

Daily Defence Current Affairs

25 March 2025

India Reviews Defence Posture As West Asian Tensions Escalate

- India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, convened a crucial high-level meeting on Tuesday to scrutinise the nation's security and defence preparedness amid escalating tensions in West Asia.
- This gathering assumes particular urgency against the backdrop of the intensifying conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, which has plunged the region into deeper instability.
- Senior defence officials, including the nation's top military leadership, participated in the review to gauge the potential ramifications for India. The discussions, as reported by ANI, emphasised vigilance over any spill over effects from the conflict, now in a precarious phase.
- Attendees comprised Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, alongside the chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Senior representatives from the DRDO and the Ministry of Defence also joined, underscoring the comprehensive nature of the assessment.
- West Asia's pivotal role in global energy supplies and vital trade routes amplifies the stakes. Any further escalation could ripple through to India's security apparatus and economic stability, prompting proactive governmental oversight.



Indian Navy's Warships Provides Vital Escort For LPG Tankers

- Following a period of intense regional instability, two Indian-flagged vessels carrying essential energy supplies have successfully navigated the Strait of Hormuz under the close protection of Indian Navy warships.
- The tankers, identified as the Jag Vasant and the Pine Gas, were tracked sailing in close proximity as they moved into the safer waters of the Gulf of Oman.
- This mission marks a critical step in securing India's energy supply chain, which was recently threatened by escalating conflict in West Asia. The two vessels are transporting a combined total of 92,612 tons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).
- Data from ship tracking services indicated that the tankers took a specific route between Iran's Larak and Qeshm islands. This tactical movement was likely intended to ensure their identities were clearly communicated to Iranian authorities before the final crossing of the narrow strait.
- The safe passage of these vessels is of paramount importance given the human element involved. There are currently 33 Indian seafarers aboard the Jag Vasant and 27 aboard the Pine Gas. Current estimates suggest that both ships will reach their designated Indian ports between 26 March and 28 March.
- Before this transit, the tankers were part of a group of 22 Indian-flagged vessels stranded in the Persian Gulf. Maritime traffic in the area has been severely hampered since late February, following military strikes by US and Israeli forces

which led to Tehran effectively halting or threatening movement through the waterway.

- The disruption poses a major challenge to India's national energy security. The nation relies on imports for 88 per cent of its crude oil, 50 per cent of its natural gas, and **60 percent** of its LPG. A vast majority of these resources are typically sourced from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the UAE.



ISRO Prepares Gaganyaan Crew

- India's Gaganyaan mission is steadily advancing towards its goal of sending humans into space for the first time.
- The astronauts selected for this landmark project are undergoing intensive training designed to prepare them for the unique challenges of spaceflight. A key element of this preparation involves zero-gravity flights, which simulate the weightless environment they will encounter once in orbit.
- These flights are conducted using specially modified aircraft such as the Airbus A330 and the IL-76. By performing steep parabolic manoeuvres, the aircraft create short bursts of microgravity lasting around 30 to 40 seconds.
- Training in zero gravity is not straightforward, as gravity on Earth cannot simply be switched off. The parabolic flight method is therefore the closest approximation available, enabling astronauts to rehearse orientation, coordination, and teamwork in a gravity-free environment.

- The zero-G sessions form part of a broader training program overseen by ISRO. Alongside these flights, astronauts undergo survival training, mission simulations, and other exercises to prepare them for the technical, physical, and mental demands of space travel.



Iran Tells UN: 'Non-hostile' Ships Can Transit Strait of Hormuz

- Iran has told the United Nations Security Council and the International Maritime Organization that "non-hostile vessels" may transit the Strait of Hormuz if they coordinate with Iranian authorities, according to a note seen by Reuters on Tuesday.
- The U.S.-Israeli war against Iran has all but halted shipments of about one-fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas through the strait, causing oil supply disruption.
- The note from Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was sent to the 15-member Security Council and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday. It was then circulated on Tuesday among the 176 members of the London-based U.N. shipping agency responsible for regulating the safety and security of international shipping and preventing pollution.
- "Non-hostile vessels, including those belonging to or associated with other States, may - provided that they neither participate in nor support acts of aggression against Iran and fully comply with the declared safety and security

regulations - benefit from safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz in coordination with the competent Iranian authorities," it read.



CDS Anil Chauhan Holds Talks With UK Air Chief Harvey

- India and the United Kingdom are taking significant steps to deepen their defence partnership, reflecting a shared commitment to global security and strategic cooperation. A recent high-level meeting between General Anil Chauhan and Harvey Smyth highlights the growing alignment between the two nations, especially in the air defence domain.
- **High-Level Talks to Boost Strategic Partnership**
- During the interaction, General Anil Chauhan, India's Chief of Defence Staff, held detailed discussions with UK Air Chief Marshal Harvey Smyth, Chief of the Air Staff of the Royal Air Force. The meeting reaffirmed the strong and evolving defence relationship between India and the United Kingdom.
- Both leaders emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation through regular engagements and strategic dialogue. The talks reflect a broader effort to build a future-ready and integrated defence partnership.
- **Focus on Training and Knowledge Exchange**
- One of the key highlights of the discussion was the **exchange of instructors**, which has emerged as a major pillar of India-UK defence cooperation. This initiative allows both countries to share expertise, enhance skills, and improve interoperability between their armed forces.

