

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 09 January 2025

### Russia Bombards Kyiv After Rejecting Peacekeeping Plan

- Russian strikes on Ukraine's capital and its suburbs killed at least three people, Kyiv's mayor said Friday, as the air force issued a countrywide missile warning.
- The attack on Kyiv ignited fires and damaged apartment buildings, with "three dead and 13 wounded," according to Mayor Vitali Klitschko.
- He also said a medic was killed while responding to a drone strike at a residential building that was hit a second time. It was unclear if the medic was included in the preliminary toll.
- Regional governor Mykola Kalashnyk urged people to stay inside shelters until the air raid sirens lifted. The country's air force warned "all of Ukraine is under a missile threat" after confirming Russian bombers were airborne. In the western city of Lviv, the armed forces said a ballistic missile struck "infrastructure facilities" just before midnight.
- After the attack, the regional military administration said that radiation levels were within normal range.
- The latest barrage comes after the US Embassy in Kyiv warned on Thursday that a "potentially significant air attack" could occur any time within the next several days.
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had echoed the rare warning in his evening address. Moscow on Thursday branded Kyiv and its allies an "axis of war" and dashed the latest post-war proposal drawn up at a summit in Paris.



## B'desh Air Chief Meets Pakistan's CDF Munir

- Bangladesh Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan met Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces Asim Munir and discussed bilateral defence cooperation.
- During the meeting at General Headquarters, Rawalpindi, matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics and avenues for enhancing bilateral defence and military cooperation were discussed, the military said.
- "Both sides underscored the importance of strengthening professional collaboration, training exchanges and defence ties between the Armed Forces of Pakistan and Bangladesh," it said.
- Bangladesh's air chief lauded the professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces and appreciated their contributions towards regional peace and stability, the statement said. Munir reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering enduring defence relations with Bangladesh, it added.



## India & Germany on Verge of \$8 Billion Submarine Agreement

- Germany and India are hammering out the details of a submarine manufacturing deal worth at least **\$8 billion** — the largest-ever defense agreement for New Delhi.
- The agreement, negotiated ahead of Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit to the South Asian nation next week, would for the first time include technology transfer for submarine production, the people said.
- India's navy operates about a dozen aging Russian submarines and six new French-made models. If the deal under discussion goes ahead, India would scrap plans to buy three more French subs, the people said.
- Germany's **Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems GmbH** and Indian state-owned **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd.** will work together to manufacture the vessels, said the people, who asked not to be named discussing confidential information.
- Merz, on his maiden visit to India, will meet with PM Narendra Modi for talks in the western Indian state of Gujarat before flying to the technology hub of Bengaluru to see German companies there.
- The two countries are likely to increase cooperation in the pharmaceuticals sector as well as defense, the people said. Merz also plans to use his talks with

Modi to speed up broader negotiations between the European Union and India on a free-trade agreement.

- The new submarines will be equipped with air-independent propulsion systems, which increase the boats' endurance and allows them to remain submerged longer than with diesel-electric propulsion, the people said.
- The vessels will add to New Delhi's ability to police the vast waters of the Indian Ocean region as China asserts its presence there.
- Even so, **India is the second-largest importer of military hardware** globally, sourcing most of its equipment from Russia, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, an international think tank that tracks weapons purchases.



## **Pakistan, Saudi Arabia in Talks On JF-17 Jets-for-Loans Deal**

- Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are in talks to convert about \$2 billion of Saudi loans into a JF-17 fighter jet deal, two Pakistani sources said, deepening military cooperation months after the two nations signed a mutual defence pact last year.
- The talks underscore how the two allies are moving to operationalise defence cooperation at a time when Pakistan is facing acute financial strain and Saudi Arabia is reshaping its security partnerships to hedge against uncertainty about U.S. commitments in the Middle East.

