

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

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### Operation 'Kiya'

- Two Pakistani terrorists, including a top commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit, were killed on Wednesday after they were trapped inside a cave in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.
- Several powerful blasts were heard when the forces stormed the cave around noon. Officials said one of the deceased terrorist is Rubani alias Abu Mavia, a top commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit, who was active in the area for the last several years.
- While body of one of the terrorists was lying on the mouth of the cave, another was found lying deep inside it.
- The terrorists were located by joint troops of Army, police and CRPF amid intensified search operations in the higher reaches of Ramnagar-Basantgarh area around 4 pm on Tuesday, leading to a fierce gunfight, the officials said.
- Army named the over 20-hour long operation as "Kiya" and said though it is over, the area still remains under surveillance.
- A series of encounters -- three in Kathua district and four in Chatroo forest belt in Kishtwar --also occurred in January, resulting in the killing of top JeM terrorist, Usman of Pakistan, in Kathua and a paratrooper in Kishtwar amid intensified operations to hunt down terrorists hiding in the upper reaches of Jammu region.



## PM Modi Expected To Officiate At First C295 Rollout

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to officiate at the delivery of a military transport aircraft from Tata-Airbus' Vadodara assembly line to the Ministry of Defence in the second half of this year, its President International and executive committee member Wouter Van Wersch told reporters at the Singapore Airshow on Wednesday.
- The military transport aircraft, C295, is the first "Made in India" project from the Vadodara assembly line, a joint venture between Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus.
- Seventy per cent of the components in the making of C295 were sourced from India and 30 per cent imported, including the engine from Connecticut-headquartered Pratt & Whitney.
- The Vadodara facility is expected to deliver to the Indian Air Force 40 out of the 56 aircraft to be built under its contract with the Defence Ministry.
- Sixteen aircraft have been delivered from the Airbus' Spanish facility.
- "That's a big step. All the others will be coming from the India assembly line," Van Wersch said.
- In future, the Vadodara facility is also expected to supply aircraft to the regional markets, he added.



## Three Private Firms In Fray For Fifth-Gen Fighter Jets

- State-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been knocked out of the race to develop India's fifth-generation fighter aircraft under the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme, according to sources. Three consortiums have been shortlisted, with the final player expected to be selected in the next three to four months.
- Reacting to the reports, the HAL said it has not received any official communication.
- The first prototype is expected in the next three to four years.
- "We were surprised by the private sector response. We've done the initial pre-qualification and there are three remaining. Thereafter, you can expect the RFP to be issued to all three companies for submitting cost bids for production of five prototypes of the AMCA aircraft," Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar told.
- While the Defence Secretary did not name the shortlisted firms, sources said multiple public and private entities had participated in the process, including HAL, Tata Advanced Systems, Adani Defence, Larsen & Toubro in partnership with Bharat Electronics Limited, and other consortiums. HAL, however, failed to make the final cut.
- The **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft is India's indigenous fifth-generation** stealth fighter project aimed at meeting the long-term combat needs of the Indian Air Force.
- The AMCA programme is being steered by the Aeronautical Development Agency under the DRDO. The aircraft is envisaged as a twin-engine stealth

fighter with advanced avionics, sensor fusion, internal weapons bays, long-range strike capability and manned-unmanned teaming, and is expected to form the backbone of the IAF from the mid-2030s.



## Lockheed Martin Accelerates India As A Global Aerospace Hub With C-130J Assembly Ambition

- Lockheed Martin is actively expanding its components supplier base and manufacturing footprint in India, driven by Make in India initiatives and rising demand for defence platforms. The shift marks a move from primarily sourcing from India to establishing the country as a central production hub for its global operations.
- This strategic evolution aims to bolster India's industrial and defence capabilities while positioning Lockheed Martin to meet both domestic and international demand more efficiently.
- A key element of the expansion is the consideration of establishing the first C-130J Super Hercules final assembly line outside the United States in India. This potential facility would enable Lockheed Martin to assemble C-130J aircraft locally for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and to support anticipated export requirements.
- If realised, this would represent a significant milestone in the transfer of high-precision aerospace fabrication and assembly from the U.S. to India, reinforcing the country's role in Lockheed Martin's global manufacturing network and potentially catalysing further domestic supplier development.
- Supplier base growth has progressed notably, with Lockheed Martin engaging with more than 500 suppliers across India. Of these, around 140 are Micro,

Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), illustrating a broad and inclusive approach to supplier development.

