

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India's Crystal Maze-2

- Crystal Maze-2, also known as ROCKS (operational name), is an upgraded version of the Crystal Maze missile with an extended range of 250 km (160 miles).
- India has emerged as a key player in advanced missile technology, drawing inspiration from Israel's innovative Blue Sparrow system amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. When the Israeli Air Force deployed the Blue Sparrow to devastating effect against an Iranian bunker, piercing Russian-made radar defences.
- This 1,900kg missile, initially conceived as a target drone for testing Israel's Arrow shield, was repurposed for hypersonic strikes from the edge of space. Indian defence experts, however, were not surprised, having already integrated similar capabilities into their arsenal.
- Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems refined this into the ROCKS missile, a combat variant retaining the original booster, engine, and airframe. In India, it is known as Crystal Maze-2, tailored for precision strikes on deeply buried, high-value targets in GPS-denied environments.



Iran Claims Shocking Drone Strike On U.S. Base In UAE

- Iranian state media has reported that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps carried out a drone strike against Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates.
- The base is a strategic site for U.S. military operations in the Gulf region, hosting advanced aircraft and surveillance systems. According to Tasnim News Agency, the attack allegedly targeted satellite communication facilities and early-warning radar systems used by American forces.
- The claim comes at a time of heightened tension between Iran and the United States, following a series of Iranian strikes against U.S. positions in Iraq and Syria.
- Al Dhafra has long been considered a critical hub for American air operations, supporting missions across the Middle East and providing logistical support for coalition forces.
- The alleged attack underscores the growing use of drones in modern conflict, particularly by Iran, which has invested heavily in unmanned aerial systems. Such strikes highlight vulnerabilities in even well-defended bases and raise concerns about the escalation of hostilities in the Gulf.



Iran names Mojtaba Khamenei to Succeed His Slain Father As Supreme Leader

- Mojtaba Khamenei, a son of Iran's late supreme leader, has been named his successor, Iranian state TV announced early Monday, as the war that began a little over a week ago with his father's killing took a dramatic turn.
- The younger Khamenei, who had not been seen or heard from publicly since the war started, had long been considered a contender for the post, even before an Israeli strike killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and despite never being elected or appointed to a government position.

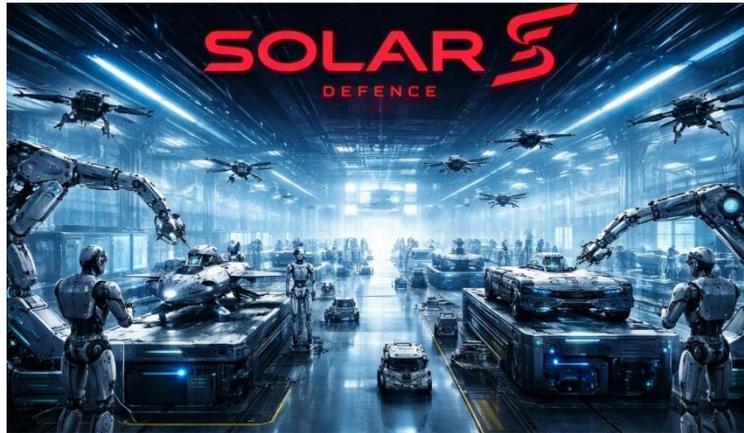
- His appointment came after signs of a rift among Iranian officials as the country awaited a decision by the Assembly of Experts, a group of clerics that selects the supreme leader. State TV read a statement from the assembly saying he was selected based on "strong" votes and urging the nation to unite behind him. The station broadcast scenes of people celebrating in parts of Tehran.
- A secretive figure, the 56-year-old Khamenei now stands at the heart of Iran's theocracy and will have final say over all matters of state. He will serve as commander-in-chief of the military and powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. He also has authority over a stockpile of highly enriched uranium that could be used to build a nuclear weapon, if he chooses to decree it.
- The war between Israel, the United States vs Iran entered its tenth day on Monday with fresh missile exchanges, the appointment of a new supreme leader in Tehran, and attacks spreading across multiple countries in the Gulf region.
- Oil prices surged past \$100 a barrel and Asian stock markets fell sharply as the widening conflict raised fears of prolonged instability in the Middle East.



SDAL Invests \$1.4 billion in Deep Tech defence Manufacturing

- The Solar Group has announced a \$1.4 billion push into DeepTech manufacturing, which will include a robotics and UAV ecosystem capable of producing over 10,000 military drones annually at the MIHAN SEZ in Nagpur.
- Solar Group chairman Satyanarayan Nuwal said that, looking at warfare around the world, the company has decided to make investments in deep tech projects.

- Nagpur facility will produce 10,000 drones and 1,000 robots annually, with first robot prototype expected within a year.
- Solar said the factory would be an AI-powered Industry 5.0 manufacturing ecosystem combining advanced robotics and intelligent automation.



