

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 28 January 2025

### India, EU Sign New Security & Defence Partnership

- India and EU have signed a new pact for security and defence partnership that will pave the way for cooperation in the maritime domain, increased engagements in the Indo-Pacific and lead to stronger engagement by the Indian defence industry in the European market.
- The two sides have also decided to set up an industry-led India-EU Defence Industry Forum, with official participation as observers and associating EU member states.
- The forum will drive industrial partnership and explore opportunities in both markets. A dedicated annual EU-India Security and Defence Dialogue has also been announced.
- Following the pact, defence minister Rajnath Singh said the Indian defence industry can play a meaningful role in the EU's 'ReArm initiative', at a time when it is looking to diversify suppliers and de-risk dependencies.



## Mother of Deal Signed 16<sup>th</sup> Summit

- India and Europe have concluded the "**mother of all**" trade deals, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Tuesday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the top EU leadership held summit talks to elevate the two-way ties to jointly navigate geopolitical turbulence and trade disruptions. Prime Minister Modi hosted von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa at the summit.
- The long-awaited free trade agreement is expected to significantly expand the overall trajectory of two-way engagement, as it will open up new opportunities for cooperation in diverse areas.
- The FTA is expected to bring a qualitative change in deepening the overall bilateral ties in a range of sectors. The broad focus of today's meeting is on trade, defence and security, climate change, critical technologies and strengthening the rules-based global order. The two sides are also set to unveil a defence framework pact and a strategic agenda. The new partnership comes at a time when Europe is seeking to reduce its dependence on the US and China and deepen its diplomatic and economic ties to other regions.
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- The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has welcomed the landmark India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA), calling it a historic breakthrough that could reshape India's trade landscape.
- India is expected to gradually increase its market share from 5 per cent to 8-9 per cent in the EU's ready-made garment (RMG) imports, unlocking an incremental annual export opportunity of nearly \$4-4.5 billion over the medium term.
- The European Union (EU) is the world's largest RMG market, with imports of nearly **\$84 billion** (excluding trade among EU countries) in 2024, according to the report by CareEdge Ratings.
- India currently exports **\$4.5-5 billion** of RMG to the EU, holding 5 per cent share of the EU's RMG market. Unlike India, key competitors such as Bangladesh, Turkey, Vietnam, Pakistan, and Cambodia enjoy duty-free access.



## Adani And Embraer Signs Strategic Partnership

- Adani Defence and Aerospace has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Brazil's Embraer to establish a regional transport aircraft manufacturing ecosystem in India.
- This collaboration marks a pivotal step for India's aviation sector, enabling the assembly of Embraer's regional jets locally for the first time.
- Embraer, the world's third-largest aircraft manufacturer after Boeing and Airbus, brings its expertise in producing commercial jets with up to 150 seats.

The partnership leverages Adani's expanding aviation infrastructure and defence capabilities alongside Embraer's engineering prowess.

- Under the agreement, the companies plan to set up a final assembly line (FAL) in India, with potential sites currently under evaluation. Details on investment, precise location, and operational timelines remain undisclosed, though announcements are expected soon.
- Adani Group's broader aviation push includes its management of several Indian airports and a ₹6 lakh crore investment across aviation, infrastructure, and green energy. This MoU represents Adani's entry into commercial aircraft production, complementing its defence and aerospace ventures.
- This development follows initial reports of discussions last month, with formal signing confirmed on 27 January 2026. It positions India to compete in the global regional jet market while advancing self-reliance in strategic technologies.



## Ashok Chakra for Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

- Droupadi Murmu has approved gallantry awards for 70 Armed Forces personnel, including the **Ashok Chakra** for Shubhanshu Shukla, along with several other gallantry and distinguished service medals.
- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has been awarded the Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award.
- He made history by becoming the first Indian to visit the International Space Station, marking a milestone in India's aerospace and defence-linked achievements.

- The award recognises exceptional courage, leadership, and contribution beyond the call of duty.
- India's gallantry awards system honours acts of bravery in both wartime and peacetime.
- The Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, and Shaurya Chakra are peacetime gallantry awards, while medals such as the Param Vir Chakra are awarded during war.