- In line with this, Indian Air Force instructors are being deployed to UK training institutions, including RAF bases, marking a significant step toward deeper military collaboration.

- **Enhancing Defence Intelligence and Coordination**
- Another major area of focus was **defence intelligence sharing**. Both sides acknowledged the progress made in intelligence collaboration, which is crucial for addressing modern security challenges such as cyber threats, terrorism, and evolving warfare tactics.
- Improved intelligence coordination will help both nations respond more effectively to global and regional threats while enhancing joint operational readiness.

- **Strengthening Air Force Cooperation**
- The visit of UK Air Chief Harvey Smyth to India underscores the growing importance of air power cooperation. Discussions included:
 - Enhancing operational coordination between the Indian Air Force and the Royal Air Force
 - Conducting joint training and exercises
 - Sharing best practices in tackling emerging aerial threats
 - The two sides are also focusing on improving **interoperability**, ensuring that their forces can work together seamlessly during joint missions or global operations.

- **Institutional Engagement and Future Roadmap**
- General Chauhan appreciated the successful conduct of the **17th Military Sub Group Meeting**, which serves as a structured platform for continuous defence dialogue between the two nations.
- Additionally, both countries are building on earlier agreements such as the Defence Industrial Roadmap, which aims to promote:
 - Joint research and development
 - Co-production of advanced defence technologies
 - Collaboration in emerging fields like AI and advanced aviation



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who chaired the high-level defence meeting to review India's security amid West Asia tensions?

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Rajnath Singh
- C) Anil Chauhan
- D) Ajit Doval

Answer: B) Rajnath Singh

2. Which strategic waterway did Indian Navy warships secure for LPG tankers?

- A) Suez Canal
- B) Strait of Malacca
- C) Strait of Hormuz
- D) Panama Canal

Answer: C) Strait of Hormuz

3. India's Gaganyaan mission is associated with which organization?

- A) DRDO
- B) NASA

- C) ISRO
- D) HAL

Answer: C) ISRO

4. What is the main purpose of zero-gravity training for astronauts?

- A) Improve physical strength
- B) Simulate space-like weightlessness
- C) Test spacecraft engines
- D) Study weather patterns

Answer: B) Simulate space-like weightlessness

5. India is strengthening defence ties with which country through talks between Anil Chauhan and Harvey Smyth?

- A) France
- B) Russia
- C) United Kingdom
- D) Japan

Answer: C) United Kingdom

6. The V-BAT drone deal includes which rare feature in international defence agreements?

- A. Lifetime maintenance guarantee
- B. Full technology transfer
- C. No-cost weapons package
- D. Free pilot training

ANSWER: B

7. Where is the new testing facility being established under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme?

- A. Coimbatore
- B. Chennai
- C. Salem
- D. Tiruchirappalli

ANSWER: D

8. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees HQ Is In

- A. Geneva
- B. Berlin
- C. New York

D. Moscow

ANSWER: A

9. Major Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of IAF Is

A. Commander

B. Squadron Leader

C. Group Captain

D. Lieutenant

ANSWER: B

10. World Trade Organisation (WTO) Hq Is At

A. Paris, France

B. Vienna, Austria

C. New York, USA

D. Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER: D

11. The Land Ports Authority Of India Works Under

A. Ministry of Home Affairs

B. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

C. Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways

D. Ministry of Jal Shakti

ANSWER: A

12. Hanoi Is The Capital Of

A. Vietnam

B. Singapore

C. UAE

D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

13. "Bangali & A Nation In Making" Book Is Written By

A. Lala Hardayal

B. Dr. Rajendra Prasad

C. Surendra Nath Banerji

D. Veer Savarkar

ANSWER: C

14. Where is the Black Sea located?

- A. Between Europe and Brazil
- B. Between Europe and Asia
- C. Between Canada and Mexico
- D. Between France and Spain

ANSWER: B

15. Aadesh-class patrol vessel Designed And Built By

- A. Goa Shipyard Limited
- B. GRSE
- C. MDL
- D. CSL

ANSWER: D

16. World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Hq Is At

- A. Paris, France
- B. Vienna, Austria
- C. New York, USA
- D. Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER: D

17. The Bab-El-Mandeb Is A Strait Between

- A. Arabia and Africa
- B. Asia and Africa
- C. Arabia and Mediterranean Sea
- D. None of these

ANSWER: A

18. INS Tarkash Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Frigate

ANSWER: D

19. LEMOA Agreement Is A Military Ties B/W India And

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France

D. Russia

ANSWER: A

20. Motto of IMA Is

A. Valour and Wisdom

B. Always Brave

C. Service Before Self

D. None

ANSWER: A

