had accepted the border and ordered it to withdraw troops and return any items taken from the temple.



## IAF Looking To Acquire 2-3 Squadrons

- IAF is looking to acquire two to three squadrons of fifth-generation fighter jets from foreign sources to strengthen its combat capabilities until the indigenous **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** project becomes operational.
- A fighter squadron typically consists of 18 to 20 jets.
- They said the IAF is looking to acquire around two to three squadrons (40-60 aircraft) in the interim till the indigenous project gets ready for meeting its operational requirements.
- The Indian side is showing interest in acquiring the fifth-generation fighter aircraft, when reports suggest that China is already working on **sixth-generation fighter jets** and may also provide its fifth-generation fighters to the Pakistan Air Force in the next few years.
- India is also looking at a programme to build 114 modern 4.5 plus generation fighters in partnership with a foreign country under Make in India and may go for a government-to-government deal after a tender.



## IAF's Rs 230 cr Nyoma Airfield in Ladakh

- In a major step towards strengthening India's military presence near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is nearing completion of the strategically vital Mudh airfield in the Nyoma region of eastern Ladakh.
- Scheduled for completion by October, the airfield—one of the highest in the world at 13,710 feet—will significantly boost the Indian Air Force's (IAF) reach and readiness in the sensitive region.
- The Rs 230 crore infrastructure project involves a comprehensive upgrade of the original airstrip, transforming it into a 2.7-kilometre rigid runway with a width of 46 metres.
- Along with the runway, the project includes a dispersal area, turning pads, an Air Traffic Control (ATC) complex, aircraft hangars, watchtowers, a crash bay, and accommodation facilities for personnel.
- Situated just 35 kilometres from the LAC, Nyoma is poised to become a crucial forward operating base for Indian troops stationed in the region.



## India Moves To Shield Power Grid

- India issued guidelines to protect solar power equipment from potential cyberattacks, responding to industry concerns that imported China-made parts may be putting the grid at risk.
- Suppliers of inverters - devices that turn direct current into electricity for homes and the grid - will need to connect the machines to a national software platform, hosted on servers in India and managed by a government agency, according to the renewable energy ministry.
- India currently has 1.8 million rooftop solar units connected to the grid, ISGF said in a May report. More than 80% of the inverters installed at these units are made by Chinese companies, it said, highlighting the cybersecurity risk.
- The nation plans to cover 10 million houses, with a cumulative capacity of 30 gigawatts by March 2027.



## Flag Raising Ceremony On Knyaz Pozharsky Nuclear-Powered Cruiser

- The ceremony was also attended by First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, Presidential Aide Alexei Dyumin, Presidential Aide Nikolai Patrushev, Commander-in-Chief of the Navy Alexander Moiseyev, and Governor of the Arkhangelsk Region Alexander Tsybulsky.
- The **Knyaz Pozharsky** is a Borei-A class nuclear-powered submarine of the fourth generation. It is equipped with up-to-date missile and torpedo weapons, navigation, radio engineering and sonar systems, has high manoeuvrability characteristics and acoustic stealth.
- The Knyaz Pozharsky is the eighth in a row of **4th generation ballistic missile** subs (SSBNs) and the third to sail for the Northern Fleet.
- The cruiser became the 142nd nuclear-powered submarine built at the Northern Machine-Building Enterprise (Sevmash), the largest shipbuilding plant in the country, which is part of the United Shipbuilding Corporation. There are plans to build six more nuclear-powered submarines there by 2030.





## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which country does the Preah Vihear temple officially belong to, as per the 1962 ruling by the International Court of Justice?

- A. Thailand
- B. Vietnam
- C. Cambodia
- D. Laos

**ANSWER: C**

2. What is the main reason for the current border conflict between Thailand and Cambodia?

- A. Control over oil reserves
- B. Dispute over Preah Vihear temple
- C. Fishing rights in the Mekong River
- D. Airspace violations

**ANSWER: B**

3. How many fighter jets are typically included in one squadron of the Indian Air Force (IAF)?

- A. 10-12
- B. 15-17
- C. 18-20
- D. 22-25

**ANSWER: C**

**4. What is the altitude of the under-construction Nyoma Airfield in Ladakh?**

- A. 9,500 feet
- B. 11,200 feet
- C. 13,710 feet
- D. 15,000 feet

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Why has India issued new guidelines regarding solar power inverters?**

- A. To reduce the cost of solar installations
- B. To enhance electricity output
- C. To protect the grid from potential cyberattacks
- D. To promote wind energy

**ANSWER: C**

**6. What Is The Range Of The Nirbhay Class Long-range Cruise Missiles?**

- A. 500 Km
- B. 750 Km
- C. 1,000 Km
- D. 1,250 Km

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Defence Innovation Start-up Challenge Is An Initiative Of**

- A. MHA
- B. MEA
- C. MOD
- D. PMO

**ANSWER: C**

**8. The Army Design Bureau Signed A MoU With**

- A. Drone Federation of India
- B. IDEX
- C. HAL
- D. IAI

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Ex 'Harimau Shakti' Conducted b/w India &**

- A. Malaysia
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Navigation Training School of IAF Is In**

- A. Begumpet
- B. Noida
- C. Kochi
- D. New Delhi

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Hq of White Knight Corps Is In**

- A. Nagrota
- B. Udhampur
- C. Jaipur
- D. Noida

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Which Company Is The Manufacturer of The HAL Rudra?**

- A. Boeing
- B. DRDO & Israel Aerospace Industries
- C. HAL
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Lieutenant colonel Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of Indian Navy?**

- A. Commander
- B. Wing Commander
- C. Captain
- D. Admiral

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Secretariat of ASEAN Is In**

- A. Jakarta
- B. Dhaka
- C. New Delhi



D. Doha

**ANSWER: A**

**15. "An Introduction to Dreamland" Book Is Written By**

- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Raja Ram
- C. Leo Tolstoy
- D. George Bernard Shaw

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Wassenaar Arrangement Works On Transfer Of**

- A. Conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies
- B. Wheat and Rice
- C. Space Technology
- D. High yielding seeds

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Which One Of The Following Pairs Is Not Correctly Matched?**

- A. Christ Church - New Zealand
- B. Nairobi - Kenya
- C. Budapest - Hungary
- D. Kinshasa - Zaire

**ANSWER: A**

**18. "Sita: Warrior of Mithila" Book Is Written By**

- A. Amish Tripathi
- B. Rabindranath Tagore
- C. Amrita Pritam
- D. Chetan Bhagat

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Which Of The Following Is Not Correctly Matched?**

- A. Chennai - Deepest port of India
- B. Cochin - Natural port
- C. Kandla - Tidal port
- D. Jawaharlal Nehru port - Sole mechanized port

**ANSWER: A**

**20. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Hq Is In**

- A. Nairobi, Kenya
- B. New York City, USA
- C. Rome, Italy
- D. Washington, DC, USA

**ANSWER: A**