

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India and the UAE Strategic Defence Partnership

- India and the UAE signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to conclude a Strategic Defence Partnership, signalling a deeper strategic alignment amid heightened geopolitical churn in West Asia and the Persian Gulf.
- India and the UAE agreed to double bilateral trade to \$200 billion by 2032. Several agreements were signed during talks between Narendra Modi and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in New Delhi.
- The decision to double bilateral trade to \$200 billion by 2032 highlights the growing economic interdependence between India and the UAE.
- The UAE is one of India's largest trading partners and a key gateway to West Asia and Africa.
- This ambitious target builds on the momentum created by recent trade facilitation measures and investment flows.
- Both countries aim to diversify trade beyond traditional sectors by strengthening cooperation in manufacturing, energy, logistics, technology and services, ensuring long-term and resilient economic growth.
- India and the UAE signed a letter of intent to conclude a framework agreement on a strategic defense partnership.
- This reflects rising trust and shared security interests. Another letter of intent focuses on joint initiatives in space infrastructure development and its commercialization.



Indian Defence Company To Invest ₹500 Cr In Chip Plant

- An Indian defence company is investing Rs 500 crore to set up a new semiconductor production facility to tap into the domestic and export market, with production slated to start by the end of next year. Paras Defence and Space Technologies Ltd, which is already a leading player in defence optical.
- The new plant will specialise in chiplet integration and advanced system-in-package technologies, areas where India currently depends entirely on imports. Israel leads as the primary supplier, with Europe following closely, highlighting the strategic importance of this self-reliance push.
- Paras Defence, already renowned for its expertise in defence optical and optronic systems, anticipates capturing a significant slice of the domestic market. Officials estimate an annual requirement of ₹2,500 crore for sensors and chipsets, driven by India's aggressive indigenisation drive and the ramp-up in weapon systems procurement.



India Exports Pinaka Rockets To Armenia

- The first batch of guided Pinaka rocket systems meant for Armenia has been flagged off by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh from a facility in Nagpur.
- The development marks the start of deliveries under a roughly Rs 2,000 crore deal signed between India and Armenia for four Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher batteries along with anti-tank rockets, ammunition and other equipment.
- India had earlier delivered the unguided variant of the Pinaka rockets, with supplies beginning in July 2023 and concluding in November 2024. The current dispatch involves the guided version, designed to enhance precision strike capabilities.
- Armenia is the first confirmed international buyer of the Pinaka system, though several other countries in Southeast Asia and Europe, including France, have shown interest.
- The minister said India's defence exports, which were below Rs 1,000 crore a decade ago, have now reached a record Rs 24,000 crore, aided by increased private sector participation. He added that domestic defence production has grown from Rs 46,425 crore in 2014 to a record Rs 1.51 lakh crore.



Trump Believes Greenland Essential for US

- US President Donald Trump views Greenland as central to American national security and a key pillar of the United States' Golden Dome missile shield, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said during a conversation at the World Economic Forum annual meeting 2026.
- "US should not outsource our national security; Greenland is necessary for Golden Dome, Trump believes so," Bessent said in a conversation on the sidelines of the Davos meeting. He added that the island's strategic importance "has been in the mind of U.S. leaders for 150 years."
- Bessent said Trump is increasingly concerned about the security implications of Greenland's location and global interest in the Arctic. "President worried that U.S. would be called to defend Greenland in case of incursion," he said.
- He also noted that "Greenland becoming more and more attractive for external world powers and so, Trump believes it should be a part of the United States."
- "No country can assert control on Greenland if U.S. does so," Bessent added.



HAL Hands Over Advanced Dornier-228 Aircraft To ICG

- The induction of two new Dornier 228 aircraft into the Indian Coast Guard on 19 January 2026 at Kanpur marks a significant enhancement of India's maritime security and coastal surveillance capabilities.
- Handed over by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), these aircraft represent the latest iteration of the proven Dornier platform, tailored specifically to meet

the demanding operational profile of the Coast Guard in India's extensive maritime domain.

