

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 14 March 2025

### Sagar Defence to Build Autonomous Naval Tech Shipyard

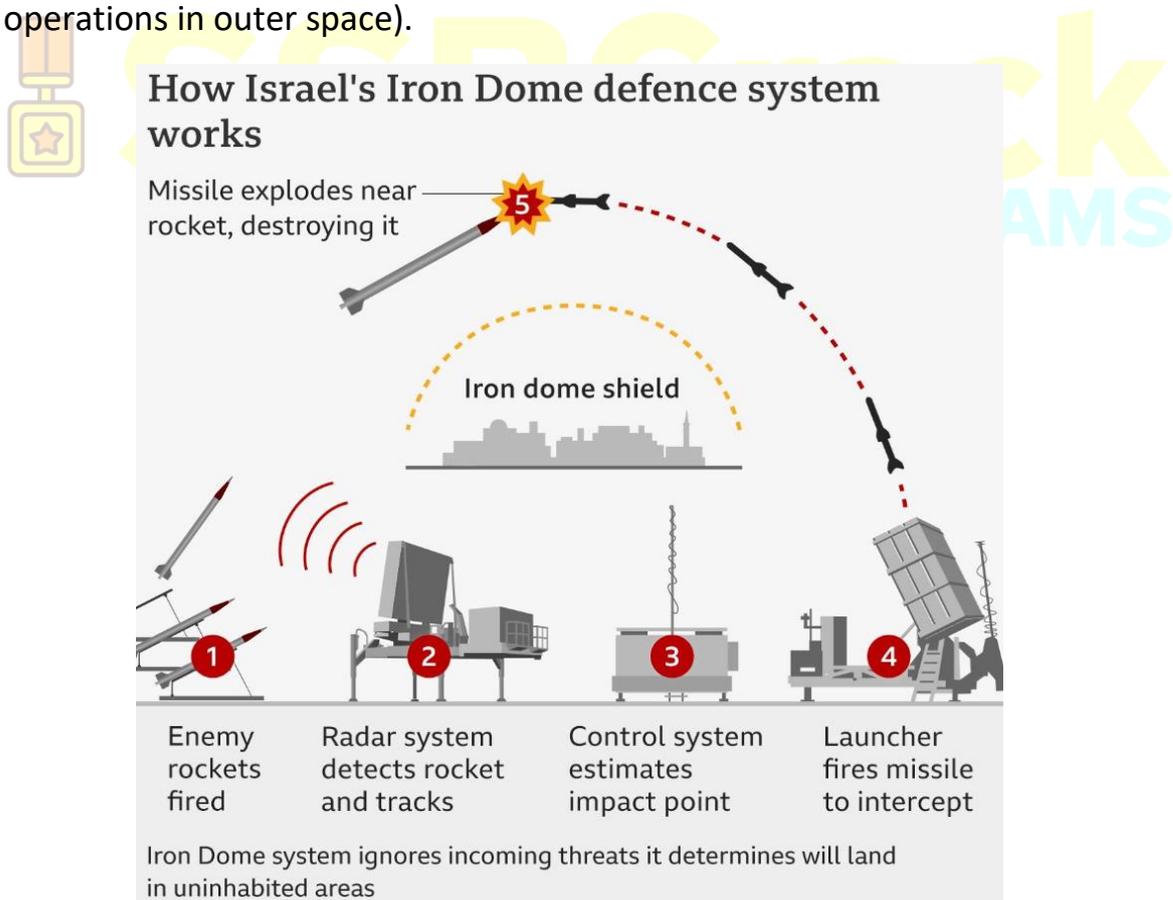
- Mumbai headquartered Sagar Defence Engineering's project laid the stone breaking ceremony of the **India's first Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Centre** at Juvvaladinne fishing harbour in Andhra Pradesh.
- The company has received 29.58 acres of land at the fishing harbour in Nellore district for the project from the Andhra Pradesh government. The proximity to sea will enable the company to carry out vessel construction, launch, testing and deployment for the establishment of the centre.
- The proposed maritime technology centre will focus on developing a new generation of autonomous platforms, including unmanned surface vessels (USVs), autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), intelligent navigation systems, advanced maritime sensors, secure communication networks and integrated command-and-control systems for autonomous operations.
- These innovations are aimed at enabling maritime platforms to function with minimal human intervention, improving operational efficiency, safety and mission capability across defence and commercial applications.
- As part of its technology roadmap, the shipyard plans to deploy digital twin systems that create virtual replicas of vessels and shipyard infrastructure. This will allow engineers to simulate vessel performance, test upgrades and refine designs in a controlled virtual environment before actual deployment, reducing costs and development timelines.