## India Demands Swift UNSC Overhaul

- India has issued a strong call for urgent reforms to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), warning that multilateralism faces mounting pressures amid evolving global dynamics.
- Speaking at a UNSC Open Debate on "Reaffirming International Rule of Law: Pathways to Reinvigorating Peace, Justice, and Multilateralism" in New York, India's Permanent Representative, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, highlighted the outdated nature of the Council's structure.
- He argued that the current composition mirrors a "geopolitical reality of a bygone era," undermining the credibility of multilateral institutions.
- Ambassador Parvathaneni stressed that the rule of law forms the cornerstone of the UNSC's mandate to maintain international peace and security, yet it remains ineffective without practical enforcement.
- Multilateralism, centred on universal UN membership, is under severe strain, he noted. Beyond financial constraints, the envoy pointed to the Council's paralysis in resolving conflicts, fostering a perception that the organisation fails in its core mission.



- Rapid shifts in political, economic, and technological landscapes demand constant updates to international frameworks, Parvathaneni emphasised. Without such reinvigoration, these structures face obsolescence in addressing modern challenges like changing power dynamics and demographics.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. What is the primary objective of the new India–EU Security and Defence Partnership?**

- A. Joint nuclear disarmament
- B. Military alliance formation
- C. Cooperation in maritime security and defence industry
- D. Deployment of joint armed forces

**Answer: C**

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**2. Which platform has been proposed to enhance defence industrial cooperation between India and the EU?**

- A. Indo-EU Strategic Council
- B. India–EU Defence Industry Forum

- C. European Defence Export Board
- D. Indo-Pacific Security Council

**Answer: B**

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**3. The India–EU Free Trade Agreement was described as the “mother of all deals” by:**

- A. Emmanuel Macron
- B. Antonio Costa
- C. Narendra Modi
- D. Ursula von der Leyen

**Answer: D**

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**4. The 16th India–EU Summit primarily focused on which of the following areas?**

- A. Agriculture and rural development
- B. Trade, defence, climate change, and critical technologies
- C. Space exploration only
- D. Cultural and tourism exchanges

**Answer: B**

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**5. Which Indian industry is expected to gain significantly from the India–EU Free Trade Agreement?**

- A. Steel manufacturing
- B. Automobile exports
- C. Ready-made garment (RMG) sector
- D. Pharmaceutical retail

**Answer: C**

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**6. What is India’s current approximate share in the European Union’s ready-made garment market?**

- A. 2%
- B. 5%
- C. 10%
- D. 15%

**Answer: B**

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**7. Adani Defence and Aerospace signed a strategic partnership with which company to manufacture regional aircraft in India?**

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

**Answer: D**

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**8. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla received the Ashok Chakra for:**

- A. Leading a counter-terror operation
- B. Developing indigenous missile technology
- C. Becoming the first Indian to visit the International Space Station
- D. Commanding a UN peacekeeping mission

**Answer: C**

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**9. Which of the following is India's highest peacetime gallantry award?**

- A. Param Vir Chakra
- B. Kirti Chakra
- C. Shaurya Chakra
- D. Ashok Chakra

**Answer: D**

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**10. India's demand for urgent UNSC reforms is based on the argument that:**

- A. The UNSC lacks financial resources
- B. The Council reflects outdated geopolitical realities
- C. The UN has excessive membership
- D. Peacekeeping missions are ineffective

**Answer: B**

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**11. Duncan Passage separates: -**

- A. Rutland Island and Little Andaman
- B. Andaman and Nicobar
- C. North and South Andaman
- D. South Andaman and little Andaman

**ANSWER: A**

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**12. Speed of K-15 Sagarika Is**

- A. Mach 5.5
- B. Mach 6.5



- C. Mach 7.5
- D. Mach 8.5

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Mundra Port Is In**

- A. M.H.
- B. Kerala
- C. UP
- D. Gujrat

**ANSWER: D**

**14. Air India One Aircraft Using By**

- A. Indian President, Vice President and PM
- B. Indian President, Vice President and NSA
- C. Indian President, Vice President and Defence Minister
- D. None

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Bamako Is the Capital Of**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**16. "A Better India: A Better World" Book Is Written By**

- A. Narayana Murthy
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Motto of THE MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENT**

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Assam Vikram
- C. Yudhaya Krit Nishchaya
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

**ANSWER: D**

**18. SIMBEX Exercise Held B/W India And\_\_\_\_?**

- A. USA
- B. South Korea
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Singapore

**ANSWER: D**

**19. World Parakram Diwas Celebrated Every Year On**

- A. 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- B. 15th July
- C. 16th June
- D. 17th June

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Joint Exercises B/w The India and Bangladesh Is Called:**

- A. Table-Top Ex
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

**ANSWER: A**