

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India Joins Pax Silica

- On the fifth day of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, India formally joined the Pax Silica coalition, marking a significant milestone in the strengthening of strategic technology and supply chain cooperation between India and the United States.
- The signing ceremony brought together senior government leaders from both nations, underscoring a shared commitment to securing the full technology stack that will power the AI-driven global economy.
- Pax Silica is envisioned as a strategic coalition of trusted nations committed to securing the “silicon stack”, from critical minerals and semiconductor fabrication to advanced AI systems and deployment infrastructure.
- The initiative seeks to reduce overconcentration in global supply chains, prevent economic coercion, and ensure that emerging technologies are developed and governed by open, democratic societies.
- The Pax Silica initiative was launched in December last year at a summit in Washington, with partner nations including Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.
- Pax Silica is a US-led strategic alliance launched to secure the global supply chain for artificial intelligence and semiconductors, marking a shift from the 20th-century reliance on oil and steel to an economy powered by silicon and critical minerals.
- The term “Pax” comes from the Latin word for peace, signalling a vision of global stability through secure and trusted technology. “Silica” refers to the mineral that forms the fundamental building block of computer chips and AI systems.

- India is seen as a crucial node in Pax Silica due to its vast talent pool and largely untapped mineral resources. Participation could help India reduce its heavy dependence on China, which currently accounts for about 93 per cent of its rare earth imports.



Indian Army Chief's Canberra Visit

- India and Australia have held high-level discussions to expand bilateral defence engagement during a visit by Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi to Canberra. General Dwivedi called on Vice Admiral Justin Jones, Chief of Joint Operations in the Australian Defence Force, at the Joint Operations Command.
- The Indian Army highlighted that both army chiefs are alumni of the United States Army War College, Class of 2015, fostering a shared professional bond.
- This camaraderie continues to bolster strategic understanding between the two armies. A ceremonial welcome awaited General Dwivedi at the Russell Offices, complete with a Guard of Honour.



India To Secure French HELMA-P Laser

- India has entered into a pivotal agreement with French firm CILAS for the HELMA-P directed-energy laser system, aimed at countering the escalating threat of hostile drones. Signed on 2 November 2025, this memorandum of understanding, supported by MBDA and Safran Electronics & Defence, marks a significant step in bolstering India's air defence capabilities.
- The HELMA-P system employs a laser beam of several kilowatts to thermally disable drones by targeting critical components such as sensors, batteries, and electronics. Unlike conventional munitions, it requires no physical ammunition—merely electrical power and cooling—making each engagement cost as little as a few euros.
- France has rigorously tested HELMA-P in operational scenarios, including trials at the DGA Biscarrosse range and deployment on the frigate Forbin amid challenging maritime conditions.
- This deal elevates the France-India defence partnership, building on landmark procurements like 36 Rafale fighters (€8.7 billion), six Scorpène submarines (€3.5 billion), and MICA/SCALP missiles (€1 billion).

Key Technical Features of HELMA-P

Parameter	Capabilities
Type	Directed-energy laser, electrically powered
Power	Several kilowatts
Primary effect	Thermal destruction of optics, batteries, electronics
Platforms	Ground units, vehicles, naval ships
Cost per shot	A few Euros, depending on power consumption
Sensors	Compatible with radar, optical and acoustic detectors
C2 integration	Connects to existing command chains
French deployment	Trials at DGA Biscarrosse, frigate Forbin, Paris 2024 security
Industrial partners	CILAS, MBDA, Safran



US and Iran Slide Towards Conflict

- Iran and the United States are sliding rapidly towards military conflict as hopes fade for a diplomatic solution to their standoff over Tehran's nuclear programme, officials on both sides and diplomats across the Gulf and Europe say.
- Iran's Gulf neighbours and its enemy Israel now consider a conflict to be more likely than a settlement, these sources say, with Washington building up one of its biggest military deployments in the region since the invasion of Iraq in 2003.
- Israel's government believes Tehran and Washington are at an impasse and is making preparations for possible joint military action with the United States, though no decision has been made yet on whether to carry out such an operation, said a source familiar with the planning.

- It would be the second time the U.S. and Israel have attacked Iran in less than a year, following U.S. and Israeli airstrikes against military and nuclear facilities last June.
- Regional officials say oil-producing Gulf countries are preparing for a possible military confrontation that they fear could spin out of control and destabilise the Middle East.



