

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Australia Plans Major Defence Spending Boost

- Australia has announced a significant long-term plan to strengthen its military capabilities by increasing defence spending to **3% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2033**. This marks one of the **largest peacetime military investments** in the country's history.
- Currently, Australia spends around **2% of its GDP on defence**, but the government aims to gradually increase this through a combination of public funding and private investment. The plan includes an additional **A\$14 billion over the next four years** and about **A\$53 billion over the coming decade**.
- **Key Reasons Behind the Move**
- Rising geopolitical tensions, especially in the **Indo-Pacific region**
- Strategic competition between major powers like the US and China
- Growing global instability, described as the most serious since **World War II**
- Australia's leadership has emphasized that **eroding international norms and increasing conflicts worldwide** require stronger defence preparedness. The investment will focus on enhancing the capabilities of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), improving deterrence, and building long-term self-reliance.



India–Germany Strengthen Defence & Energy Ties

- Amid escalating global uncertainties, particularly the ongoing **West Asia crisis**, India and Germany have decided to deepen their cooperation in several strategic sectors, including **defence, energy, and advanced technologies**.
- The decision was taken during high-level **India–Germany Foreign Office Consultations held in Berlin**, co-chaired by senior officials from both countries.
- **Key Areas of Cooperation**
 - Defence and security collaboration
 - Green hydrogen and renewable energy
 - Critical and emerging technologies
 - Industrial partnerships and digital governance
- Both nations also exchanged views on major global developments such as:
 - The **West Asia conflict**
 - The **Russia–Ukraine war**
- These discussions highlight a shared commitment to **strengthening strategic partnerships** and ensuring stability in an increasingly uncertain global environment.
- **Strategic Significance**
 - These developments reflect a broader global trend:
 - Countries are **boosting defence capabilities** in response to rising geopolitical tensions
 - Nations are forming **strategic partnerships** to secure energy supplies and technological advancement
 - The **West Asia crisis** is influencing both defence planning and energy security worldwide
 - For India, collaboration with Germany enhances its push for **technological growth and energy diversification**, while Australia’s move signals a stronger military posture in the Indo-Pacific region.



Naval Commanders' Conference-2026

- The Indian Navy Commanders' Conference 01/2026 commenced at Nausena Bhawan on 14 Apr 2026 with an inaugural address by Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, to senior naval leadership, outstation Operational and Area Commanders, and Command Headquarters and Naval Headquarters staff.
- The CNS commended the Navy's achievements in safeguarding India's maritime interests, including energy security amidst the ongoing conflict in West Asia, increased tempo of operations, and enhanced inter-service synergy.
- CNS laid emphasis on the continued focus on combat readiness and adapting emerging technologies to build a Future Ready force.
- The CNS reiterated the Indian Navy's commitments in the Indian Ocean Region and beyond in the emerging geostrategic scenario, and the significance of Cohesive and Credible approach through proactive engagements with Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) in multilateral and bilateral exercises.
- Operational highlights, including salient issues pertaining to jointness, capability enhancement (afloat and ashore), maintenance and refits, multi-domain safety practices, training, foreign cooperation, HR issues, and innovation and indigenisation, were discussed during the Conference.



IOS Sagar Ship Arrives At Phuket

- Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR arrived at Phuket, Thailand, on 14 Apr 2026 on completion of a six-day transit from Malé, Maldives, marking the second port call of its ongoing mission.
- The IOS SAGAR-INS Sunayna, with a multinational crew from 16 Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs), is on deployment to the Indian Ocean Region, reinforcing the vision of MAHASAGAR (**Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**).
- During the port call at Phuket, IOS SAGAR is scheduled to engage in professional interactions with the Royal Thai Navy (RTN), aimed at strengthening bilateral defence cooperation and enhancing mutual understanding.
- A range of social, cultural and sporting engagements are also planned to foster camaraderie and people-to-people connect.
- The ship's stay coincides with the Songkran festival, the traditional Thai New Year, providing an opportunity for strengthening cultural exchanges amongst the participating navies.



