

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 03 February 2026

### Tariffs on India Lowered From 50% To 18% As Trump Announces Deal

- US ambassador to India Sergio Gor has revealed that President Donald Trump has spoken with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Taking to X, the newly appointed US envoy did not reveal the nature of this phone call. However, Gor's post comes as India and the US work towards sealing a bilateral trade deal.
- Trump on Monday said he had agreed to a trade deal with India, and that India also agreed to stop buying Russian oil and to buy more from the United States and, potentially, Venezuela.
- "Out of friendship and respect for Prime Minister Modi and, as per his request, effective immediately, we agreed to a Trade Deal between the United States and India, whereby the United States will charge a reduced Reciprocal Tariff, lowering it from 25% to 18%," Trump said in a social media post following a call with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Modi also committed to buying more than \$500 billion worth of US energy, technology, agricultural, and other products, Trump added.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has confirmed and welcomed the trade deal with the United States on Monday.
- "Wonderful to speak with my dear friend President Trump today. Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18%. Big thanks to President Trump on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India for this wonderful announcement," he wrote on X.
- "When two large economies and the world's largest democracies work together, it benefits our people and unlocks immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation," Modi added further.

- “President Trump’s leadership is vital for global peace, stability, and prosperity. India fully supports his efforts for peace. I look forward to working closely with him to take our partnership to unprecedented heights,” the Indian PM added further on his social media post.
- PM Modi had also spoken with President Trump in December last year, and the two leaders had agreed to work closely to address shared challenges and advance common interests.
- During the telephone conversation, the two leaders reviewed the steady progress in India-US bilateral relations and exchanged views on key regional and global developments.



## **'Miniratna' Category-I status to Yantra India**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the grant of 'Miniratna' Category-I status to Yantra India Limited (YIL), a move that underscores the government's continued commitment to the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- It is in line with the broader defence reforms which aim to reduce import dependence, promote domestic defence production, encourage participation of Indian industry and position India as a global defence manufacturing hub.
- It lays a strong focus on building indigenous capabilities in defence manufacturing, research and strategic technologies, the officials added.

- "The Miniratna (Category-I) status empowers the Board of the YIL to incur capital expenditure on new projects, modernisation, purchase of equipment, etc., up to Rs 500 crore without government approval.
- This will further empower the company to achieve an accelerated growth trajectory and new heights in defence production and exports," the defence ministry said in a statement.



## **Digantara Partners With Singapore Defence**

- India's burgeoning space technology sector has notched another significant international milestone, with Bangalore-based start-up Digantara Industries forging a strategic partnership with Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA).
- The pact focuses on co-developing advanced tools for Space Situational Awareness (SSA), aimed at safeguarding Singapore's national satellites from the growing menace of space debris.
- In an era where orbital congestion poses existential threats to satellite operations, this initiative promises to bolster Singapore's defences in the increasingly crowded cosmos.
- Digantara will furnish critical services, including flight dynamics analysis and conjunction screening—alerts triggered when a Singaporean satellite nears a hazardous piece of orbiting debris. These capabilities will empower real-time

collision avoidance, ensuring sustainable space operations without the peril of catastrophic impacts.



## CDS Chauhan's Armenia Visit

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan, has spearheaded a high-level defence delegation to Armenia, arriving in Yerevan on 1 February 2026 for a four-day official visit. This trip seeks to elevate bilateral defence engagement and foster enduring security cooperation between the two nations.
- The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff announced the visit on X, describing it as a pivotal move to advance shared strategic interests. The delegation received a warm welcome from Nilakshi Saha Sinha, India's Ambassador to Armenia, and Temur Shahnazaryan, Deputy Chief of the Armed Forces of Armenia.
- This engagement forms part of a broader pattern of defence interactions. Notably, the Joint Working Group Meeting on Defence Cooperation occurred in Hyderabad, Telangana, on 23 October 2025, where delegations from both countries discussed bolstering ties.
- General Chauhan's visit underscores India's proactive outreach in the South Caucasus amid evolving geopolitics. Armenia, navigating tensions with neighbours like Azerbaijan and Turkey, views India as a reliable partner for defence modernisation and technology transfer.
- This visit reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of multi-aligned diplomacy, positioning India as a security provider in Eurasia. It also counter balances influences from powers like Pakistan or China in the region.



