

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Orders For 300 Indigenous Dhanush Howitzers

- Seeking to boost its preparedness, the Indian Army is going to place orders for buying 300 Dhanush Howitzers, which would be used to raise 15 regiments of the indigenous artillery guns in the force.
- This will be the second major order for the Dhanush artillery guns, which are manufactured by public sector companies based on the transfer of technology of the Bofors guns acquired in the 1980s.
- The Indian Army is going to soon place an order for 300 Dhanush Howitzers, and a high-level Defence Ministry meeting is likely to clear it soon.
- The 155 mm 45-calibre guns have already been inducted into the army, as 114 guns were ordered a few years ago. Around four regiments of the Dhanush guns have already been inducted into the force, and two more are expected to be inducted soon.
- The howitzer gun will fire 155mm ammunition and can be fitted with a bi-modular charge system (BMCS), thereby increasing its range. The artillery gun had completed its tests at Pokhran back in June 2018.



Defence Ministry Signs Deals Worth ₹5,083 Crore

- The Ministry of Defence on Tuesday signed contracts worth ₹5,083 crore for the acquisition of six Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk-III (Maritime Role) for the Indian Coast Guard, and Surface-to-Air Vertical Launch – Shtil missiles for the Indian Navy.
- The contract for the six ALH Mk-III (MR) choppers, along with operational role equipment, an engineering support package, and performance-based logistics support, valued at ₹2,901 crore, has been signed with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bengaluru.
- The purchase comes under the category of indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured products, the MoD said.
- The contract for the procurement of Surface-to-Air Vertical Launch – Shtil missiles and associated missile holding frames, valued at **₹2,182 crore**, has been signed with **JSC Rosoboronexport**, a state-run company of the Russian Federation.
- The system will bolster the layered air defence architecture onboard Indian Navy platforms by providing rapid-reaction, all-weather engagement capability and improved survivability in contested maritime environments.
- The contract underscores the longstanding defence partnership between India and Russia, built on mutual trust and strategic alignment.



India Taps Space Startups For Launching ‘Bodyguard’ Satellites

- India’s security agencies have asked private startups to develop so-called bodyguard satellites as the country accelerates efforts to protect space assets at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions, according to people familiar with the matter.
- Under discussions between government agencies and private firms, several startups are working on these satellites, with the first test launch expected in the first half of 2026. Additional launches could follow by the end of this year or early next year, after which government agencies may adopt the technologies.
- The move comes amid growing concerns over space security, driven by recent geopolitical tensions and a near-miss incident in 2024 where a foreign spacecraft came dangerously close to an Indian satellite.
- During last year’s conflict with Pakistan, China provided satellite support to its ally, highlighting the need for stronger space defence capabilities.
- Startups are exploring two main types of bodyguard satellites: one equipped with a robotic arm capable of capturing or displacing threatening spacecraft, and another designed to encircle and shepherd away smaller aggressive satellites.
- This initiative is part of a larger strategy to strengthen India’s space surveillance and defence infrastructure. The government has fast-tracked its Space-Based Surveillance programme, planning to launch more than 50 spy satellites and eventually build a constellation of up to **150 satellites** for continuous monitoring of the nation’s borders from space.



2 Air Force Pilots Killed in Sukhoi Su-30 crash in Assam

- Two Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots - Squadron Leader Anuj and Flight Lieutenant Purvesh Duragkar - were killed after a Su-30MKI fighter jet crashed in Assam's Karbi Anglong district during a training mission.
- Confirming the deaths, the IAF said both officers sustained fatal injuries in the crash.
- "The IAF acknowledges the loss of Sqn Ldr Anuj and Flt Lt Purvesh Duragkar, who sustained fatal injuries in the Su-30 crash. All personnel of the IAF express sincere condolences and stand firmly with the bereaved family in this time of grief," the Indian Air Force said in a statement.
- The Sukhoi-30MKI aircraft had taken off from the Jorhat airbase on Thursday evening before losing contact with ground control. Defence officials earlier said communication with the Russian-origin fighter jet was lost at around 7.42 pm.
- The aircraft subsequently crashed in Karbi Anglong district, about 60 kilometres from Jorhat. Earlier reports had said the jet went missing shortly after take-off, prompting search and rescue operations to locate the aircraft and its two pilots.
- Local residents reportedly heard a loud explosion-like sound near a remote hill area close to the Nilip block in Karbi Anglong around 7 pm. Some unverified images of the alleged crash site were also circulated on social media.
- The Su-30MKI is a two-seater multirole long-range fighter jet developed by Russian aircraft manufacturer Sukhoi and built under licence by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the IAF.

- The Indian Air Force operates a fleet of more than 260 Su-30MKI jets. Previous accidents involving the aircraft include a crash in Nashik district of Maharashtra in June 2024 and another in January 2023 after taking off from the Gwalior airbase.