## Japan to Join Trump's 'Golden Dome' Project

- Japan will inform the U.S. next week that it intends to join the "Golden Dome" missile defense initiative and expects that Washington may seek its help with missile production due to the Middle East war and other conflicts.
- Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi will announce the latest plan when she meets U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington D.C. at a leaders' summit on March 19, the Japanese government sources said, requesting anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.
- Trump's Golden Dome project, announced last year with an ambitious 2028 timeline, envisions expanding existing ground-based defenses such as interceptor missiles with more experimental space-based elements, meant to detect, track and potentially counter incoming threats from orbit.
- Tokyo anticipates that Trump may request Japan to produce or co-develop missiles that could help replace stocks of U.S. munitions depleted by the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, as well as its support for Ukraine, the sources said. It is still considering how to respond to any such request, they added.
- Japan exported a batch of surface-to-air Patriot missiles built under license to the United States late last year, marking a historic break from its long-standing ban on lethal weapons exports.
- The US President announced the creation of a '**Golden Dome**' missile defence programme to **counter advanced aerial threats**, including missiles launched from space.

- **About:** It is a missile defense project with space-based sensors and interceptors, designed to create a multilayered shield, neutralize hypersonic, ballistic, cruise missiles, and drones from anywhere in the world—including space.
- Thousands of satellites will orbit Earth to intercept missiles shortly after launch—a concept first explored by Nazi Germany during World War II, and by the **Soviet Union and the US during the Cold War**.
- It draws inspiration from Israel's Iron Dome and Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (**Star Wars project**), aiming to deploy a multi-layered missile shield.
- **Comparison with Iron Dome:** The Golden Dome is an ambitious next-generation defense system covering land, sea, and space, while the Iron Dome is a short-range, ground-based system that relies only on radar, not satellites.
- **Similar Initiatives:** Few countries like the US, China, France, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom have a Space Force (military branch responsible for conducting operations in outer space).



## Kerala AI Pioneer Genrobotics Bags ₹80 Crore Deal

- Genrobotics Innovation, a Kerala-based AI start-up pioneering physical AI solutions in sanitation and medical fields, has clinched a landmark contract from Singapore's Public Utilities Board (PUB), the nation's water agency.
- This deal marks a significant achievement for India's start-up ecosystem, positioning the Thiruvananthapuram firm as a global contender in advanced robotics.
- The contract, valued at approximately ₹80 crore, involves deploying nearly 44 robots to upgrade Singapore's water infrastructure. These robots, primarily the Wilboar model—an advanced rover designed for cleaning hazardous, confined spaces such as sewer wells, storm water drains, and industrial tanks—will be rolled out over the next two financial years.
- Securing this long-term contract was no small feat. Genrobotics emerged victorious after an intense 18-month evaluation process against over 600 global competitors, underscoring the firm's technological edge in integrating robotics with AI for complex sanitation challenges.
- The company attributes its success to proprietary intellectual property and unmatched advancements in robotic technology. With 14 patents already filed, Genrobotics claims few global players match its scale and sophistication in the sanitation robotics segment, where seamless AI-robotics integration is paramount.
- Financially, Genrobotics reported ₹32 crore in revenue for FY25 and anticipates 30 per cent growth this year. Looking ahead, the firm aims to transform into a ₹500 crore organisation within two years, bolstered by this deal and future expansions.