- These aircraft are equipped with a state-of-the-art glass cockpit, replacing older analogue instrumentation with fully integrated digital displays and avionics. This modern cockpit architecture reduces pilot workload, improves situational awareness, and supports safer, more efficient operations in complex maritime environments.
- Enhanced navigation and communication suites enable more precise route planning, low-level flying over sea, and better coordination with surface units and shore establishments.
- A key feature of the new Dornier 228s is the fitment of advanced surveillance sensors and a dedicated Mission Management System (MMS). The sensor package typically includes multi-mode maritime surveillance radar, electro-optical/infra-red (EO/IR) systems and Automatic Identification System (AIS) receivers, enabling detection, identification and tracking of vessels across wide swathes of the exclusive economic zone.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India and the UAE signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) primarily to conclude a partnership in which area?

- A. Civil nuclear cooperation
- B. Strategic defence cooperation
- C. Joint counter-terrorism operations
- D. Maritime boundary management

ANSWER: B

2. By which year have India and the UAE set a target to double their bilateral trade to USD 200 billion?

- A. 2028

- B. 2030
- C. 2032
- D. 2035

ANSWER: C

3. The ₹500 crore semiconductor manufacturing facility announced by Paras Defence will mainly focus on which technology segment?

- A. Silicon wafer fabrication
- B. Memory chip production
- C. Chiplet integration and system-in-package technologies
- D. Quantum computing processors

ANSWER: C

4. Which country became the first confirmed international buyer of India's Pinaka guided rocket system?

- A. Vietnam
- B. France
- C. Philippines
- D. Armenia

ANSWER: D

5. The advanced Dornier-228 aircraft inducted into the ICG are equipped with which key feature for enhanced maritime surveillance?

- A. Hypersonic propulsion systems
- B. Mission Management System with EO/IR sensors and AIS
- C. Stealth coating for radar evasion
- D. Unmanned aerial refuelling capability

ANSWER: B

6. Air Force Technical College (AFTC) Located At

- A. Bangalore
- B. Noida
- C. Jaipur
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

7. Institute of National Integration Is In

- A. Pune
- B. Noida

- C. Jaipur
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

8. Ajeya Warrior Ex Conducts B/W

- A. India & Indonesia
- B. India & UK
- C. India & Sri Lanka
- D. India & Thailand

ANSWER: B

9. Which Is Not The Member Of SAARC?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Myanmar
- C. India
- D. Pakistan

ANSWER: B

10. National Crime Records Bureau Was Set up In

- A. 1986
- B. 1987
- C. 1988
- D. 1989

ANSWER: A

11. AUKUS Stands For

- A. Azerbaijan, the United Kingdom, & the United States
- B. Australia, the United Kingdom, & the United States
- C. Australia, the United Kingdom, & Uganda
- D. Argentina, the United Kingdom, & the United States

ANSWER: B

12. Army Sports Institute Is In

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

ANSWER: A

13. OPEC Hq Is In

- A. Budapest, Hungary
- B. New York, USA
- C. Luanda, Angola
- D. Vienna, Austria

ANSWER: D

14. Chairman Of The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) Is

- A. PM
- B. NSA
- C. CDS
- D. Home Minister

ANSWER: A

15. Baghdad Is The Capital Of GUARDS

- A. Iraq
- B. Iran
- C. UAE
- D. Saudi Arabia

ANSWER: A

16. "The Sikh History of East India" Book Is Written By

- A. Abinash Mohapatra
- B. Avinash Khemka
- C. Rajesh Talwar
- D. Vinod Rai

ANSWER: A

17. International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Hq Is At

- A. London, United Kingdom
- B. Vienna, Austria
- C. Paris, France
- D. Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER: A

18. The Army Training Command Of The Indian Army Is In

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam

- C. Pune
- D. Shimla

ANSWER: D

19. Commodore Rank Of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of Indian Army?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Lt. Gen
- C. Captain
- D. Major General

ANSWER: A

20. Air Commodore Rank of IAF Is Equivalent To Which Rank of Indian Army?

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

ANSWER: A