Want to Finish Iran First: Trump

- US President Donald Trump said his administration intends to finish the war in Iran before turning its attention to Cuba, suggesting a shift in US foreign policy priorities once the conflict in the Middle East eases.
- Speaking at the White House during an event celebrating the Major League Soccer champions Inter Miami CF, Trump said resolving the conflict with Iran remains the immediate focus.
- “We want to finish this one first,” Trump said, referring to the war with Iran. “But that will be just a question of time before you and a lot of unbelievable people are going to be going back to Cuba.”
- The president suggested Havana is eager to negotiate with Washington. “Cuba wants to make a deal so badly,” he said, adding that many Cuban Americans would eventually return to the island. “We want you back, and we don’t want to lose you.”
- Trump's latest comments continue a steady escalation of US-Cuba tensions in recent months. Relations between the US and Cuba, a communist state, have historically been cold with diplomatic tensions increasing during Trump's second term in office.
- Trump used the event to offer an upbeat assessment of the ongoing conflict with Iran, claiming US and Israeli forces were making rapid progress.

- “The United States military, together with the wonderful Israeli partners, continues to totally demolish the enemy, far ahead of schedule,” Trump said.
- He also claimed Iran’s military capabilities had been heavily degraded.
- “They have no air force, they have no air defense,” Trump said, adding that Iran’s navy had been destroyed and that the US had wiped out “24 ships in three days.”
- The President provided few details about the operations, and the claims could not immediately be independently verified.
- The United States on Thursday issued a temporary waiver allowing Russian oil cargoes currently stranded at sea to be sold to India, in a move aimed at easing pressure on global oil markets amid heightened geopolitical tensions and supply disruptions triggered by the ongoing US-Iran war.
- The waiver applies specifically to Russian oil shipments that had already been loaded onto tankers before the latest round of US restrictions took effect but were left without buyers as sanctions tightened. According to officials, the measure allows these cargoes to be offloaded and sold to India within a limited window, preventing supply disruptions that could further strain global energy markets.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Assertion (A):** Iran's geographic location at the crossroads of the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia makes it strategically important.

Reason (R): Iran controls access to the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy transit route where a significant share of the world's oil is transported.

- A. Both A and R are true and R explains A.
- B. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.
- C. A is true but R is false.
- D. A is false but R is true.

ANSWER: A

2. **Assertion (A):** Iran's location gives it a natural advantage for regional connectivity through rail and road corridors.

Reason (R): Iran is part of the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC), linking India, Iran, Russia, and Europe to reduce transit time and cost.

- A. Both A and R are true and R explains A.
- B. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.
- C. A is true but R is false.
- D. A is false but R is true.

ANSWER: A

3. **Assertion (A):** Iran cannot influence global oil markets because it has limited maritime routes.

Reason (R): The Strait of Hormuz is a crucial chokepoint for oil export, with around one-fifth of seaborne petroleum passing through it daily.

- A. Both A and R are true and R explains A.
- B. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.
- C. A is true but R is false.
- D. A is false but R is true.

ANSWER: D

4. **Which of the following statements correctly describes the geographical relationship between the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz?**

- A. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Arabian Sea to the Gulf of Oman.
- B. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.
- C. The Gulf of Oman connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.

D. The Strait of Hormuz lies between the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.

ANSWER: B

5. The MoD signed a contract worth ₹2,901 crore with which organization for the acquisition of 6 ALH Mk-III for the ICG?

- A. Bharat Electronics Limited
- B. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- C. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- D. Defence Research and Development Organisation

ANSWER: C

6. The procurement of six ALH Mk-III helicopters for the ICG falls under which acquisition category?

- A. Buy (Global)
- B. Buy and Make (Foreign)
- C. Buy (Global – Manufactured in India)
- D. Buy (Indian – Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)

ANSWER: D

7. Prevention of Money-Laundering Act Came In

- A. 2000
- B. 2001
- C. 2002
- D. 2004

ANSWER: C

8. 'Desh Pukare Jab Sab Ko' Is The March Past Song Of

- A. IAF
- B. ICG
- C. BSF
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

9. Hitler was the dictator of which country?

- A. Russia
- B. Egypt
- C. France
- D. Germany

ANSWER: D

10. What was the name given to World war I by historians?

- A. First War
- B. European war
- C. The Great war
- D. Seven-year War

ANSWER: C

11. Cairo Is The Capital Of

- A. Egypt
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

12. Indian Army Has How Many Operational Commands?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6

ANSWER: D

13. SALVEX (Salvage) Ex Conducted B/W India And

- A. USA
- B. UK
- C. Uganda
- D. European Union

ANSWER: A

14. Mil Mi-35 Is A

- A. Attack Helicopter
- B. Fighter Jet
- C. Tank
- D. UAV

ANSWER: A

15. The Training Command of The IAF Is In

- A. Bengaluru

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

ANSWER: A

16. "Good Economics for Hard Times" Book Is Written By

- A. Abhijit V. Banerjee
- B. Thomas Sowell
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

17. Germany Borders With The

- A. Netherlands
- B. Belgium
- C. Czech Republic
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

18. "Jat balwan, jai bhagwan" Is The War Cry Of

- A. JKRIF
- B. RR
- C. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- D. JAT REGIMENT

ANSWER: D

19. Sub Lieutenant Rank of Indian Navy Is Equivalent to which rank of Indian Army?

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

ANSWER: D

19. On which dates did the US drop atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively?

- A. Aug 6, 1945 & Aug 9, 1945
- B. Aug 6, 1945 & Sept 12, 1945
- C. Aug 5, 1946 & Aug 8, 1946

D. Aug 9, 1946 & Aug 12, 1946

ANSWER: A

20. Who Is The Current NIA Chief?

A. Sadanand Vasant Date

B. Rakesh Agrwal

C. Dinesh Gupta

D. None

ANSWER: B

