

Daily Defence Current Affairs

19 March 2025

Ordnance Factory Day 2026

- Ordnance Factory Day 2026 is observed across the India on **18 March**. This day is to celebrate the India's rich legacy in defense manufacturing and self reliance. This day marks the beginning of production at India's first ordnance facility in Cossipore in the **Kolkata in 1802**.
- This day serves as the platform for the,
- Showcasing the defense technology and equipment
- Also highlighting the role of engineers and workers
- Promoting the awareness about India's defense manufacturing sector
- **History of Ordnance Factory Day**
- 1775: Establishment of the Board of Ordnance at Fort William, Kolkata
- 1787: The Gunpowder factory set up at Ishapore
- 1802: Production begins at the Cossipore (first ordnance factory)
- 1947: India inherits 18 ordnance factories after independence
- 1979: Formation of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)
- 2021: OFB restructured into 7 Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)
- **Key facts**
- 41 factories across India
- Over 70,000 employees
- Revenue of around ₹19,000 crore
- Exports to 30+ countries



ORDNANCE FACTORIES' DAY 18TH MARCH

Successful 24 Pinaka-ER Rocket Trials At Pokhran

- Solar Group has achieved a significant milestone with the successful maiden proof trial of two production lots of **Pinaka Extended Range Rockets**. The trial was conducted at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, marking the first time such an exercise has been carried out in the country.
- During the trial, a total of **24 Pinaka** Enhanced rockets were flight tested. The evaluation focused on accuracy, consistency, and lethality, all of which are critical parameters for battlefield effectiveness.
- These trials meticulously evaluated the rockets for accuracy, consistency, and lethality. All 24 projectiles demonstrated exemplary performance, validating the system's reliability under real-world conditions. This outcome reflects rigorous engineering and adherence to stringent military standards.
- Complementing these private sector advances, DRDO itself conducted the maiden flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR-120) in late December 2025.
- Boasting an impressive 120 km range, this variant maintains compatibility with existing **multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL)** platforms, enhancing the system's scalability without requiring major infrastructure overhauls.



Lokesh Machines Clinches ₹9.5 Cr ASMI SMG Deal

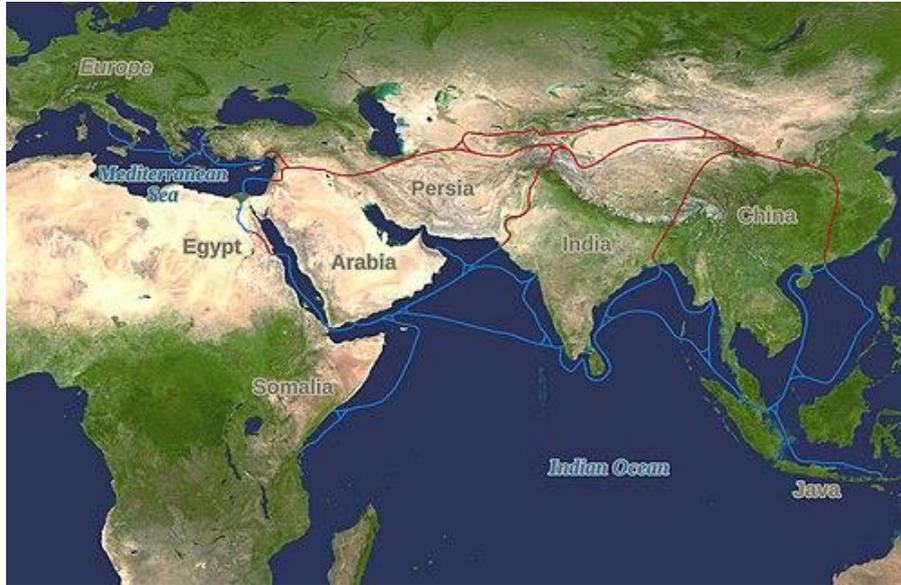
- Hyderabad-based Lokesh Machines Limited has secured a significant ₹9.5 crore contract from the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**. The deal involves supplying indigenous **ASMI 9×19mm submachine guns (SMGs)**, marking a milestone for private sector involvement in small arms manufacturing.
- The ASMI, developed by the DRDO represents a leap in indigenous small arms technology. Chambered in the standard 9×19mm Parabellum round, it combines high reliability with low recoil, making it ideal for close-quarters combat.
- Financially, the ₹9.5 crore deal boosts Lokesh Machines' order book in defence. It signals potential for larger contracts, as the government pushes for 75% indigenous content in procurements by 2025-26.
- This development bodes well for India's small arms ecosystem. With ASMI now entering serial production, other paramilitary forces like CRPF and BSF may follow suit, reducing import dependence that once exceeded 70%.



