

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 14 April 2026

### Rising Tensions in the Middle East & Global Impact

- The ongoing conflict involving the United States, Iran, and Israel has significantly impacted global security and energy supply routes. The **Strait of Hormuz**, a critical oil transit chokepoint, has become a focal point of geopolitical tension.
- India has launched **Operation Urja Suraksha** to safeguard its energy supplies by escorting oil tankers through the region.
- Indian naval forces are actively ensuring safe passage of merchant vessels amid threats like sea mines and regional instability.
- The conflict has disrupted negotiations and heightened uncertainty in global oil markets and maritime security.
- This situation underscores India's strategic balancing act between energy security and geopolitical diplomacy.



### DRDO Showcases Indigenous Defence Power

- India's push for **Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance)** in defence is gaining momentum. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is

set to showcase advanced systems at a mega exhibition in Bihar (April 15–18, 2026).

- Key highlights include:
- **Pralay tactical ballistic missile** with high precision and manoeuvrability
- **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**
- **Akash and Akash-NG air defence systems**
- Advanced artillery, radar systems, tanks, and anti-satellite capabilities
- The exhibition aims to inspire youth and demonstrate India's technological capabilities in modern warfare.



## India–Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise

- India continues to strengthen military diplomacy through joint exercises.
- The 7th edition of Exercise Dustlik is being held from April 12–25, 2026 in Uzbekistan.
- Focus areas include counter-terror operations, special forces coordination, and tactical drills.
- The exercise enhances interoperability and strengthens bilateral defence ties.
- An Indian Army contingent comprising 60 personnel departed today for the 7th edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise, Exercise DUSTLIK. The exercise, which commenced today in Uzbekistan, will continue until the 25th of this month.

- The Defence Ministry noted the exercise is conducted on a yearly basis alternatively in India and Uzbekistan, with an aim to foster military cooperation and enhance combined capabilities to execute joint operations in semi-mountainous terrain. It will enable the two sides to share their best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures of conducting joint operations and will further strengthen interoperability, operational synergy and joint command and control coordination between the contingents.
- The event will also provide an opportunity to enhance the level of defence cooperation, further fostering bilateral relations between the two friendly nations. The Indian Armed Forces contingent is being represented by 45 personnel from the Indian Army, majorly from a Battalion of the MAHAR Regiment and 15 personnel from the Indian Air Force. The Uzbekistan contingent also comprises a total of 60 personnel from the Uzbekistan Army and Air Force.



## Major Export Achievement for BEML

- India's defence manufacturing sector is also expanding globally:
- **BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited)** has secured a **\$36.38 million export order** from the Middle East.
- This highlights growing international trust in Indian defence and engineering capabilities.
- Defence exports are becoming a key pillar of India's economic and strategic growth.
- **Focus on Heavy Earthmoving Equipment**

- The order primarily involves the **supply of heavy earthmoving machinery**, which will be deployed in large-scale infrastructure projects across the Middle East.
  - These machines are traditionally used in **mining operations**
  - They have now been **re-engineered for infrastructure development**
  - Designed to operate in **high-intensity and demanding environments**
  - The equipment includes performance and durability enhancements to meet **global standards and harsh operational conditions**.
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- **Comprehensive Lifecycle Support**
  - A key aspect of the contract is not just equipment supply but also **end-to-end lifecycle support**:
    - Maintenance and servicing
    - Spare parts supply
    - Operational readiness support
    - Long-term lifecycle management
  - This ensures that the machinery remains efficient and functional throughout its deployment period, enhancing customer trust and reliability.
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- **Boost to Global Presence**
  - This deal is part of BEML's broader strategy to expand internationally:
    - Total international order book has risen to **around \$106.95 million**
    - Strengthens India's position in **global infrastructure equipment markets**
    - Reduces dependence on domestic demand cycles
    - The Middle East, with its large-scale infrastructure and urban development projects, is emerging as a **key market for Indian engineering exports**.
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- **Strategic Significance for India**
  - The export order reflects several broader trends:
    - Growing **global competitiveness of Indian PSUs**
    - Success of **Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives**
    - Increasing demand for **cost-effective and durable Indian equipment**
    - It also highlights India's transition from being an importer to becoming a **key exporter of defence and industrial equipment**.