IAI Developing Arrow-4 Air Defence System

- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) President and CEO Boaz Levy has announced that the forthcoming Arrow-4 anti-ballistic missile defence system will significantly enhance Israel's interception success rates against advanced threats.
- The Arrow-4, currently under development, is poised to replace the ageing Arrow-2 system, which entered service in 1998 and forms part of Israel's multi-layered air defence architecture. Levy highlighted that the Arrow-3 and Arrow-4 systems, when integrated, will provide superior interception capabilities. 'With Arrow-4, we will increase Israel's interception success rates,' he affirmed.
- IAI initiated work on Arrow-4 back in 2021, with deployment expected in the coming decades as it phases out Arrow-2. The Israeli Air Force currently relies on both Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 interceptors. Arrow-3 achieved operational status in 2017 and is designed for Exo-atmospheric intercepts at high altitudes.
- Arrow-2 primarily targets threats in the upper atmosphere, while Arrow-3 extends coverage to space-based intercepts, offering flexibility against hypersonic and manoeuvring warheads. Arrow-4 builds on these foundations, promising improved sensors, propulsion, and guidance to counter more sophisticated ballistic missiles, including those with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs).



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Pax Silica is primarily focused on securing global supply chains related to:

- A. Oil and Gas
- B. Steel Production
- C. Artificial Intelligence and Semiconductors
- D. Agricultural Products

ANSWER: C

2. Pax Silica was officially launched in December 2025 at a summit held in:

- A. London
- B. Tokyo
- C. Washington, D.C.
- D. Canberra

ANSWER: C

3. India signed an agreement with which French company for the HELMA-P directed-energy laser system?

- A. Dassault Aviation
- B. Thales Group
- C. CILAS
- D. Naval Group

ANSWER: C

4. The Arrow-4 missile defence system is being developed by:

- A. Rafael Advanced Defense Systems

- B. Israel Aerospace Industries
- C. Elbit Systems
- D. Lockheed Martin

ANSWER: B

5. General Upendra Dwivedi, during his visit to Australia, met which official at the Joint Operations Command?

- A. Admiral David Johnston
- B. Vice Admiral Justin Jones
- C. General Angus Campbell
- D. Air Marshal Robert Chipman

ANSWER: B

6. European ASRAAM Stands For

- A. Advanced Short Range Air Missile
- B. Advanced Short Ring Air-to-Air Missile
- C. Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile
- D. None

ANSWER: C

7. Marine Engineering Training Establishment of the Indian Navy located at

- A. Noida
- B. Kochi
- C. Pune
- D. Wayanad

ANSWER: C

8. Where Is The Hq Of The Southern Western Command of The Indian Army?

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

ANSWER: A

9. Sea Dragon Exercise Hosted By

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

10. India Purchased C 130 J from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

11. College of Military Engineering (CME) Is Located At

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

ANSWER: A

12. Which Country Ranked Third Highest In The World Defence Expenditure?

- A. Australia
- B. USA
- C. France
- D. Bharat

ANSWER: D

13. Regimental Center Of PUNJAB REGIMENT Is In

- A. Balasore, Odisha
- B. Chennai, T.N.
- C. Trombay, M.H.
- D. Ramgarh Cantonment, Jharkhand

ANSWER: D

14. India Purchased IAI Searcher UAV from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Israel

ANSWER: D

15. KHARTOUM Is The Capital Of

- A. Spain
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Suriname
- D. Sudan

ANSWER: D

16. "A Promised Land" Book Is Written By

- A. Barack Obama
- B. Meena Iyer
- C. Amish Tripathi
- D. PS Sreedharan Pillai

ANSWER: A

17. HELINA Missile Has A Maximum Range Of

- A. 7 kilometres
- B. 8 kilometres
- C. 9 kilometres
- D. 10 kilometres

ANSWER: A

18. "We Protect" Is The Motto Of

- A. ICG
- B. IAF
- C. Indian Army
- D. BSF

ANSWER: A

19. Joint Exercises B/w The India And France Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. GARUDA

ANSWER: D

20. India Purchased MiG-21 from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Russia

ANSWER: D

