

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Pakistan's Cross-border Airstrikes on Afghanistan

- Islamabad, More than 80 people were killed in Pakistan's airstrikes at the seven locations in Afghanistan's Nangarhar, Paktika and Khost provinces, Geo News reported, citing Islamabad's security sources.
- Pakistan has conducted multiple strikes in the region in response to recent suicide attacks for which they have blamed Afghanistan.
- The targeted locations reportedly included "New Centre No. 1 and New Centre No. 2 in Nangarhar, Khwariji Maulvi Abbas Centre in Khost, Khwariji Islam Centre and Khwariji Ibrahim Centre in Nangarhar, and Khwariji Mullah Rahbar and Khwariji Mukhlis Yar in Paktika."
- The government stated that the strikes targeted camps belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij, a term used by Pakistani authorities for the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, its affiliates and Islamic State - Khorasan Province (Daesh-Khorasan).
- Meanwhile, Kabul has previously rejected Islamabad's allegations that militant groups operate from Afghan territory, maintaining that Pakistan's security challenges are an internal matter.



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

In response to media queries about Pakistan's airstrikes on Afghanistan, the Official Spokesperson, Shri Randhir Jaiswal said:

"India strongly condemns Pakistan's airstrikes on Afghan territory that have resulted in civilian casualties, including women and children, during the holy month of Ramadan.

It is another attempt by Pakistan to externalise its internal failures.

India reiterates its support for Afghanistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence."

22 February 2026

'Global power' India To Be Part of 'hexagon'

- Describing India as a "global power" and its Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "personal" friend, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday talked about his vision of a "hexagon" of alliances in and around the region that will include India.

- "This week, expression will be given to the special relationship that has been forged over recent years between Israel and the global power that is India, and between myself and its leader, Prime Minister Modi", Netanyahu said at the beginning of the weekly cabinet meeting.
- "We waded together in the waters of the Mediterranean, and much water has flowed since then in the Mediterranean, the Ganges, and the Jordan, though less in the Jordan", he added in reference to pictures of the two leaders walking barefoot in the sea in 2017 that went viral with talk of "bromance".
- "This includes India, Arab nations, African nations, Mediterranean nations (Greece and Cyprus), and nations in Asia that I won't detail at the moment. I will present this in an organised manner", he stressed.
- The description broadly matches the vision of IMEC, India- Middle East- Europe Economic Corridor, which aims to bolster economic development by fostering connectivity.



Exercise Vayushakti-26

- IAF will carry out Exercise Vayushakti-26 at the Pokhran Air-to-Ground Range in Jaisalmer on February 27, 2026, to demonstrate its operational capabilities.
- The drill aims to showcase air power, including long-range precision strikes, multi-domain operations, and indigenous platforms, highlighting the success of Operation Sindoor as part of the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

- The IAF said the exercise will underline its role as the first responder in conflict scenarios and its ability to rapidly dominate operational environments, influencing outcomes through decisive air operations.
- Guided by the core values “Achook, Abhedya aur Sateek,” the exercise aims to reassure the nation by reaffirming the IAF’s position as a key pillar of India’s national security architecture.



'Vajra Prahar' In Himachal

- India and the United States are set to conduct the 16th edition of their joint Special Forces exercise, Vajra Prahar, at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. Scheduled from 23 February to 15 March 2026, the drill underscores deepening defence ties between the two nations.
- The exercise aims to bolster interoperability and joint operational readiness. It will facilitate the exchange of advanced special operations tactics, techniques, and procedures, as stated by the Indian Army.
- The previous edition, the 15th Vajra Prahar, occurred in Idaho, United States, in 2024. It involved 45 personnel from each nation, with India's Special Forces facing off against the elite Green Berets of the US Army.
- Vajra Prahar and Vayushakti-26 together signal robust military modernisation. They reflect India's strategic partnerships amid regional security challenges in South Asia.



