

Daily Defence Current Affairs

03 March 2025

India Plans to Procure Five Additional S-400 Squadrons

- India is set to enhance its air defence capabilities with plans to procure five additional squadrons of the Russian-origin S-400 Sudarshan air defence missile system. The Defence Ministry is expected to review the Indian Air Force's proposal for this clearance shortly.
- Defence officials have indicated that these additional squadrons aim to further bolster India's air defence network, specifically along both the eastern and western fronts. This move is part of India's strategy to strengthen its multi-layered protection against various aerial threats.
- In 2018, India signed a contract with Russia for five S-400 squadrons. Currently, three of these squadrons have been inducted and made operational, while deliveries of the remaining two are still pending. The new proposal seeks not only to expedite these deliveries but also to expand the overall inventory of the advanced missile system.
- The S-400 has been recognized by the Indian Air Force as a significant force multiplier, noted for its long-range detection and engagement abilities against aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles. Ongoing discussions with Russian representatives are expected to cover the procurement of additional missiles in substantial quantities, aimed at enhancing operational capabilities.
- In parallel, India remains committed to developing indigenous air defence solutions. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is actively working on a long-range air defence system as part of Project Kusha, targeted at increasing self-reliance in sophisticated missile defence technologies.



INSV Kaundinya flagged into Mumbai

- The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Kaundinya was ceremonially flagged into Mumbai Harbour on March 1 by Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, marking the successful completion of its maiden overseas voyage to the Sultanate of Oman, the Indian Navy said.
- The vessel arrived at the Mumbai Naval Dockyard after completing its successful voyage to Muscat and back, retracing ancient maritime routes and reinforcing India's maritime heritage and cultural ties with Oman.
- The flag-in ceremony marked the culmination of the vessel's maiden international expedition, during which it sailed across the Arabian Sea and showcased India's rich maritime traditions and seafaring legacy.
- According to an official release from the Ministry of Defence, INSV Kaundinya is a traditionally constructed stitched ship built using ancient Indian shipbuilding techniques, where wooden planks are hand-stitched using coir rope and sealed with natural resins. The vessel represents a revival of India's centuries-old maritime craftsmanship and reflects the country's efforts to preserve its traditional knowledge systems.
- Conceptualised from a 5th-century depiction in the Ajanta Caves and built under the supervision of the Indian Navy in collaboration with traditional artisans, the vessel embodies a unique blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern naval validation.



OpenAI Fixes Sloppy US Military Deal After Chatgpt Uninstalls Surge By Almost 300 percent

- OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has accepted that the AI startup should've taken more time before reaching an agreement with the US Department of Defense for a deal on AI usage. OpenAI had initially announced a deal with the Pentagon just a few hours after Anthropic lost its contract, which led to massive backlash online.
- On X, Altman revealed that OpenAI has updated its contract with the Pentagon to ensure that its "principles" are clear.
- **Why did OpenAI sign a deal with Pentagon?**
- Sam Altman stated that the real intention for rushing a deal with the Pentagon was to ensure that things don't escalate further between the US Defense Department and the AI industry. Anthropic's contract with the Pentagon was terminated after the AI company refused to remove its safeguards for unrestricted AI use.
- Though, he accepted that the entire situation did end up making it "opportunistic and sloppy." Altman insisted that he will take this into account in the future. He said, "Good learning experience for me as we face higher-stakes decisions in the future." Previously, Altman had accepted that the optics of OpenAI's agreement with the Pentagon did not look good.
- The OpenAI boss stated that Anthropic should not be labelled a "supply chain risk" by the US government. He added, "We hope the DoW offers them the same terms we've agreed to."
- **ChatGPT uninstalls surge as people switch to Claude**

- Following OpenAI's deal with the Pentagon, users in the US began uninstalling ChatGPT. As per Sensor Tower, uninstalls for ChatGPT increased by 295 per cent day-to-day on February 28. On the other hand, Anthropic's Claude chatbot saw an increase in downloads by up to 51 per cent. Claude even hit the number 1 spot on the Apple App Store in the US.
- Pop star Katy Perry also shared a screenshot of Claude with a heart on X, signalling her support for Anthropic's refusal to accept the Pentagon's demands.
- **What has OpenAI changed?**
- Sam Altman shared an internal memo, stating that OpenAI's systems cannot be used for mass domestic surveillance on US nationals based on laws including the "Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution, National Security Act of 1947, FISA Act of 1978."
- The OpenAI chief added, "The Department understands this limitation to prohibit deliberate tracking, surveillance, or monitoring of U.S. persons or nationals." Altman emphasised the importance of protecting civil liberties and noted the focus on commercially acquired information.
- Another addition to the agreement is that no intelligence agency, such as the National Security Agency (NSA), of the US Department of Defense will use OpenAI's systems. He added, "Any services to those agencies would require a follow-on modification to our contract."



India Preparing For 'another war': Pakistan President

- Months after a military conflict between India and Pakistan following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari has claimed that New Delhi is "preparing for another war."
- Speaking during a joint sitting of the parliament, the Pakistani leader claimed that India was preparing for another war with Islamabad. After making this claim, Zardari urged for peaceful negotiations and talks with New Delhi.
- "My message to them (India) is to move away from the war theatre to meaningful negotiation tables, because that is the only path for regional security," he reportedly said, addressing a joint sitting of Parliament amid a ruckus by members of the opposition.
- India and Pakistan were engaged in a four day military standoff in May 2025 after India launched a military strike under 'Operation Sindoor' targeting terror sites and camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The Pakistani military responded with drone strikes, due to which India imposed a blackout along with the Line of Control and International Border.
- India launched Operation Sindoor after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025. The Indian government has accused Pakistan-based LeT offshoot group - The Resistant Front - for the attack which killed 26 tourists.