- The mutual defence deal was signed following Israel's strikes on what it said were Hamas targets in Doha, an attack that shook the Gulf region.
- One of the sources said the discussions were limited to the provision of JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, the light combat aircraft jointly developed by Pakistan and China and produced in Pakistan, while the second said the jets were the primary option among others under discussion.
- The first source said the total deal was worth **\$4 billion**, with an additional **\$2 billion** to be spent on equipment over and above the loan conversion. The sources close to the military with knowledge of the matter spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak on the deal.
- In 2018, Riyadh announced a \$6 billion support package for Pakistan, including a \$3 billion deposit at the central bank and \$3 billion worth of oil supplies on deferred payment.
- Saudi Arabia has since rolled over deposits multiple times, including a \$1.2 billion deferment last year, helping Islamabad stabilise its foreign exchange reserves amid chronic balance-of-payments pressures.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **According to Ukrainian officials, how many people were initially reported dead in the Russian air strikes on Kyiv?**
  - A. Two
  - B. Three
  - C. Five

D. Seven

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Which Ukrainian city in the western region was reported to have been hit by a ballistic missile during the latest Russian attacks?**

A. Odesa

B. Kharkiv

C. Lviv

D. Dnipro

**ANSWER: C**

**3. Bangladesh's Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan met which Pakistani official to discuss defence cooperation?**

A. Prime Minister of Pakistan

B. Chief of Army Staff

C. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff

D. Chief of Defence Forces Asim Munir

**ANSWER: D**

**4. Which two companies are expected to jointly manufacture submarines under the proposed India–Germany defence deal?**

A. HAL and Airbus

B. DRDO and Rheinmetall

C. Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd

D. Naval Group and Larsen & Toubro

**ANSWER: C**

**5. The JF-17 Thunder fighter jets discussed in Pakistan–Saudi Arabia talks are jointly developed by Pakistan and which country?**

A. Russia

B. Turkey

C. China

D. United States

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Daulat Beg Oldie, a well-known airstrip for supply of provisions to the armed forces is located in**

A. Sikkim

- B. Ladakh
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Andaman Islands

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Which of the following is the equivalent rank in the Army of the Naval rank of Captain?**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Which of the following is the home base of the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya?**

- A. Karwar
- B. Jamnagar
- C. Cochin
- D. Visakhapatnam

**ANSWER: A**

**9. The department of Atomic Energy was established in**

- A. 1948
- B. 1954
- C. 1963
- D. 1971

**ANSWER: B**

**10. The Country's First Indigenously Built Missile Boat Was.**

- A. INS Vibhuti
- B. INS Vipul
- C. INS Savitri
- D. INS Shakti

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Who was the first Indian to go into space?**

- A. Rakesh Sharma
- B. Satish Dhawan
- C. Kalpana Chawla

D. Ravi Malhotra

**ANSWER: A**

**12. What was the code name of the operation to conduct nuclear test at Pokhran in May 1998?**

- A. Shakti
- B. Hansa
- C. Buddha
- D. Shiva

**ANSWER: A**

**13. The Uri Hydroelectric project is located in**

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Haryana

**ANSWER: A**

**14. When did India enter into space age by launching the satellite 'Aryabhata'?**

- A. 1966
- B. 1932
- C. 1975
- D. 1990

**ANSWER: C**

**15. "CTBT" is a term related to**

- A. Nuclear weapons
- B. Electric House
- C. Space Research
- D. Atomic Research

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Which of the following Indian states does NOT share its boundaries with Nepal?**

- A. West Bengal
- B. Sikkim
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Assam



**ANSWER: D**

**17. "How to Prevent the Next Pandemic" Book Is Written By**

- A. Bill Gates
- B. Rajiv Bhatia
- C. J. Sai Deepak
- D. Samuel Moyn

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Operation Devi Shakti Was Conducted In**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**19. SSLV Stands For**

- A. Small Satellite Low Vehicle
- B. Small Satellite Launch Velocity
- C. Small Satellite Launch Vehicle
- D. None

**ANSWER: C**

**20. President's Bodyguard Motto Is**

- A. Jai Hind
- B. Sarvda Shaktishali
- C. Bharat Mata Ki Jai
- D. Rashtra Pratham

**ANSWER: C**