Kerala Firm Delivers 30 Indigenous 'Peregrine' Drones To Army

- A Kerala-based firm, Axl Drone, has achieved a significant milestone by supplying 30 indigenously developed drones to the Indian Army, all bearing the 'Made in Kerala' label.
- Christened Axl Peregrine after the world's fastest bird, the peregrine falcon, these unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are tailored for critical military missions, showcasing Kerala's growing prowess in defence technology.
- The handover ceremony took place at the Research and Development wing of Axl Drone's facility in KINFRA Park, Kalamassery, near Kochi.
- Senior consultant Abdul Noushad and director P J Joseph presented the drones along with their control consoles to Army representatives, marking a proud moment for indigenous manufacturing.
- These drones boast impressive performance specifications suited to demanding operational environments. They achieve a top speed of 54 km/h, enabling swift deployment, and offer a flight endurance of 45 minutes with the capability to hover stationary for up to 50 minutes—ideal for surveillance and reconnaissance tasks.
- Equipped with advanced infrared thermal cameras, the Axl Peregrine captures footage in stunning 4K resolution, providing crystal-clear imagery even in low-light or adverse conditions. Operators benefit from optical zoom functionality extending up to six times, enhancing target identification at extended ranges.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Crystal Maze-2 (ROCKS) missile used by India is primarily designed for:

- (a) Anti-submarine warfare
- (b) Precision strikes on deeply buried targets
- (c) Air-to-air combat operations
- (d) Coastal surveillance

Answer: (b) Precision strikes on deeply buried targets

2. Crystal Maze-2 missile technology is associated with which defence company?

- (a) Lockheed Martin
- (b) Rafael Advanced Defense Systems
- (c) Northrop Grumman
- (d) BAE Systems

Answer: (b) Rafael Advanced Defense Systems

3. Iran reportedly claimed a drone strike on which U.S. military base in the UAE?

- (a) Al Udeid Air Base
- (b) Al Dhafra Air Base
- (c) Incirlik Air Base
- (d) Prince Sultan Air Base

Answer: (b) Al Dhafra Air Base

4. The Indian company planning a \$1.4 billion investment in deep-tech defence manufacturing at MIHAN SEZ is:

- (a) Tata Advanced Systems
- (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (c) Solar Industries India Limited
- (d) Bharat Electronics Limited

Answer: (c) Solar Industries India Limited

5. The indigenous 'Peregrine' drones supplied to the Indian Army were developed by which company?

- (a) ideaForge
- (b) Axl Drone
- (c) Paras Defence
- (d) Garuda Aerospace

Answer: (b) Axl Drone

6. Chairman Of The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) Is

- A. PM
- B. NSA
- C. CDS
- D. Home Minister

ANSWER: A

7. CBI Hq Is In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

8. ___ Is The Largest Defense Contractors in the World.

- A. Lockheed Martin
- B. Boeing
- C. Raytheon Technologies
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

9. “If you win, you need not have to explain...If you lose, you should not be there to explain!” Said By__

- A. Winston Churchill
- B. Adolf Hitler
- C. Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Bhagat Singh

ANSWER: B

10. Air Marshal Rank Of IAF Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of Indian Army?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Lt. Gen
- C. Captain
- D. Major General

ANSWER: B

11. Current Secretary-General Of NATO Is__.

- A. Jens Stoltenberg
- B. Admiral Rob Bauer
- C. General Tod D. Wolters
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

12. “It Is Our Duty To Pay For Our Liberty With Our Own Blood.” Said By__

- A. Pandit Nehru
- B. Mahatma Gandhi
- C. Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Bhagat Singh

ANSWER: C

13. ‘The Communist Manifesto’ Book Written By__.

- A. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
- B. Alexis
- C. Thomas Paine
- D. Niccolo Machiavelli

ANSWER: A

14. OPEC Hq Is In

- A. Budapest, Hungary
- B. New York, USA
- C. Luanda, Angola
- D. Vienna, Austria

ANSWER: D

15. IPCC Was Created By

- A. WMO & UNEP
- B. IMO & UNESCO
- C. IMF & WTO
- D. UNO & UNFCCC

ANSWER: A

16. Madagascar Is In

- A. Pacific Ocean
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Black Sea
- D. Arctic Ocean

ANSWER: B

17. Which Is Not The Member Of SAARC?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Myanmar
- C. India
- D. Pakistan

ANSWER: B

18. With reference to MILAN Exercise, consider the following statements:

1. It is a multilateral Naval Exercise conducted by the members of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
2. MILAN 2026 conducted in the East China Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: D

19. Mitra Shakti Ex Conducts B/W

- A. India & Indonesia
- B. India & UK
- C. India & Sri Lanka
- D. India & Thailand

ANSWER: C

20. Varuna Ex Conducts B/W

- A. India & Indonesia
- B. India & UK
- C. India & France
- D. India & Thailand

ANSWER: C

