

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India, US Sign 10-year Framework Pact For Defence

- India and the US signed a framework agreement for a major defence partnership that gives a roadmap for cooperation over the next 10 years, which includes jointly pursuing capacity building for like-minded partners in Asia, Africa and island countries in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The framework will enable the two countries to collaborate on global challenges like space and missile defence, preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and will prioritise export licence approvals for weapons.
- Importantly, the framework will also support India's development as a logistics, maintenance, repair and overhaul hub.
- The partnership, he said, is critical for ensuring a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific region – a reference to efforts aimed at countering China's assertive behaviour in the region.
- Hegseth, Secretary of War, said the 10-year framework advances the India-US defence partnership, a “cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence”.
- “We are enhancing our coordination, info sharing and tech cooperation. Our defence ties have never been stronger,” he said in a post on X.



IAF Seeks Industry Help To Develop Cargo Drones

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is seeking industry participation to develop cargo drones capable of carrying up to 500 kilograms with a range of 500 kilometres and an endurance of five hours.
- These drones are intended to transport cargo from the mainland to the Lakshadweep islands and between the islands themselves.
- The initiative aims to overcome logistical challenges in sustaining infrastructure and manpower in Lakshadweep - a key strategic location for India's security interests - according to Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari.
- Air Marshal Manish Khanna, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Air Command, underscored the strategic importance of both Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He highlighted the potential for drones to serve non-military roles, including disaster response and medical aid delivery.
- Over 100 startups have registered for MBC-4. As part of the event, Air Marshal Tiwari inaugurated an exhibition titled 'Over the Sea Cargo Drones for Logistics and Mobility Solutions for Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands', organised in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- The exhibition also featured one-on-one sessions between operational commanders and senior officials, offering participants valuable insights into the Air Force's operational needs and future priorities.



DRDO Tests Swayam Raksha Kavach Suite

- India's DRDO has commenced advanced flight trials of its new airborne electronic warfare suite, **Swayam Raksha Kavach** (SRK), designed for integration with the HAL TEJAS MK-1A light combat aircraft.
- The SRK suite, an evolution of DRDO's earlier D-29 system, represents a major step in enhancing the self-protection capabilities of the IAF forthcoming TEJAS MK-1A fleet. Its deployment is planned from the end of 2026, following successful testing and certification.
- The new suite incorporates an integrated radar warning receiver (RWR) built into the airframe and an external jammer pod mounted on a hard-point. This configuration allows the aircraft to detect and counter hostile radar threats more rapidly and effectively, combining enhanced situational awareness with active jamming functions.
- DRDO anticipates completing the SRK's flight evaluations by mid-2026, aligning with the production ramp-up of the TEJAS MK-1A. The system's design leverages lessons from the D-29 suite that equips the IAF's MiG-29 fleet but delivers improved processing speed, signal discrimination, and threat classification accuracy.



L&T And General Atomics Forge Pact

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has entered into a landmark agreement with US aerospace major General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) to produce cutting-edge Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in India.
- Under this strategic partnership, the two companies will jointly manufacture Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) RPAS within India. The production will blend L&T's engineering, system integration, and precision manufacturing expertise with GA-ASI's extensive operational experience and global technological leadership in unmanned platforms.
- The initiative aligns with India's upcoming 87 MALE RPAS procurement programme under the Ministry of Defence, wherein L&T will act as the prime bidder and GA-ASI will serve as the technology partner. The program aims to bolster India's aerial surveillance and strike capabilities through indigenous production and technology absorption.
- L&T has an established track record in defence engineering, having collaborated with DRDO and the Indian Armed Forces on key systems across land, air, and sea domains.
- Its facilities currently cater to the development and production of weapon delivery, aerospace assemblies, and naval platforms, including warships, submarines, and auxiliary vessels, underscoring its role as a major indigenous defence manufacturer.



Brigadier Kuldeep Singh Chandpuri

- To honour the city's celebrated war hero, late Brigadier Kuldeep Singh Chandpuri, popularly recognized as the hero of the iconic Battle of Longewala, the Army has dedicated a hall in his name at the 'Longewala Yudhsthal' (Longewala War Memorial). The gesture has come as tribute to the braveheart who led 120 soldiers of the 23 Punjab Regiment in the epic 1971 Battle of Longewala, a defining moment of valour in India's military history.
- The 'Chandpuri hall' was inaugurated by Union defence minister Rajnath Singh on Oct 24 during his visit to Jaisalmer area to attend the army commanders conference. The event was also attended by Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi and other senior military commanders of the area.
- Located 15 kms from the international border and 105 kms from Jaisalmer, the Longewala Yudhsthal was opened for public in 2015. It was established to commemorate one of the most gallantly fought battles and recount the chilling moments of valour and bravery of the soldiers of Indian armed forces at this very site.
- Earlier in 2017, the Army had named a road after Chandpuri, who was recipient of country's second highest gallantry award Mahavir Chakra for his bravery in the Battle of Longewala, and other soldiers who fought with him.
- Hardeep Chandpuri, son of Brigadier Chandpuri, said the family is deeply touched by the Army's gesture to immortalise the war veteran. He said it reflects the military's strengthened bond with its soldiers who showcase their valour and sacrifices for the forces.
- Chandpuri died in November 2018 at the age of 78 in Chandigarh.