Italy Scraps Defence Deal With Israel

- Italy suspended a defence cooperation deal with Israel. While Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni government has generally been a supporter of Israel and its leader Benjamin Netanyahu, recently, it has criticised his actions.
- Israel's ties with Europe are under growing strain as violence in Gaza continues, Israeli settlers clash with Palestinians in West Bank, and the Israeli campaign in Lebanon gets more devastating. Many European countries, including Spain, France, the UK, and Ireland have criticised Israel, but the action coming from ally Meloni is especially significant.
- Israel had last week fired warning shots at Italian troops part of the UN's peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, damaging the vehicle. Italy had condemned this, also summoning the Israeli ambassador.
- **Reasons for Suspension**
- Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government is under pressure to reassess ties with Israel following criticism of Israeli actions in Lebanon.
- Italy condemned Israel's warning shots at Italian troops in Lebanon and summoned Israel's ambassador over the incident.
- Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani criticized Israel's bombing of Lebanon, leading to diplomatic exchanges.
- **Details of the Defence Agreement**

- Signed in 2003 and enforced in 2006, the agreement involved joint military exercises, training, equipment exchange, and research partnerships.
 - The automatic renewal of this agreement was suspended due to the current situation.
 - **European Union-Israel Relations**
 - Many European countries, including Spain, France, the UK, and Ireland, have called for a tougher stance against Israel. The EU-Israel Association Agreement, effective since 2000, facilitates political dialogue and economic cooperation, but human rights remain a contentious issue.
- The EU is Israel's largest trading partner, responsible for 32% of Israel's trade in 2024.
 - Goods from Israeli settlements post-June 1967 do not receive preferential tariffs within the EU.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Australia plans to increase its defence spending to what percentage of GDP by 2033?**
 - A. 2%
 - B. 2.5%
 - C. 3%
 - D. 4%

ANSWER: C

2. Which of the following is not a reason behind Australia's defence spending boost?

- A. Rising Indo-Pacific tensions
- B. Climate change concerns
- C. Strategic competition between US and China
- D. Global instability

ANSWER: B

3. The India–Germany Foreign Office Consultations were held in which city?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Munich
- C. Berlin
- D. Frankfurt

ANSWER: C

4. Which of the following is a key area of cooperation between India and Germany?

- A. Space tourism
- B. Green hydrogen and renewable energy
- C. Agriculture subsidies
- D. Sports exchange

ANSWER: B

5. The Indian Navy Commanders' Conference 01/2026 was inaugurated by whom?

- A. Rajnath Singh
- B. Dinesh K Tripathi
- C. Narendra Modi
- D. Ajit Doval

ANSWER: B

6. ASMI Pistol Designed By

- A. Col Prasad Bansod
- B. Col Prakash Bansod
- C. Col Manpreet Singh
- D. None

ANSWER: A

7. Drishti 10 Starliner Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: A

8. Current Executive of Defence Planning Committee

- A. Rajnath Singh
- B. Narendra Modi
- C. Nirmla Sitaraman
- D. Ajit Doval

ANSWER: D

9. Field Marshal Of Indian Army Is A

- A. 2 Star General
- B. 3 Star General
- C. 4 Star General
- D. 5 Star General

ANSWER: D

10. Defence Space Agency Hq Is Located At

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Chennai
- D. Noida

ANSWER: B

11. INS Kochi Is A

- A. Guided-missile destroyers
- B. Landing ship tank
- C. Submarine

D. Frigates

ANSWER: A

12. _ Is Not A G7 member.

A. China

B. USA

C. UK

D. France

ANSWER: A

13. The Standard Meridian Of India Is

A. 82 degrees 30' E

B. 84 degrees 30' E

C. 72 degrees 30' E

D. 92 degrees 30' E

ANSWER: A

14. Army Medical Corps Motto Is

A. Courage and Valor

B. Sarve santu niramaya

C. Service Before Self

D. Lethal

ANSWER: B

15. Glock 18 Is A

A. Destroyer

B. Machine Pistol

C. Assault rifle

D. Submachine gun

ANSWER: B

16. Which Is The Largest Uranium-producing Country In The World?

- A. USA
- B. India
- C. Kazakhstan
- D. Uzbekistan

ANSWER: C

17. Kaiga Atomic Power Plant Is In

- A. Karnataka
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: A

18. Who established the Atomic Energy Commission of India in 1948?

- A. P.K. Iyengar
- B. M.R. Srinivasan
- C. Vikram Sarabhai
- D. Homi Bhabha

ANSWER: D

19. Nay Pyi Taw Is The Capital Of

- A. Bhutan
- B. Nepal
- C. Afghanistan
- D. Myanmar

ANSWER: D

20. Ex 'Konkan Shakti' conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. UK

C. UAE

D. Japan

ANSWER: B



SSBCrack
EXAMS