## Operation True Promise 4

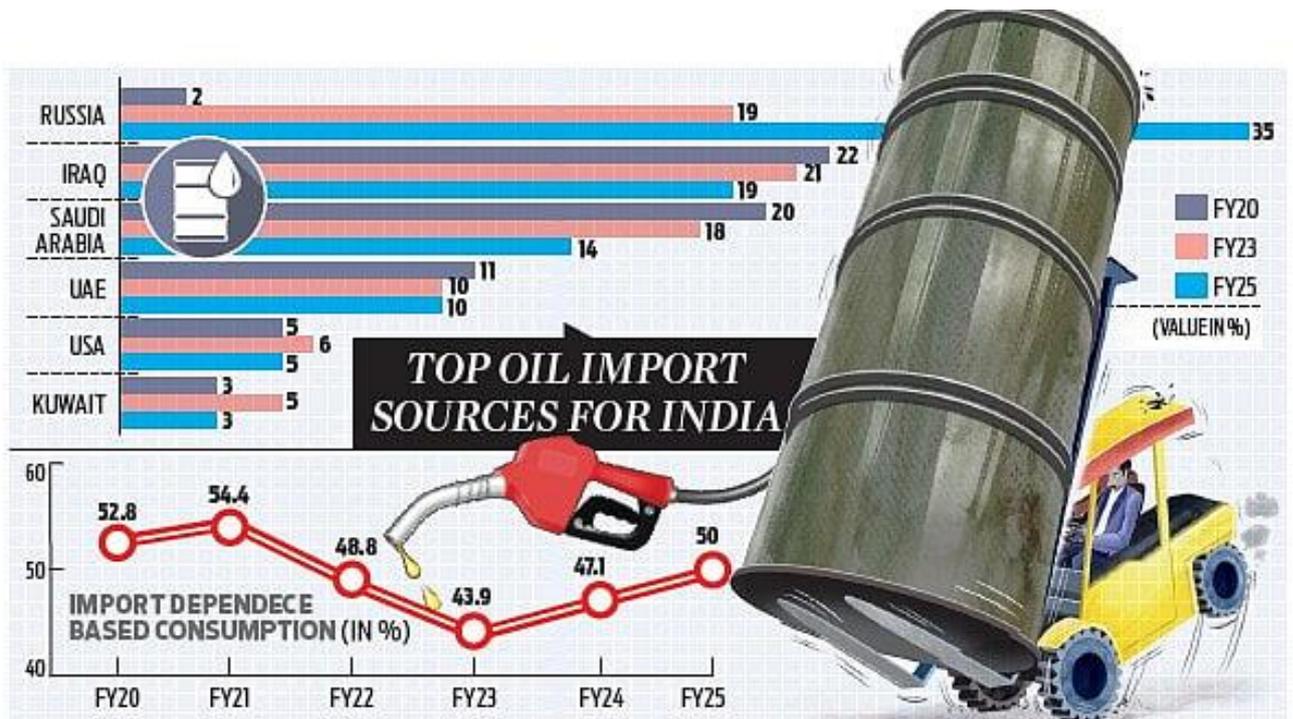
- The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has confirmed the launch of the 48th phase of its retaliatory campaign, targeting various Israeli and American installations, according to reports by state broadcaster Press TV.
- In a statement released on Saturday, the IRGC announced the "successful execution of the 48th wave of its ongoing retaliatory Operation True Promise 4 against Zionist and American targets." This latest offensive was reportedly carried out in coordination with the Lebanese resistance group, Hezbollah.
- Military officials identified the primary targets within the occupied territories as being situated in the northern sector, specifically focusing on "Galilee, Golan, and the occupied city of Haifa." Beyond these areas, several "American bases throughout the region" were also struck during this stage of the conflict.
- According to Press TV, the 48th wave utilised a sophisticated mix of weaponry, including "solid-fuel Kheibar Shekan missiles, liquid-fuel Qadr missiles, and attack drones." This follows the earlier completion of the 47th wave, which took place on Friday.