US Army Unveils Next-Gen M1E3 Abrams Tank

- The first early prototype of the US Army's next-generation main battle tank, the M1E3 Abrams, was unveiled on January 14–15, 2026, at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, marking a step in the army's armoured modernisation programme. The redesigned platform is intended to address emerging battlefield threats such as drones and precision-guided munitions, while improving mobility and sustainability.
- The prototype introduces an autoloader system that reduces the crew requirement from four to three by replacing the traditional loader role, lowering manpower and weight demands.
- The public display of the M1E3 Abrams prototype signals the US Army's push to modernise its armoured fleet in response to evolving battlefield requirements. The platform is designed to enhance survivability, adaptability and operational efficiency against contemporary threats.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Pakistan's recent airstrikes were conducted in which Afghan provinces?

- A. Kandahar, Helmand, Kabul
- B. Nangarhar, Paktika, Khost
- C. Herat, Balkh, Kunduz
- D. Ghazni, Logar, Badakhshan

ANSWER: B

2. The term "Fitna al-Khawarij" is used by Pakistani authorities to refer to which group?

- A. Al-Qaeda
- B. Taliban Government of Afghanistan
- C. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliates
- D. Lashkar-e-Taiba

ANSWER: C

3. The proposed 'hexagon' alliance mentioned by Israel broadly aligns with which connectivity initiative?

- A. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- B. International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)
- C. India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)
- D. QUAD

ANSWER: C

4. Exercise Vayushakti-26 is conducted by which of the following?

- A. Indian Army
- B. Indian Navy
- C. Indian Coast Guard
- D. Indian Air Force

ANSWER: D

5. What major technological upgrade is featured in the M1E3 Abrams tank prototype?

- A. Nuclear propulsion system
- B. Autoloader system reducing crew size
- C. Amphibious assault capability
- D. Laser-based weapon system

ANSWER: B

6. Taragiri, a Project 17A Frigate Made By

- A. MDL
- B. CSL
- C. GRSE
- D. DRDO

ANSWER: A

7. Naib Subedar Jeremy Lalrinnunga is related with

- A. Table Tennis
- B. Cricket
- C. Boxing
- D. Weightlifting

ANSWER: D

8. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port is located At

- A. Paradip
- B. Cochin
- C. Kolkata
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: D

9. 'Iron Beam' new laser-based air defence system Made By

- A. USA
- B. UK

- C. Israel
- D. Russia

ANSWER: C

10. First Submarine Developed Under P-75 Is

- A. INS Kalvari
- B. INS Khanderi
- C. INS Karanj
- D. INS Vela

ANSWER: A

11. Who Wrote The Book New Dimensions Of India's Foreign Policy?

- A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- B. Abdul Kalam Azad
- C. Amit Chaudhuri
- D. Raghuram Rajan

ANSWER: A

12. Mechanical Training Institute (MTI) Of IAF Is In

- A. Yelahanka, Bengaluru
- B. Jalahalli, Bengaluru
- C. Tambaram Chennai
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

13. Central Statistical Organization Hq Is In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

14. Ex SHAKTI, Ex VARUNA, GARUDA India conducted with

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

ANSWER: C

15. Yaounde Is The Capital Of

- A. Cameroon
- B. Canada
- C. UAE
- D. Burundi

ANSWER: A

16. "The Oath of the Vayuputras" Book Is Written By

- A. Amish Tripathi
- B. Issac Newton
- C. Mahashweta Devi
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

17. SITMEX Ex Is Done Among

- A. India, Singapore, and Thailand
- B. India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- C. Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

18. Commander Rank Of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Rank Of IAF Is

- A. Wing Commander
- B. Squadron Leader
- C. Group Captain
- D. Flying Officer

ANSWER: A

19. INS Visakhapatnam (D66) Manufactured By

- A. GRSE
- B. MDL
- C. CSL
- D. Boeing

ANSWER: B

20. War Cry of the BIHAR REGIMENT

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Rhino Charge

- C. Jai Bajrangbali
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: C