- Chandpuri was known for his heroic act in the battle of Longewala 1971 in which he fought fearlessly. Film-maker J P Dutta had made the movie 'Border', a war epic featuring real-life events that happened at the Battle of Longewala during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.
- On the night of 5/6 December 1971, Pakistan launched a massive attack with 51 Infantry Brigade, supported by a Regiment of T-59 and Squadron of Sherman Tanks to capture Longewala and Ramgarh. 'A' company of 23 Punjab Regiment led by Major K S Chandpuri held fast and despite being heavily outnumbered, beat back multiple attacks throughout the night. At dawn on 6 December 1971, the Indian Air Force destroyed enemy tanks in precision attacks.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **The 10-year India–US defence framework agreement focuses on which of the following areas?**
 - A. Space cooperation only
 - B. Capacity building in Asia, Africa, and the Indian Ocean Region
 - C. Defence exports to Europe only
 - D. Cybersecurity and AI collaboration exclusively

ANSWER: B

2. **What is the primary payload capacity and range of the cargo drones the Indian Air Force seeks to develop?**
 - A. 200 kg payload with 200 km range
 - B. 300 kg payload with 300 km range
 - C. 500 kg payload with 500 km range
 - D. 700 kg payload with 700 km range

ANSWER: C

3. The DRDO's new electronic warfare suite 'Swayam Raksha Kavach (SRK)' is designed for which aircraft?

- A. Sukhoi Su-30MKI
- B. HAL TEJAS MK-1A
- C. Rafale
- D. Mirage-2000

ANSWER: B

4. Which two companies signed an agreement to jointly manufacture Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in India?

- A. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Boeing
- B. Larsen & Toubro and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc.
- C. Bharat Electronics Limited and Lockheed Martin
- D. Tata Advanced Systems and Northrop Grumman

ANSWER: B

5. Brigadier Kuldeep Singh Chandpuri, honoured at the Longewala War Memorial, was the hero of which historic battle?

- A. Battle of Kargil
- B. Battle of Rezang La
- C. Battle of Hilli
- D. Battle of Longewala

ANSWER: D

6. What is the primary function of the 'SANJAY - The Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS)'?

- A. Integrating battlefield sensors to create a Common Surveillance Picture
- B. Conducting real-time battlefield simulations
- C. Enhancing communication between naval fleets
- D. Monitoring coastal borders for illegal activities

ANSWER: A

7. 'Netra' Is A

- A. Early Warning And Control Aircraft System
- B. Early Warning And Control Atmosphere
- C. Early Warning And Centre Aircraft
- D. None

ANSWER: A

8. Light Combat Helicopter Is Manufactured By

- A. DRDO
- B. HAL
- C. Boeing
- D. Airbus

ANSWER: B

9. Ex 'KAZIND' & 'KHANJAR' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Kazakhstan
- B. Kyrgyzstan
- C. Both a & b
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

10. Munitions India Limited Is An Indian State-owned Defence Company, HQ in

- A. Pune
- B. Mumbai
- C. Noida
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

11. Current CDS Of India Is

- A. Gen Anil Chauhan
- B. Gen Bipin Rawat
- C. Gen M M Naravane
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

12. War Cry Of Mechanised Infantry Regiment Is

- A. Durga Mata K Jai
- B. Raja Ram Chandra K Jai
- C. Bolo Bharat Mata Ki Jai
- D. Bajrang Bali K Jai

ANSWER: C

13. Ex 'BLUE FLAG' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Israel

ANSWER: D

14. Operation Devi Shakti Was Conducted In

- A. 2016
- B. 2017
- C. 2018
- D. 2021

ANSWER: D

15. Always Alert Is The Motto Of

- A. RAW
- B. IB
- C. DRDO
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

16. Which Is Not An OPV?

- A. INS Saryu
- B. INS Sunayna
- C. INS Gomati
- D. INS Sumitra

ANSWER: C

17. Only Five-star Rank Officer Of The IAF Is

- A. K.M Karippa
- B. V R Chaudhary
- C. R K S Bhadauria
- D. Arjan Singh

ANSWER: D

18. SPYDER Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV

- C. Submarine
- D. Air defence system

ANSWER: D

19. Vilnius Is The Capital Of

- A. Lithuania
- B. Qatar
- C. Malawi
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

20. "Making of a General-A Himalayan Echo" Book Is Written By

- A. Ramesh Kandula
- B. Meghna Pant
- C. Hunter Biden
- D. Lt. Gen. Konsam Himalay Singh

ANSWER: D

