

Daily Defence Current Affairs

22 October 2025

UK Removes Terrorism Designation for Syria's HTS

- The British government on Tuesday removed Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the group which spearheaded the Syrian rebel alliance that helped oust President Bashar al-Assad, from its list of banned terrorist organisations.
- HTS, a former al Qaeda affiliate, was proscribed in 2017, meaning that Britain designated it as a terrorist group, making it illegal to support or join it.
- The government said in December last year that it could rethink the proscription, while President Donald Trump's administration revoked the U.S. foreign terrorist organisation designation for HTS in July.
- Britain had joined other nations in welcoming the end of the Assad's autocratic government, which marked one of the biggest turning points for the Middle East in generations and followed years of civil war. Then-HTS leader Ahmed al-Sharaa became Syria's president.
- "The UK will continue to press for genuine progress and hold the Syrian government accountable for its actions in fighting terrorism and restoring stability in Syria and the wider region," the government said.



India to Induct 800 km BrahMos Missiles

- India is set to induct the new 800 km range BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles in little over two years. Additionally, over 200 km Astra air-to-air missiles are also set for production in 2026-27.
- Currently, tests are underway for the 800 km range BrahMos, with a modified ramjet engine and other upgrades, to ensure the conventional (non-nuclear) missile is fully ready by end-2027.
- At present, the BrahMos has a range of 450 km, which fly at almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8,. They were reportedly launched from Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets for the targeted strikes deep into Pakistan under Operation Sindoor in May.
- The DRDO is also working on increasing the beyond visual range (BVR) of Astra Mark-2 missiles to over 200 km from the earlier 160 km, while IAF is inducting over 280 Astra Mark-1 missiles with 100 km range.
- The Indian Air Force has finalised the plan to induct initial 700 Astra Mark-2 missiles for its Sukhoi-30MKI and Tejas jets. There is also an Astra Mark-3 in the pipeline. It comes with solid-fuel ducted ramjet (SFDR) propulsion to increase the range to 350kmm but it will take three years to become operational.
- The total value of the deals inked with Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos Aerospace has crossed Rs 58,000 crore over the years, with the missiles becoming the prime conventional precision strike weapons for IAF, Navy and Army.



Indian Army signs MoU with Delhi Technological University

- The Indian Army marked a key milestone by signing a MoU with Delhi Technological University (DTU) in Delhi. The MoU aims to promote research and offer courses for military personnel in key domains, including defence technology, artificial intelligence and cyber security.
- "The collaboration focuses on research and courses for military personnel in key domains, including Defence Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Cyber Security, Geoinformatics, Data Analytics and Soldier Upskilling. By bridging operational experience with academic excellence, the partnership aims to build a technologically empowered, future-ready force and drive India's #DecadeofTransformation," the post added.



Rajnath Singh to Attend ADMM

- Defence minister Rajnath Singh is set to travel to Malaysia at the end of the month for a key meeting of regional defence ministers, with some important bilateral interactions likely to take place during the event.
- Singh will travel for the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM plus) that starts on October 30. The meeting is likely to see the defence ministers of China and the US, besides ASEAN nations and regional players, gathering in Kuala Lumpur.
- During his previous visit for the meeting in Laos, last November, Singh held a key interaction with his the then Chinese counterpart, Li Shangfu. The meeting took

place on a positive note with Singh calling for identifying the root causes of the conflict and moving towards further de-escalation of border tensions.

- In June, Singh held talks with Chinese counterpart Dong Jun in Qingdao on the sidelines of the SCO summit and suggested moving towards a permanent solution to recurrent boundary issues through a formal demarcation of the Sino-Indian border.



Rs 10,000 cr Missiles Deal for 'Sudarshan' S-400

- Having successfully used it to bring down 6-7 Pakistan fighter and spy planes in Operation Sindoor, India is looking to buy a large number of missiles worth around Rs 10,000 crore from Russia for its S-400 air defence system.
- The S-400 air defence system of the Indian Air Force brought down five to six Pakistani fighter aircraft and one spy plane at a distance of over 300 Km deep inside Pakistan during the four-day conflict and has been termed as a game-changer by the Indian Air Force.
- The Indian side is also looking to add more S-400 squadrons to its inventory and is asking Russia to supply the remaining two squadrons of the missile systems, of which three have already been inducted and operationalised.
- The two sides have also discussed Indian's plans to induct more S-400 and S-500 air defence systems at various levels. The Russian military establishment is producing a large amount of equipment for its forces in the fight against Ukraine.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which group was recently removed by the UK gov from its list of banned terrorist organisations?

- A. Islamic State (ISIS)
- B. Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)
- C. Al-Nusra Front
- D. Hezbollah

ANSWER: B

2. What is the new range of the upgraded BrahMos supersonic cruise missile set to be inducted by India?

- A. 450 km
- B. 600 km
- C. 800 km
- D. 1000 km

ANSWER: C

3. The Indian Army signed a MoU with which university to promote research in defence technology and artificial intelligence?

- A. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru University
- C. Delhi Technological University (DTU)
- D. Indian Institute of Science

ANSWER: C

4. Where will Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attend the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus)?

- A. Singapore
- B. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- C. Bangkok, Thailand
- D. Jakarta, Indonesia

ANSWER: B

5. India plans to buy missiles worth around Rs 10,000 crore from Russia for which air defence system?

- A. Akash
- B. Iron Dome
- C. S-400
- D. Barak-8

ANSWER: C

6. प्रहार से सुरक्षा Is The Motto Of

- A. Garud Commando Force
- B. MARCOS
- C. PARA SF
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

7. Indian Army Flag Consist Colors of ____ Colors.

- A. Gold, Red And Black
- B. Gold, Red And Blue
- C. Gold, Rose Black And Black
- D. Green, Red And Black

ANSWER: A

8. Which Country Has the Maximum Nuclear Warheads?

- A. UK**
- B. Russia**
- C. USA**
- D. China**

ANSWER: B

9. “Naam Namak Nishaan” Is The War Cry Of

- A. THE GRENADIERS
- B. RR
- C. Sikh Regiment
- D. Gorkha Regiment

ANSWER: A

10. IPCC Stands For

- A. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Challenge
- B. Intergovernmental Panel on Cloud Change
- C. Intergovernmental Pan on Climate Change
- D. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

ANSWER: D

11. Operational Range of Rudram-1 Is

- A. 150 km
- B. 250 km
- C. 350 km
- D. 450 km

ANSWER: B

12. Where Is The Hq Of The Eastern Command of The Indian Army?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: D

13. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Sri Lanka Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. VINBAX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: B

14. Luanda Is The Capital Of

- A. Andorra
- B. Algiers

- C. Angola
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

15. "Sea of Tranquility" Book Written By

- A. Emily St. John Mandel
- B. Barak Obama
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. S. Jenifer

ANSWER: A

16. Ex KAZIND Conducted B/W India And

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

ANSWER: C

17. Group Captain Rank Of IAF Is Equivalent to Which Rank of Indian Navy?

- A. Colonel
- B. Captain
- C. Commander
- D. Major

ANSWER: B

18. What Is The Ranking Of The IAF In The World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA)?

- A. 1st
- B. 2nd
- C. 3rd
- D. 4th

ANSWER: C

19. "Balidanam Vir Lakshanam" Is The Motto Of

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

ANSWER: A

20. F 18 Super Hornet Fighter Aircraft Manufactured By

- A. Boeing
- B. Lockheed Martin
- C. Airbus
- D. HAL

ANSWER: A