- This expanded supplier network underpins both joint ventures and direct integration into Lockheed Martin's worldwide supply chain, fostering a more diverse and resilient ecosystem capable of meeting stringent aerospace standards and delivery timelines. The breadth of Indian suppliers supports not only component manufacturing but also the complexity of systems integration required for modern defence platforms.
- Deepened joint ventures in India include Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Limited (TLMAL) in Hyderabad, which acts as the single global source for C-130J empennage assemblies. TLMAL has already delivered over 250 unit empennages, demonstrating the capability and reliability required for sustained production.



## ISRO To Relaunch PSLV In June

- India's space agency, ISRO, is gearing up for its next Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) mission in June, following two consecutive setbacks that have tested the resilience of this reliable workhorse rocket.
- The PSLV, renowned for its success rate exceeding 90 per cent across dozens of missions, encountered failures with its C61 mission in May last year and C62 in January this year, prompting widespread scrutiny.
- Minister Jitendra Singh addressed these issues head-on during a press conference in New Delhi on Monday, firmly dismissing any notions of sabotage as the cause.

- He emphasised that the root problems differed between the two launches, likening them to unrelated electrical faults: "Last time a bulb fused, this time there was a tripping outside."
- Singh clarified that no evidence of foul play has surfaced in the preliminary analyses, underscoring ISRO's commitment to transparency amid speculation over strategic missions.
- Beyond the PSLV mishaps, ISRO faced another hurdle last year when its navigation satellite NVS-02, deployed via a GSLV rocket, failed to attain its intended orbit owing to thruster valve malfunctions.
- In response, ISRO has promptly established separate internal and external failure assessment committees to dissect each incident meticulously.
- These panels are racing against time to deliver findings, enabling engineers to implement rectifications ahead of the ambitious June timeline.
- Singh cautioned that last-minute adjustments remain possible due to unforeseen variables, yet expressed optimism about adhering to the schedule post-certification.
- Despite these stumbles, confidence in ISRO remains unshaken, as evidenced by unwavering commitments from foreign clients and private entities.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**Q1. Operation 'Kiya' was conducted in which district of Jammu and Kashmir?**

- A. Kathua
- B. Kishtwar
- C. Udhampur
- D. Rajouri

**Answer: C**

**Q2. Which terrorist organisation did the neutralised top commander belong to during Operation 'Kiya'?**

- A. Lashkar-e-Taiba
- B. Hizbul Mujahideen
- C. Jaish-e-Mohammad
- D. Al-Badr

**Answer: C**

**Q3. What was the alias of the top JeM commander killed in Operation 'Kiya'?**

- A. Abu Hamza
- B. Abu Mavia
- C. Abu Dujana
- D. Abu Talha

**Answer: B**

**Q4. Which forces jointly carried out Operation 'Kiya'?**

- A. Army and BSF
- B. Army, Police and CRPF
- C. Police and CRPF
- D. Army and NSG

**Answer: B**

**Q5. The Ramnagar–Basantgarh area is located in which region?**

- A. Kashmir Valley
- B. Pir Panjal Range
- C. Jammu region

D. Ladakh

**Answer: C**

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**Q6. The C295 military transport aircraft is being assembled in which Indian city?**

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Nagpur
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Vadodara

**Answer: D**

**Q7. The C295 project is a joint venture between Tata Advanced Systems and which company?**

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

**Answer: D**

**Q8. Approximately what percentage of C295 components are sourced from India?**

- A. 50%
- B. 60%
- C. 70%
- D. 80%

**Answer: C**

**Q9. How many C295 aircraft will be delivered from the Indian assembly line to the IAF?**

- A. 16
- B. 24
- C. 40
- D. 56

**Answer: C**

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**Q10. The AMCA project aims to develop which type of aircraft?**

- A. Trainer aircraft
- B. Light combat aircraft
- C. Fifth-generation stealth fighter
- D. Transport aircraft

**Answer: C**

**Q11. The AMCA programme is being led by which organisation?**

- A. HAL
- B. ISRO
- C. DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency
- D. Bharat Electronics Limited

**Answer: C**

**Q12. Which public sector company was reportedly excluded from the final AMCA shortlist?**

- A. BEL
- B. DRDO
- C. HAL
- D. BDL

**Answer: C**

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**Q13. Lockheed Martin is considering setting up a final assembly line in India for which aircraft?**

- A. F-16
- B. F-35
- C. C-17
- D. C-130J Super Hercules

**Answer: D**

**Q14. Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Limited (TLMAL) is the global source for which C-130J component?**

- A. Wings
- B. Engines
- C. Empennage assemblies

D. Cockpit avionics

**Answer: C**

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**Q15. ISRO is planning to relaunch which launch vehicle in June?**

- A. GSLV Mk III
- B. SSLV
- C. PSLV
- D. LVM3

**Answer: C**



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