Indian Navy's IOS SAGAR 2.0

- The Indian Navy has launched the second edition of its Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR initiative, underscoring India's steadfast commitment to fostering maritime partnerships across the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- This program brings together naval personnel from 16 friendly foreign nations, promoting collaborative maritime security in a strategically vital area.
- India assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in February 2026, a pivotal development that has shaped this edition of IOS SAGAR. The participating countries hail from the IONS membership within the IOR, reflecting a targeted effort to strengthen ties with regional partners.
- At its core, IOS SAGAR embodies the Government of India's SAGAR vision—Security and Growth for All in the Region. It extends this ethos through the broader MAHASAGAR framework, which emphasises Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across the Regions, aiming for inclusive maritime stability.
- The IOR remains a nexus of global trade routes, with over 80 per cent of India's energy imports traversing these waters. Strengthening naval interoperability through **IOS SAGAR** directly safeguards these lifelines, aligning with **India's Act East and Neighbourhood First policies**.

- Amid rising geopolitical tensions in the IOR—such as China's expanding footprint—the initiative signals India's resolve to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific. It counters balance through cooperation rather than confrontation.



Iran War: Gulf Energy Sites Come Under Fire

- The State of Qatar has sent its ninth identical letter to the United Nations, raising concerns over what it described as Iranian aggression on its territory, as tensions across the Gulf intensify alongside a widening conflict involving energy infrastructure.
- The letter was addressed to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and to the United States' Permanent Representative to the UN and President of the Security Council for March, Michael Waltz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Qatar wrote on X.
- The letter stated that from the beginning of the attack on the State of Qatar on February 28, 2026, until March 16, 2026, its air defence systems intercepted several hostile aerial targets. It added that civilian injuries resulted from these attacks.
- US President Donald Trump issued a stark and highly escalatory warning to Iran, threatening massive retaliation against one of its most critical energy assets if attacks on Qatar's gas infrastructure continue.
- In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said Israel's recent strike on Iran's South Pars gas field was limited in scope and carried out without US knowledge but accused Tehran of responding recklessly by targeting Qatar's LNG facilities.

- The warning comes amid rapidly escalating conflict in West Asia, with strikes increasingly targeting critical oil and gas infrastructure across Iran and Gulf nations.
- The South Pars field — shared by Iran and Qatar — is the world's largest natural gas reserve and a cornerstone of global energy supply, making any threat to it a major risk for international markets.



India Eyes Partnership in European Sixth-Generation Fighter Jet Programme

- India is taking a significant step toward strengthening its future air combat capabilities by exploring participation in global sixth-generation fighter jet development programmes. According to a recent parliamentary panel report, the Ministry of Defence is considering joining one of two major European-led consortia working on next-generation fighter aircraft.
- The report highlights that there are currently two prominent international consortia developing sixth-generation fighter jets:
- **UK–Italy–Japan Consortium** (often linked with advanced collaborative combat aircraft initiatives)
- **France–Germany Consortium** (associated with Europe's Future Combat Air System concept)
- India is evaluating both options and may partner with one of these groups to ensure access to cutting-edge aerospace technologies.
- **(Strategic Importance)**