## SAGAR Defence Delivers Maiden Unmanned Surface Vessels To Navy

- Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd, a Mumbai-based firm specialising in advanced maritime systems, has achieved a significant milestone by dispatching the first two Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs) to the Indian Navy.
- These vessels form part of a larger order for 12 units, underscoring the growing momentum in India's push for indigenous defence manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- The dispatch took place from Sagar Defence's state-of-the-art facility in Mumbai, where the vessels underwent rigorous testing to meet stringent naval standards. Each USV is designed for high-speed operations, autonomous navigation, and multi-mission capabilities, including surveillance, reconnaissance, and anti-submarine warfare support.



- The development bolsters India's strategic posture against hybrid threats, including unmanned incursions by neighbours. Recent incidents involving Pakistan's maritime drones have heightened the urgency for such asymmetric capabilities, positioning these USVs as force multipliers.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **T** As per the India–US trade deal announced by President Donald Trump, the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods exported to the USA has been reduced to:

- A. 10%
- B. 15%
- C. 18%
- D. 25%

**ANSWER: C**

2. Under the new India–US trade agreement, India committed to purchasing more than how much worth of goods from the United States?

- A. \$250 billion
- B. \$300 billion
- C. \$400 billion
- D. \$500 billion

**ANSWER: D**

3. Yantra India Limited (YIL) was granted which status, allowing it to independently approve capital expenditure up to ₹500 crore?

- A. Maharatna
- B. Navratna
- C. Miniratna Category-II
- D. Miniratna Category-I

**ANSWER: D**

**4. Digantara Industries has partnered with which country's Defence Science and Technology Agency to develop Space Situational Awareness capabilities?**

- A. Japan
- B. Israel
- C. United States
- D. Singapore

**ANSWER: D**

**5. The first indigenous Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs) delivered to the Indian Navy were manufactured by:**

- A. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- B. Bharat Dynamics Limited
- C. Larsen & Toubro
- D. Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd

**ANSWER: D**

**6. Major Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of The Indian Navy?**

- A. Captain
- B. Inspector
- C. Lt Commander
- D. Vice-admiral

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Training Command of IAF is located at**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bangalore
- C. Gurugram
- D. Lucknow

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Which Nation Is A New Member Of SCO?**

- A. China
- B. Pakistan
- C. India
- D. Iran

**ANSWER: D**

**9. War Cry of ASSAM REGIMENT**

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Rhino Charge
- C. Jai Bajrangbali
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

**ANSWER: B**

**10. \_\_Is India's 3<sup>rd</sup> Highest Military Decoration Award.**

- A. PVC
- B. MVC
- C. Veer Chakra
- D. Kirti Chakra

**ANSWER: C**

**11. Colonel Rank of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of Indian Navy Is**

- A. Commander
- B. Captain
- C. Group Captain
- D. Lieutenant

**ANSWER: B**

**12. War Cry of NAGA REGIMENT**

- A. Bharat Mata ki Jai
- B. Ki ki so so Lhargyalo
- C. Jai Durga Naga
- D. Durga Mata Ki Jai

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Regimental Centre Of The Rajput Regiment Is In**

- A. Fatehgarh, Uttar Pradesh
- B. Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- C. Awantipora, J&K.
- D. Ranikhet, Uttarakhand

**ANSWER: A**

**14. National Cadet Corps Was Established In**

- A. July 16, 1948
- B. July 16, 1958
- C. July 26, 1968



D. July 26, 1988

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Ex 'Ekuverin' conducted b/w India &**

A. Qatar

B. Oman

C. UAE

D. Maldives

**ANSWER: D**

**16. Mitra Shakti Ex Held B/w India &**

A. Sri Lanka

B. USA

C. UK

D. Nepal

**ANSWER: A**

**17. From Which Country Has India Purchased Its Apache Helicopters?**

A. U.K.

B. Sweden

C. France

D. USA

**ANSWER: D**

**18. World's Highest Motorable Road Is In**

A. Sikkim

B. Ladakh (Mig La Pass)

C. Himachal Pradesh

D. Assam

**ANSWER: B**

**19. The National Cadet Corps (NCC) HQ, is at\_\_\_\_**

A. New Delhi

B. Mumbai

C. Lucknow

D. Pune

**ANSWER: A**

**20. What is LCA Mark 1A in relation to the Tejas aircraft?**

- A. It is the basic version
- B. It is the prototype
- C. It is the advanced version
- D. It is a different model

**ANSWER: C**

