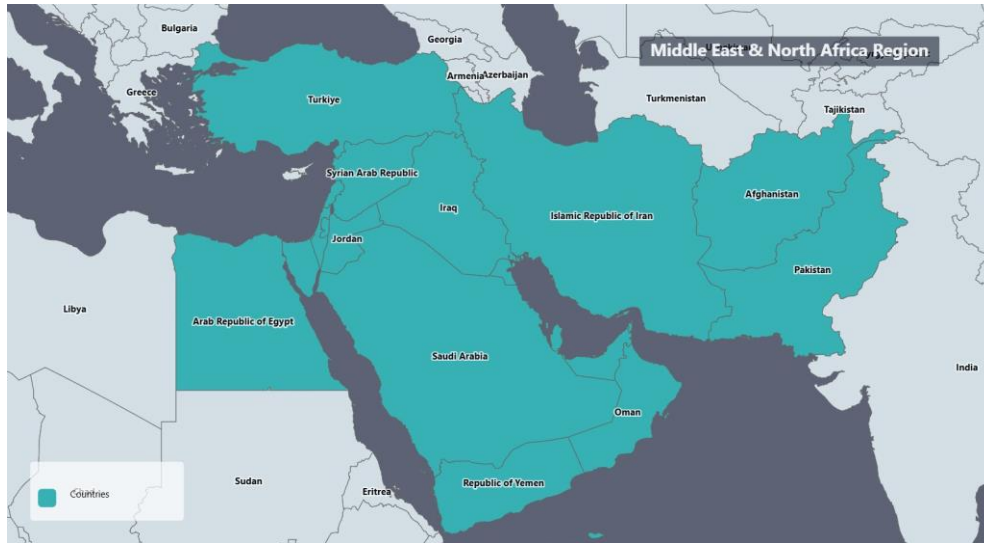


Daily Defence Current Affairs

22 April 2026

Pakistan From South Asia to MENA Region

- Pakistan has officially 'left' South Asia, at least on the World Bank's spreadsheets. In a seismic shift effective July 2025, Pakistan has been moved into the MENAAP grouping (Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan).
- **Why the World Bank Made This Move**
- The decision to reclassify Pakistan wasn't a matter of geography; it was more of an economic matter. The World Bank reclassified Pakistan into MENAAP to align it with countries that share its financial structure, labour flow, and energy dependencies. Since Pakistan has strong connections with the Gulf, this has affected its global alignment.
- While Pakistan remains geographically in South Asia, its economic linkages tell a different story. Strong financial and labour connections with Gulf economies have reshaped its global alignment.
- Pakistan's economic "centre of gravity" has steadily moved westward.
- Heavy reliance on Gulf remittances, especially from Saudi Arabia and the UAE
- Saudi Arabia and the UAE remain top sources of foreign exchange
- Recent deposits and investment pledges have strengthened ties
- Pakistan is now positioned along with 22 other countries, including **Egypt and Iran**.
- **Concerns That Must Be Considered**
- This shift is not a bed of roses. The World Bank reclassified Pakistan into a region that is undergoing notable geopolitical instability. This means that Pakistan now has economic involvement in the oil price shocks and regional volatility.
- Some of the glaring concerns involve spillover risks from the current geopolitical climate of the Middle East, as well as a potential reduction in overall funding share. To put things into perspective, in 2024, South Asia received \$15.9 billion from the World Bank.
- The MENA region, on the other hand, only got \$4.6 billion. If this continues, Pakistan will end up losing out financially.