## For 'friend' India, Iran Clears Passage Of 2 LPG Tankers Through Hormuz

- Iran has allowed two liquified petroleum tankers bound for India to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, as per a Reuters report on Friday. The latest development comes just hours after Iran's Ambassador to India, Mohammad Fathali, signalled that India could receive safe passage along the critical global shipping route within two or three hours.
- The envoy's remarks came amid the ongoing conflict in the region, which has led to shipping movements through the narrow corridor linking the Persian Gulf to global markets coming under close watch.
- **'INDIA AND IRAN SHARE COMMON INTERESTS'**
- Earlier today, when asked directly whether India would be able to transit safely through the Strait of Hormuz, the ambassador indicated that positive developments could be expected.
- **STRAIT OF HORMUZ REMAINS A KEY GLOBAL ENERGY CORRIDOR**
- The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important maritime routes, through which about one-fifth of the world's oil supplies and gas shipments pass.
- Disruption in the passage is already having implications for energy markets and international trade, including for India, which imports a large share of its crude oil through the region.

- Fathali's remarks suggesting safe passage for India came as governments and shipping companies monitor developments around the Strait amid the ongoing war in the Middle East.



EXAMS

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which organisation, along with the Indian Navy, conducted successful release trials of the indigenous Air Droppable Container 'ADC-150'?

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

**ANSWER: C**

2. India's first Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Centre is being developed by which company?

- A. Larsen & Toubro
- B. Sagar Defence Engineering

- C. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- D. Garden Reach Shipbuilders

**ANSWER: B**

**3. Japan plans to join which missile defense initiative led by the United States?**

- A. Iron Dome
- B. Golden Dome
- C. Arrow Shield
- D. Patriot Shield

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Which Indian AI start-up secured a contract from Singapore's Public Utilities Board (PUB)?**

- A. Grey Orange
- B. Invento Robotics
- C. Genrobotics Innovation
- D. Addverb Technologies

**ANSWER: C**

**5. When did Iran become a new permanent member of the SCO?**

- A. 2017
- B. 2001
- C. 2023
- D. 2007

**ANSWER: C**

**6. MALABAR Exercise Was Initiated In Which Year**

- A. 1991
- B. 1992
- C. 1993
- D. 1994

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Comes Under**

- A. MOD
- B. MHA
- C. MEA
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Hambantota Port Is In**

- A. Indonesia
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. India
- D. China

**ANSWER: B**

**9. The Indian Government Plans To Construct A 2,500-metre-long Airstrip On Minicoy Island In**

- A. Goa
- B. Mumbai
- C. Lakshadweep
- D. Kochi

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Pakyong Airport is located in -**

- A. Sikkim
- B. Assam
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Nagaland

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Which port is also known as the New Mangalore Port?**

- A. Mormugao Port
- B. Panambur Port
- C. Kandla Port
- D. Tuticorin Port

**ANSWER: B**

**12. Port Blair Is Located On Which Island?**

- A.** The Little Andaman
- B.** The Great Nicobar
- C.** The South Andaman
- D.** The North Andaman

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Author Of The Book 'Kerala: God's Own Country'**

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Jeet Thayil
- C. Sudha Murthy
- D. Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai

**ANSWER: A**

**14. AUSINDEX Ex Conducts B/W**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**15. "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India" Is Written By**

- A. Mahadevi Verma
- B. Premchand
- C. Dadabhai Naoroji
- D. Ratan Tata

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Havana Is The Capital Of**

- A. Cuba
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Cyprus

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Who Was The Prime Minister Of India During Indo-PAK War In 1965?**

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru
- B. Indira Gandhi
- C. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D. Rajiv Gandhi

**ANSWER: C**

**18. Who Was The PM Of India During The Indo-Pak War In 1999?**

- A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- B. Indira Gandhi
- C. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D. Rajiv Gandhi

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Ex 'Jal Prahar' Conducted In**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**20. Current DG of The ICG Is**

- A. VS Pathania
- B. Rakesh Pal
- C. Paramesh Sivamani
- D. None

**ANSWER: C**

