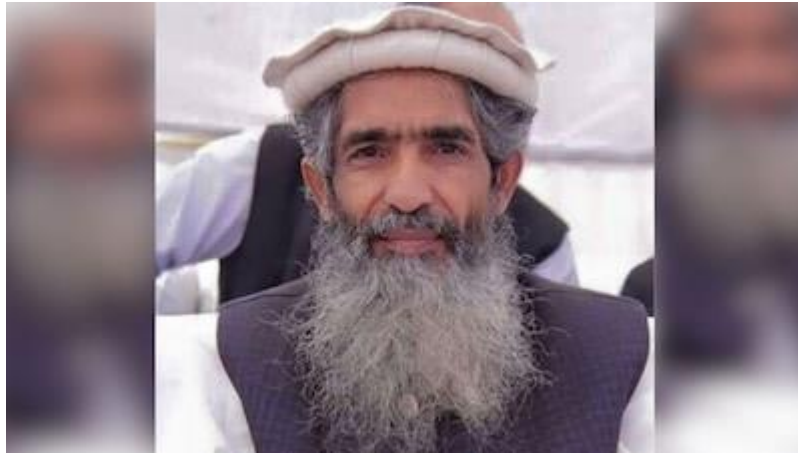


# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 17 April 2026

### LeT Co-founder Amir Hamza Attacked

- A major development in the regional security environment occurred when **Amir Hamza**, a co-founder of the Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), was shot by unidentified gunmen in Lahore.
- The attack took place outside a television news channel office and marks the **second assassination attempt on him within a year**. He was reportedly taken to a hospital in critical condition.
- Amir Hamza is considered one of the **key ideologues and senior-most leaders of LeT**, often regarded as second in command after Hafiz Saeed. Over the years, he has played a crucial role in:
  - Propaganda and recruitment strategies
  - Fundraising networks
  - Ideological outreach of the organisation
- He has also been linked to several terror activities, including the **2005 Indian Institute of Science (IISc) attack in Bengaluru**.
- Despite reportedly forming a splinter group called *Jaish-e-Manqafa* in 2018, Hamza has continued to remain influential in extremist networks. He is also designated as a **global terrorist by the United States**.
- This incident reflects a broader pattern of **targeted attacks on high-profile terror figures in Pakistan**, raising questions about internal conflicts and security dynamics within such groups.



## India to Launch Bids for Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200)

- In a separate but strategically important development, India is preparing to invite bids for the **220 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200)**, marking a major step in its clean energy and nuclear expansion strategy.
- The project is being developed by:
  - Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)
  - Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)
- The government is expected to invite bids within the **next 3–6 months**, with both domestic and foreign companies allowed to participate (in partnership with Indian firms).
- **Key Features of BSMR-200**
  - Capacity: **220 Megawatt Electric (MWe)**
  - Type: Compact Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor
  - Cost: Approx. ₹5,900+ crore (pilot project)
  - Construction timeline: 5–6 years
  - Designed for **modular, scalable deployment**
- **Strategic Importance**
  - Supports India's **green energy transition**
  - Helps reduce dependence on fossil fuels
  - Strengthens **energy security and self-reliance**
  - Part of the **Nuclear Energy Mission** targeting **100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047**
  - Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are seen as a **game-changing technology**, offering:
    - Lower costs

- Enhanced safety features
- Flexibility for industrial and remote applications



## Sheshnaag-150 Swarm Drone: India's Leap into Advanced Drone Warfare

- India has achieved a significant milestone in indigenous defence technology with the successful testing of the **Sheshnaag-150 swarm drone**, a long-range unmanned combat system designed for modern battlefield requirements. The recent demonstration at Pokhran highlights India's growing capabilities in autonomous and swarm-based warfare.
- **Successful Test at Pokhran**
- The **Sheshnaag-150** drone underwent a crucial test at the Pokhran range, where it demonstrated its ability to operate as part of a coordinated swarm. The trial showcased real-time manoeuvring, navigation, and controlled detonation in a safe testing environment.
- One of the most notable aspects of the test was its **700 km strike demonstration**, indicating strong long-range operational capability. Although the system was not tested to its full limits, it is designed to reach distances of up to **1,000 km**, making it suitable for deep-strike missions.
- **Key Features of Sheshnaag-150**
- **1. Swarm Warfare Capability**
- The drone operates in groups (swarms), where multiple units coordinate using advanced algorithms. This allows them to:
  - Attack from multiple directions
  - Overwhelm enemy air defence systems
  - Increase mission success rates
- Swarm technology acts as a **force multiplier** in modern warfare.