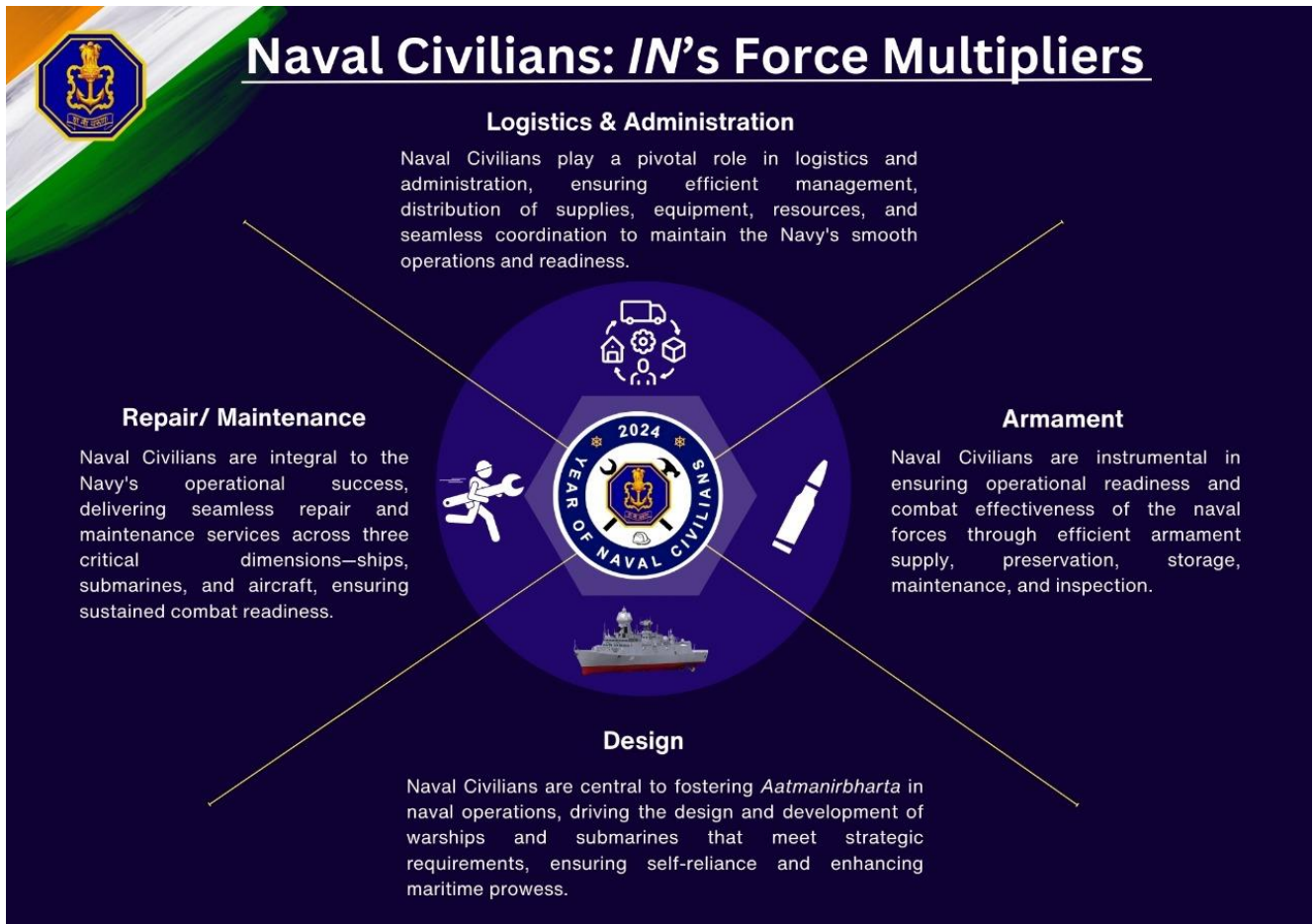
MoD inks Rs 975 crore contracts for TRAWL Assembly

- The Ministry of Defence has signed contracts with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Electro Pneumatics and Hydraulics (India) Private Limited for the procurement of TRAWL Assembly for T-72/T-90 Tanks, at an approximate cost of Rs 975 crore.
- The TRAWL Assembly for T-72/T-90 Tanks is a critical equipment developed by DRDO which will enhance the minefield breaching capability of the Indian Army.
- It would generate additional capability of creating Vehicle Safe Lanes through minefields with anti-tank mines with proximity magnetic fuses, thus enhancing the operational effectiveness of the Indian Army.
- Being a Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) case, the procurement marks a pivotal step towards modernising India's defence infrastructure and empowering indigenous industries, which will be a proud flag-bearer of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.