- This move reflects India's long-term vision to remain at the forefront of advanced military aviation. Sixth-generation fighter jets are expected to include:
 - Artificial intelligence-enabled combat systems
 - Stealth capabilities beyond current standards
 - Integration with unmanned systems (drones)
 - Advanced sensor fusion and network-centric warfare
- By collaborating internationally, India aims to bridge technological gaps and accelerate development timelines.
- The decision also comes in the backdrop of rapid advancements by other countries, especially China, which is actively developing next-generation fighter aircraft and expanding its defence cooperation with regional partners.
- India's participation in such programmes is seen as a necessary step to maintain strategic balance and ensure national security in a rapidly evolving geopolitical environment.
- While exploring global partnerships, India continues to focus on its indigenous fighter jet programme—the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). The design phase of AMCA has already been completed, and the Indian Air Force plans to induct multiple squadrons in the coming decades.
- Additionally, India is working on co-developing a high-thrust engine (110–120 kN class) with foreign collaboration to power future aircraft.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Ordnance Factory Day in India is observed on:

- A. 15 March
- B. 18 March
- C. 20 March
- D. 25 March

Answer: B. 18 March

2. Ordnance Factory Day marks the establishment of the first ordnance factory at:

- A. Ishapore
- B. Kanpur
- C. Cossipore
- D. Avadi

Answer: C. Cossipore

3. In which year was the Board of Ordnance established at Fort William?

- A. 1787
- B. 1802
- C. 1775
- D. 1947

Answer: C. 1775

4. The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) was restructured into DPSUs in:

- A. 2014
- B. 2019
- C. 2021
- D. 2023

Answer: C. 2021

5. Which Indian Naval Sail Training Ship reached Malta during the global expedition Lokayan-26?

- A. INS Tarangini
- B. INS Vikrant
- C. INS Shardul
- D. INS Sudarshini

ANSWER: D

6. INS Karmuk Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. Missile Corvette
- C. Submarine
- D. Tank

ANSWER: B

7. R&AW Stands For

- A. Research and Analytical Wing
- B. Raw and Analysis Wing
- C. Research and Analysis Wing
- D. Research and Analysis Wet

ANSWER: C

8. "Sarvatra" (Everywhere) Is The Motto Of

- A. JKRIF
- B. RR
- C. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- D. Madras Regiment

ANSWER: C

9. Joint Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Konkan Shakti

ANSWER: D

10. Where Is The Hq Of The Southwestern Command of The Indian Army?

- A. Jaipur

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

ANSWER: A

11. Moroni Is The Capital Of

- A. Comoros
- B. Costa Rica
- C. Cuba
- D. Dominica

ANSWER: A

12. "An Introduction to Dreamland" Book Is Written By

- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Leo Tolstoy
- C. Jules Verne
- D. Gunnar Myrdal

ANSWER: A

13. Current NSA Of India Is

- A. S Jaishankar
- B. Ajit Doval
- C. R Hari Kumar
- D. V R Chaudhari

ANSWER: B

14. Ex 'AUSINDEX' conducted b/w India &

- A. Angola
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Australia

ANSWER: D

15. Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (India) Is

- A. Satish Namdeo Ghormade
- B. R Hari Kumar
- C. Karambir Lamba
- D. Sunil Singh

ANSWER: A

16. Joint Exercises B/w The India And USA Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Tiger Triumph

ANSWER: D

17. Where Is The Hq Of The Eastern Command of The IAF?

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

ANSWER: C

18. Indian Military Academy Is Located At

- A. Pune
- B. Mumbai
- C. Pune
- D. Nagpur

ANSWER: A

19. Current Raksha Mantri Is

- A. Rajnath Singh
- B. Ajay Bhatt
- C. Smirti Irani
- D. Anurag Thakur

ANSWER: A

20. What is the power output of DRDO's Mk-2(A) laser-directed energy weapon system?

- A. 10 kilowatts
- B. 15 kilowatts
- C. 25 kilowatts
- D. 30 kilowatts

ANSWER: D

 **SSBCrack**
EXAMS