- **2. Long-Range Strike & Endurance**
- Operational range: **700–1000 km+**
- Endurance: **Over 5 hours**
- Capable of deep penetration into enemy territory
- This allows surveillance, loitering, and precision strike missions without immediate human intervention.
- **3. Payload & Combat Capability**
- Each drone can carry a warhead of approximately **25–40 kg**, capable of targeting:
  - Military infrastructure
  - Vehicles and logistics hubs
  - Command and control centres
- **4. AI & Autonomous Operations**
- The Sheshnaag-150 uses advanced **AI-driven coordination software** (often referred to as “mother code”) that enables:
  - Real-time communication between drones
  - Autonomous target identification
  - Adaptive mission behaviour
  - This reduces dependence on continuous human control.
- **5. GPS-Denied Navigation**
- A major advantage is its ability to operate even when GPS signals are jammed. The drone is expected to use **visual navigation systems**, allowing it to:
  - Recognize terrain
  - Continue missions in electronic warfare environments
- **Strategic Importance for India**
- The development of Sheshnaag-150 reflects India’s shift towards **indigenous, cost-effective, and scalable defence solutions.**
- **Why It Matters**
- Provides a cheaper alternative to expensive cruise missiles
- Enhances **deep strike capability**
- Reduces risk to human pilots
- Strengthens **Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence**
- The ability to deploy multiple low-cost drones instead of a single high-cost weapon fundamentally changes battlefield strategy.
- **Future Role in Warfare**
- Modern conflicts have shown the effectiveness of swarm drones in disrupting enemy defences. Systems like Sheshnaag-150 are expected to play a major role in:
  - Border surveillance (LoC & LAC)

- High-altitude warfare
- Precision strikes in hostile environments
- Network-centric and AI-driven combat systems



## Vladimir Putin to Attend BRICS Summit in India 2026

- A major diplomatic development has emerged as **Vladimir Putin**, the President of Russia, is set to visit India in 2026 to participate in the upcoming BRICS Summit. This visit highlights the continuing strength of India-Russia relations and the growing importance of multilateral cooperation among emerging economies.

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### • **Confirmation of Visit**

- According to official statements from the Kremlin, Vladimir Putin will **“definitely” attend the BRICS Summit** scheduled to be held in India later this year. The confirmation was given by Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, although exact dates are yet to be announced.
- India is expected to host the **18th BRICS Summit in September 2026**, under the leadership of **Narendra Modi**, as part of its presidency of the grouping.

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### • **Second Visit Within a Year**

- This visit will mark **Putin’s second trip to India within a year**, reflecting the close strategic partnership between the two nations.
- His last visit took place in **December 2025**, during the India-Russia Annual Summit

- The visit also marked the **25th anniversary of the India-Russia Strategic Partnership**
- Frequent high-level engagements indicate that both countries continue to prioritise cooperation despite global geopolitical shifts.

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- **Significance of the BRICS Summit**

- The **BRICS grouping**—comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa along with new members—serves as a key platform for:
  - Strengthening economic cooperation
  - Enhancing trade and investment
  - Discussing global governance reforms
  - Addressing geopolitical challenges
- The 2026 summit is expected to take place at a time of **heightened global uncertainty**, making discussions even more crucial.
- Recent reports also confirm that Putin’s participation underscores the importance of BRICS as a **counterbalance to Western-dominated institutions**.