## India–US Jet Engine Pact

- India and the United States have signed a **landmark jet engine agreement**, marking a major breakthrough in defence technology cooperation.
  - The deal focuses on **co-development and technology transfer of advanced jet engines**.
  - It will boost India's indigenous fighter jet programmes and reduce dependency on imports.
  - The agreement reflects deepening strategic ties between the two nations.
  - India and the United States have reached a **historic agreement on jet engine technology transfer**, marking the first time Washington has agreed to share such advanced military technology with New Delhi. This deal represents a major leap in India's defence capabilities and strategic autonomy.
  - According to reports, the agreement focuses on the **co-production of advanced F-414 jet engines** in India, developed by the American aerospace giant **General Electric (GE)** in collaboration with India's **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
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- **Key Features of the Deal**
  - The agreement includes several unprecedented elements:
  - **Around 80% technology transfer** to India, including critical manufacturing know-how and intellectual property rights
  - Establishment of a **joint production line in India**
  - Collaboration between GE and HAL on **technical aspects of engine manufacturing**
  - Final commercial contract expected to be signed in the near future

- This level of technology sharing is rare, as the US typically restricts access to sensitive defence technologies.
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- **Powering India's Next-Gen Fighter Jets**
- The F-414 engines will play a crucial role in India's future air power:
- They will power the **Tejas Mk-2 fighter aircraft**, a more advanced version of the indigenous Tejas jet
- The engine offers **higher thrust and improved performance** compared to earlier variants
- It may also support future platforms like India's **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**
- This will significantly enhance the **combat capability of the Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
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- **Boost to Aatmanirbhar Bharat**
- The deal is a major step toward **self-reliance in defence manufacturing**:
- India will gain access to **critical jet engine technologies**, an area where it has traditionally faced challenges
- Indigenous production will reduce dependence on foreign suppliers
- It strengthens the **Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives**
- Experts believe India could join a select group of nations capable of producing advanced jet engines.
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- **Strengthening India–US Strategic Partnership**
- The agreement reflects deepening ties between India and the United States:
- Builds on earlier agreements like the **Industrial Security Agreement (ISA)**
- Enhances cooperation in **high-end defence technology and co-production**
- Aligns with shared strategic interests in the **Indo-Pacific region**
- It signals a shift from a **buyer–seller relationship to a technology partnership**.
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- **Strategic Significance**
- This deal is considered a **game-changer** because:
- Jet engine technology is among the most complex in defence manufacturing
- It accelerates India's **indigenous aerospace capabilities**
- Helps address the **declining fighter squadron strength** of the IAF

- Reduces reliance on traditional suppliers like Russia



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. BEML recently secured an export order worth how much from the Middle East?

- A. \$26.38 million
- B. \$36.38 million
- C. \$46.38 million
- D. \$56.38 million

Answer: B. \$36.38 million

Explanation: BEML received a major export order worth \$36.38 million, boosting India's engineering exports.

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2. The equipment supplied by BEML in the Middle East deal is primarily used for:

- A. Space exploration
- B. Agriculture
- C. Heavy earthmoving and infrastructure
- D. Naval warfare

Answer: C. Heavy earthmoving and infrastructure

Explanation: The order includes heavy earthmoving machinery for mining and infrastructure projects.

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**3. Which organisation is responsible for showcasing Pralay and BrahMos missiles in Bihar?**

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

**Answer: B. DRDO**

**Explanation: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is showcasing advanced defence systems.**

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**4. Pralay missile is best described as:**

- A. Intercontinental ballistic missile
- B. Tactical ballistic missile
- C. Cruise missile
- D. Anti-satellite weapon

**Answer: B. Tactical ballistic missile**

**Explanation: Pralay is a short-range tactical ballistic missile with high precision.**

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**5. BrahMos missile is a:**

- A. Hypersonic missile
- B. Subsonic cruise missile
- C. Supersonic cruise missile
- D. Ballistic missile

**Answer: C. Supersonic cruise missile**

**Explanation: BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile, jointly developed by India and Russia.**

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**6. The India–Uzbekistan joint military exercise held in April 2026 is named:**