PM Modi And PM Mark Carney Launch Defence Dialogue

- India and Canada have taken a significant step forward in their bilateral relations with the announcement of a new Defence Dialogue during a high-level meeting in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the declaration on Monday, 2 March 2026, in the presence of visiting Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

This development underscores a maturing partnership amid shared strategic interests.

- The announcements followed productive talks between the two leaders at Hyderabad House. Several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were exchanged to broaden cooperation across key sectors.
- These included agreements on critical mineral cooperation, renewable energy promotion, and cultural ties, signed by Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand and India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
- PM Modi highlighted the deepening trust in defence and security as a hallmark of the relationship. He stated that both nations would enhance defence industries, maritime domain awareness, and military exchanges. The establishment of the India-Canada Defence Dialogue marks a formal mechanism to advance these goals.
- People-to-people connections remain the bedrock of India-Canada ties, according to PM Modi. To bolster these, decisions were made on educational collaborations, particularly in artificial intelligence, healthcare, agriculture, and innovation. Canadian universities have agreed to open a campus in India, fostering greater academic exchange.
- Cultural inclusivity received attention, with an MoU aimed at strengthening bonds between indigenous and tribal communities. PM Modi also welcomed the Indian Ocean Rim Association's interest in making Canada a Dialogue Partner, adding depth to maritime partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.
- Global security challenges, including terrorism, extremism, and radicalisation, were flagged as common threats. PM Modi emphasised the need for close collaboration to promote peace and stability. He reiterated India's steadfast call for dialogue and diplomacy amid worldwide tensions.
- The situation in West Asia drew particular concern, with PM Modi advocating resolution through peaceful means. India remains committed to safeguarding its citizens in the region and will work with international partners, including Canada, to ensure their security.
- A long-term uranium supply agreement was unveiled, alongside a target to elevate bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2030. These economic pledges signal robust momentum in commerce and resource sharing.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India is planning to procure five additional squadrons of which air defence system?

- A. Barak-8
- B. Akash
- C. S-400 Triumph
- D. Patriot

ANSWER: C

2. The indigenous long-range air defence system under development by DRDO is known as:

- A. Project Astra
- B. Project Kusha
- C. Project Agni Shield
- D. Project Suraksha

ANSWER: B

3. INSV Kaundinya recently completed its maiden overseas voyage to which country?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Indonesia
- C. Oman
- D. UAE

ANSWER: C

4. Who is the CEO of OpenAI that acknowledged concerns regarding the Pentagon deal?

- A. Elon Musk
- B. Sundar Pichai
- C. Satya Nadella
- D. Sam Altman

ANSWER: D

5. Operation Sindoor was launched by India in response to which incident?

- A. Pulwama attack
- B. Uri attack
- C. Pahalgam terror attack
- D. Pathankot attack

ANSWER: C

6. Dornier Do-228 Aircraft Manufactured By

- A. DRDO
- B. HAL
- C. Boeing
- D. None

ANSWER: B

7. Which Organisation has successfully carried out a flight trial of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator?

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

ANSWER: A

8. 'SAMAR' Stands For

- A. Surface-to-Surface Missile For Assured Retaliation
- B. Surface-to-Sea Missile For Assured Retaliation
- C. Surface-to-air Missile For Assist Retaliation
- D. Surface-to-air Missile For Assured Retaliation

ANSWER: D

9. Which Two Forces Signed MoU For National Maritime Heritage Complex?

- A. Indian Coast Guard & Indian Navy
- B. Indian Coast Guard & Indian Army
- C. BSF & Indian Navy
- D. None

ANSWER: A

10. Which Of The Following Is The Newly Member In The SCO?

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

ANSWER: B

11. ___ Edition of the Ex Shakti 2025 Hosted By France.

- A. 6th
- B. 7th
- C. 8th
- D. 9th

ANSWER: C

12. National Security Advisor Of India Is

- A. Vikram Misri
- B. Ajit Doval
- C. Rakesh Singh
- D. None

ANSWER: B

13. First Medium Range Surface to Air Missile Regiment Being Raised In

- A. Western Theatre
- B. Southern Theatre
- C. Northern Theatre
- D. Eastern Theatre

ANSWER: D

14. Which countries are part of the AUKUS program?

- A. India, United States, and Australia
- B. United Kingdom, Australia, and United States

- C. United Kingdom, China, and Australia
- D. India, China, and Australia

ANSWER: B

15. Brigadier Rank of Indian Army Is Equivalent to which rank of Indian Navy?

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

ANSWER: A

16. "Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Flux" Book Is Written By

- A. Kavitha Rao
- B. Bimal Jalan
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Khemlata Wakhlu

ANSWER: D

17. AFV Stands For

- A. Armoured Fighting Vehicle
- B. Armoured Furious Vehicle
- C. Army Fighting Vehicle
- D. None

ANSWER: A

18. Where Is The Hq Of The Southern Command of The Indian Navy?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

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

- A. Nomadic Elephant
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A

20. India Purchased Rafale Jet from

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

ANSWER: C