Naval Civilian Function Celebrating Excellence And Innovation

- Indian Navy will be hosting the Naval Civilian Function on 23 Apr 2026 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The event, aimed at recognising the invaluable contributions of Naval Civilians towards enhancing the operational preparedness of the Indian Navy, will be graced by Hon'ble Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth as the Chief Guest.
- The event will also showcase major initiatives undertaken by Naval Headquarters, Command Headquarters and various Units to maximise administrative efficiency, drive digital transformation, and promote training and welfare activities.
- Over the past year, several significant initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen human resource management, improve administrative processes, and enhance overall welfare.
- Key highlights include promulgation of policies to streamline promotions, issuance of clarifications on complex guidelines, and regulation of transfers and out-of-turn promotions.
- The introduction of the Abhar Ceremony to honour superannuating personnel, and timely grant of MACP (Modified Assured Career Progression) and NFU (Non-Functional Upgradation) to eligible personnel.



DRDO's AI-Enabled 'Prajna' Satellite Imaging System

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has received a significant technological boost with the induction of 'Prajna', an indigenously developed AI-enabled satellite imaging system.
- Handed over by Samir V Kamat, Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development, to Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, the system is designed to enhance real-time decision-making capabilities of security agencies.
- Built by the DRDO's specialised lab, the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Prajna is being described as a major advancement in surveillance, intelligence gathering and operational response.
- According to officials, the system integrates satellite imagery with advanced analytics to deliver actionable insights in real time. This capability is expected to significantly improve situational awareness and support faster, more accurate decision-making during critical operations.

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has highlighted that Prajna will play a crucial role in monitoring sensitive regions, tracking suspicious activities and supporting counter-terrorism and border management efforts.
- The system's AI-driven capabilities reflect India's growing emphasis on harnessing advanced technologies to strengthen its defence and internal security frameworks.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

EXAMS

1. Which country is hosting the 7th edition of the bilateral military exercise Dustlik in 2026?

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

ANSWER: B

2. Which company partnered with HAL to finalise a technical agreement for co-producing F414 jet engines in India in April 2026?

- A. Boeing
- B. GE Aerospace
- C. Lockheed Martin
- D. Airbus

ANSWER: B

3. Which country participated with India in the 7th edition of the joint military Exercise DUSTLIK held in April 2026?

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

ANSWER: C

4. In which Indian state did the Indian Army launch the community radio station 'Sikkim Sundari' in a border village in April 2026?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: A

5. In which country is the joint military exercise Cyclone-IV being conducted in April 2026?

- A. India
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Egypt
- D. Jordan

ANSWER: C

6. Where is the 12th SLINEX being held?

- A. Chennai
- B. Mumbai
- C. Visakhapatnam
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: C

7. ___ Is The Official Residence And Workplace Of The President Of The United States.

- A. President House
- B. White House
- C. Sansad
- D. 7 RCR

ANSWER: B

8. 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

9. IRST Stands For

- A. Infra-Red Search and Terrorist System
- B. Infra-Red Search and Tokyo System
- C. Infra-Red Search and Track System
- D. None

ANSWER: C

10. India Sold Brahmos Missile To

- A. Philippines
- B. Vietnam
- C. Thailand
- D. Japan

ANSWER: A

11. Agni-V Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. IRBM
- D. ICBM

ANSWER: D

12. Which is Not Correctly Matched:

- A. IAF Day: 8 Oct
- B. Indian Navy Day: 4 Dec
- C. Indian Coast Guard: 26 Jan
- D. BSF Day: 1 Dec

ANSWER: C

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

- A. JKRIF
- B. RR

- C. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- D. Madras Regiment

ANSWER: C

14. IAF Was Formed On

- A. 8 October 1932
- B. 8 October 1922
- C. 8 October 1942
- D. 8 October 1952

ANSWER: A

15. SLBM Stands For

- A. Submarine-launched Ballistic Misery
- B. Submarine-launched Ballistic Missile
- C. Submarine-launched Ballet Missile
- D. Solar-launched Ballistic Missile

ANSWER: B

16. Lima Is The Capital Of

- A. Poland
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Peru

ANSWER: D

17. "The Epic Battle of Longewala" Book Written By

- A. Arun Kumar
- B. Ashish Ghatak
- C. Ramesh Kandula
- D. Air Marshal Retd Bharat Kumar

ANSWER: D

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

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

ANSWER: D

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

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

ANSWER: A

20. Merkava Mk.4 Is The Tank Of

- A. Germany
- B. Israel
- C. USA
- D. India

ANSWER: B