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- **India’s Role as Host**

- As the host nation, India is likely to push forward key priorities such as:
  - Inclusive and sustainable development
  - Strengthening Global South cooperation
  - Promoting multilateralism
  - Addressing regional conflicts and economic instability
- India’s leadership role in BRICS further enhances its position as a **major global diplomatic player**.

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- **Strategic Importance for India-Russia Relations**

- The upcoming visit is expected to further deepen cooperation between India and Russia in areas such as:
- Defence and military technology
- Energy security (including oil and nuclear energy)
- Trade and economic partnerships
- Space and scientific collaboration
- Despite evolving global alliances, India continues to maintain a **balanced foreign policy**, strengthening ties with both Western countries and long-standing partners like Russia.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Amir Hamza is associated with which terrorist organization?
  - A. Jaish-e-Mohammed
  - B. Lashkar-e-Taiba
  - C. Taliban
  - D. ISISAns: B
2. Amir Hamza was attacked in which city?
  - A. Karachi
  - B. Islamabad
  - C. Lahore

D. Peshawar

Ans: C

3. Amir Hamza is considered close to which leader?

A. Osama bin Laden

B. Hafiz Saeed

C. Ayman al-Zawahiri

D. Masood Azhar

Ans: B

4. Amir Hamza has been linked to which 2005 attack in India?

A. Parliament Attack

B. Mumbai Attack

C. IISc Bengaluru Attack

D. Pulwama Attack

Ans: C

5. Amir Hamza was designated as a global terrorist by which country?

A. India

B. Russia

C. USA

D. UK

Ans: C

6. What does BSMR stand for?

A. Bharat Small Modular Reactor

B. Basic Small Machine Reactor

C. Bharat Strategic Mega Reactor

D. None of the above

Ans: A

7. What is the capacity of BSMR-200?

A. 100 MWe

B. 150 MWe

C. 220 MWe

D. 500 MWe

Ans: C

8. Which organizations are involved in developing BSMR-200?

A. ISRO & DRDO

B. BARC & NPCIL

C. HAL & BEL

D. NTPC & ONGC

Ans: B

9. The BSMR-200 is a type of:

- A. Thermal Power Plant
- B. Solar Reactor
- C. Nuclear Reactor
- D. Hydro Plant

Ans: C

10. India aims to achieve how much nuclear capacity by 2047?

- A. 50 GW
- B. 75 GW
- C. 100 GW
- D. 150 GW

Ans: C

11. The Sheshnaag-150 is primarily a:

- A. Fighter jet
- B. Submarine
- C. Swarm drone
- D. Missile system

Ans: C

12. The Sheshnaag-150 was tested at:

- A. Kargil
- B. Pokhran
- C. Sriharikota
- D. Andaman

Ans: B

13. What is the approximate strike range demonstrated by Sheshnaag-150?

- A. 200 km
- B. 500 km
- C. 700 km
- D. 1500 km

Ans: C

14. Maximum designed range of Sheshnaag-150 is around:

- A. 800 km
- B. 900 km
- C. 1000 km
- D. 1200 km

Ans: C

15. What is a key feature of swarm drones?

- A. Single control only

- B. Manual operation**
- C. Coordinated group attack**
- D. Limited range**

**Ans: C**

**16. Which leader is expected to attend the BRICS Summit 2026 in India?**

- A. Xi Jinping**
- B. Joe Biden**
- C. Vladimir Putin**
- D. Emmanuel Macron**

**Ans: C**

**17. BRICS does NOT include which country?**

- A. Brazil**
- B. Russia**
- C. India**
- D. Japan**

**Ans: D**

**18. The BRICS Summit 2026 is expected to be hosted by:**

- A. China**
- B. Russia**
- C. India**
- D. Brazil**

**Ans: C**

**19. Vladimir Putin is the President of:**

- A. Ukraine**
- B. Russia**
- C. Belarus**
- D. Kazakhstan**

**Ans: B**

**20. BRICS is mainly a grouping of:**

- A. Developed Western countries**
- B. Emerging economies**
- C. Military alliances**
- D. NATO countries**

**Ans: B**