- A. Yudh Abhyas
- B. Malabar
- C. Dustlik
- D. Garuda

**Answer: C. Dustlik**

**Explanation: Exercise Dustlik strengthens military cooperation between India and Uzbekistan.**

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**7. The primary focus of Exercise Dustlik is:**

- A. Naval warfare
- B. Air combat
- C. Counter-terrorism operations
- D. Space defence

**Answer: C. Counter-terrorism operations**

**Explanation: The exercise emphasizes counter-terror drills and joint operations.**

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**8. The Strait of Hormuz is strategically important because:**

- A. It connects two continents
- B. It is a major oil transit route
- C. It is a military base
- D. It is a trade agreement zone

**Answer: B. It is a major oil transit route**

**Explanation: A large portion of global oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz, making it geopolitically crucial.**

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**9. India launched which operation to ensure safe passage of oil shipments in the Middle East crisis?**

- A. Operation Vijay
- B. Operation Sankalp
- C. Operation Urja Suraksha
- D. Operation Raksha

**Answer: C. Operation Urja Suraksha**

**Explanation: India initiated Operation Urja Suraksha to protect its energy supply routes.**

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**10. The India–US jet engine deal mainly focuses on:**

- A. Import of fighter jets
- B. Nuclear weapons development
- C. Technology transfer and co-development
- D. Space exploration

**Answer: C. Technology transfer and co-development**

**Explanation: The agreement enables joint development and technology sharing of jet engines.**

**11. Consider the following statements about BEML Limited:**

1. It operates under the Ministry of Defence.
2. It manufactures equipment for mining, railways, and defence sectors.
3. It is a private sector enterprise.

**Which of the statements are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: A. 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation: BEML is a public sector undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence and operates in multiple sectors.**

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**12. Which of the following best explains the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz?**

- A. It connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans
- B. It is a major global oil supply route
- C. It hosts the UN headquarters
- D. It is a nuclear test site

**Answer: B. It is a major global oil supply route**

**Explanation: Around 20% of global oil trade passes through this chokepoint.**

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**13. The Exercise Dustlik is conducted between India and:**

- A. Kazakhstan
- B. Uzbekistan
- C. Kyrgyzstan
- D. Tajikistan

**Answer: B. Uzbekistan**

**Explanation: Dustlik strengthens India–Uzbekistan defence cooperation.**

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**14. Which of the following is NOT correctly matched?**

- A. Pralay – Tactical ballistic missile
- B. BrahMos – Supersonic cruise missile
- C. Akash – Surface-to-air missile
- D. Nag – Intercontinental ballistic missile

**Answer: D. Nag – Intercontinental ballistic missile**

**Explanation: Nag is an anti-tank guided missile, not ICBM.**

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**15. The term “Aatmanirbhar Bharat” in defence refers to:**

- A. Import of advanced weapons
- B. Indigenous defence production
- C. Foreign military alliances
- D. Nuclear disarmament

**Answer: B. Indigenous defence production**

**Explanation: It focuses on self-reliance in defence manufacturing.**

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**16. Which organisation developed the Pralay missile?**

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

**Answer: C. DRDO**

**Explanation: DRDO is responsible for India’s missile development programs.**

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**17. The BrahMos missile is a joint venture between India and:**

- A. USA
- B. Israel
- C. France
- D. Russia

**Answer: D. Russia**

**Explanation: BrahMos is jointly developed by India and Russia.**

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**18. The India–US jet engine agreement is significant because it:**

- A. Allows direct import of engines
- B. Promotes technology transfer
- C. Stops indigenous production
- D. Focuses only on civil aviation

**Answer: B. Promotes technology transfer**

**Explanation: It enhances indigenous fighter jet capability.**

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**19. Which of the following regions is the primary destination of BEML's recent export order?**

- A. Europe
- B. Africa
- C. Middle East
- D. Southeast Asia

**Answer: C. Middle East**

**Explanation: The order was secured from the Middle East region.**

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**20. Exercise Dustlik primarily involves which type of forces?**

- A. Naval forces
- B. Air forces
- C. Special forces
- D. Cyber units

**Answer: C. Special forces**

**Explanation: It focuses on special forces training and counter-terrorism.**