

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will lead a high-level Indian delegation to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting which will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on April 28, 2026.
- During the meeting, the Defence Ministers of various member countries will deliberate upon a number of issues concerning the defence & security of the region. Issues related to international peace, counter-terrorism and defence cooperation among SCO member states will also be discussed.
- This year's SCO meeting is taking place in the backdrop of geopolitical turmoil being witnessed due to the situation in West Asia. The SCO, one of the largest political & economic organisations of the region, may discuss measures to reduce the impact of the ongoing conflict.
- Raksha Mantri will highlight India's commitment towards global peace, amidst the prevailing global security challenges, and underline India's consistent stance on zero tolerance for terrorism & extremism.
- The SCO is an intern-governmental organisation established on June 15, 2001 in Shanghai, China. Its membership includes **India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus**. India became a full member in 2017 and assumed the rotating chairmanship in 2023.



India Hands Over Personal Watercraft to Sri Lanka

- India handed over to Sri Lanka two personal watercraft (PWC) to further enhance the Sri Lankan Coast Guard's capabilities in near shore Search and Rescue, the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka.
- In a post on X, it noted that the Defence Advisor handed over two PWCs along with safety gears to the Director Operations at SLCG Headquarters in Mirissa.
- India and Sri Lanka continue to deepen their partnership across all fronts. Earlier, the two countries strengthened their naval partnership during the 4th edition of the diving exercise, which is underway in Colombo.
- India's naval vessel **INS Nireekshak** arrived at Colombo to participate in the fourth edition of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral diving exercise, IN-SLN DIVEX 2026, scheduled from April 21 to April 27.
- The IN-SLN DIVEX exercise underscores the deep-rooted maritime partnership between the two countries and reflects their shared commitment to ensuring stability and cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.



India's Military Expenditure Rose by 8.9%

- India, the fifth biggest military spender in the world in 2025, increased its military spending by 8.9 per cent to USD 92.1 billion, according to a report released by arms watchdog group SIPRI.
- The global world military expenditure reached **USD 2887 billion** in 2025, the 11th consecutive year of growth, and the five biggest spenders in 2025 were the **United States, China, Russia, Germany and India**, together accounting for 58 per cent of world military spending, at a total of USD 1,686 billion, according to new data published today by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- The India-Pakistan conflict in May 2025--which involved the use of combat aircraft, drones and missiles--pushed up military spending of India during the year, according to SIPRI's annual "Trends in World Military Expenditure" report.
- "Pakistan's military spending grew by 11 per cent to USD 11.9 billion in 2025. The increase was largely due to new orders for aircraft and missiles placed with China in 2025 following the armed conflict with India in May, as well as payments for earlier procurement contracts nearing completion," it said
- The world's military burden--the share of global gross domestic product (GDP) devoted to military expenditure--went up from 2.4 per cent in 2024 to 2.5 per cent in 2025. The global average military expenditure as a share of government expenditure was 6.9 per cent in 2025, compared with 7.0 percent in 2024, and world spending per person stood at USD 352 in 2025.



Sigma Gets ₹3,800 Crore Rolls- Royce Contract For Aerospace Parts

- Sigma Advanced Systems has signed a seven-year agreement valued at nearly £300 million (around ₹3,800 crore) with Rolls-Royce to manufacture and supply a wide portfolio of high-precision-engineered, safety-critical components and assemblies for the latter's aerospace programmes.
- The contract provides a long-term revenue stream and stronger visibility over future growth, Sigma said. It is a programme-level partnership delivered through its manufacturing network across India and the UK. The partnership builds an existing relationship.
- With proximity, engineering collaboration, and programme alignment in the UK, the company cement its transition from a system player to a more integrated manufacturing partner capable of handling larger work packages, the company said.
- The partnership with Rolls-Royce "validates the investments we have made in building a connected India-UK platform and our focus on quality, reliability and long-term partnerships. We see this as an opportunity to deepen our role in global aerospace programmes while continuing to scale our capabilities across both regions," CEO Sunil Kumar Kalidindi said in a release.
- An aerospace and defence company with more than three decades of manufacturing experience, Sigma operates across India and the UK, with expansion under way in the U.S. The company works with global aerospace and defence OEMs at the programme level through long-term agreements and delegated responsibilities.

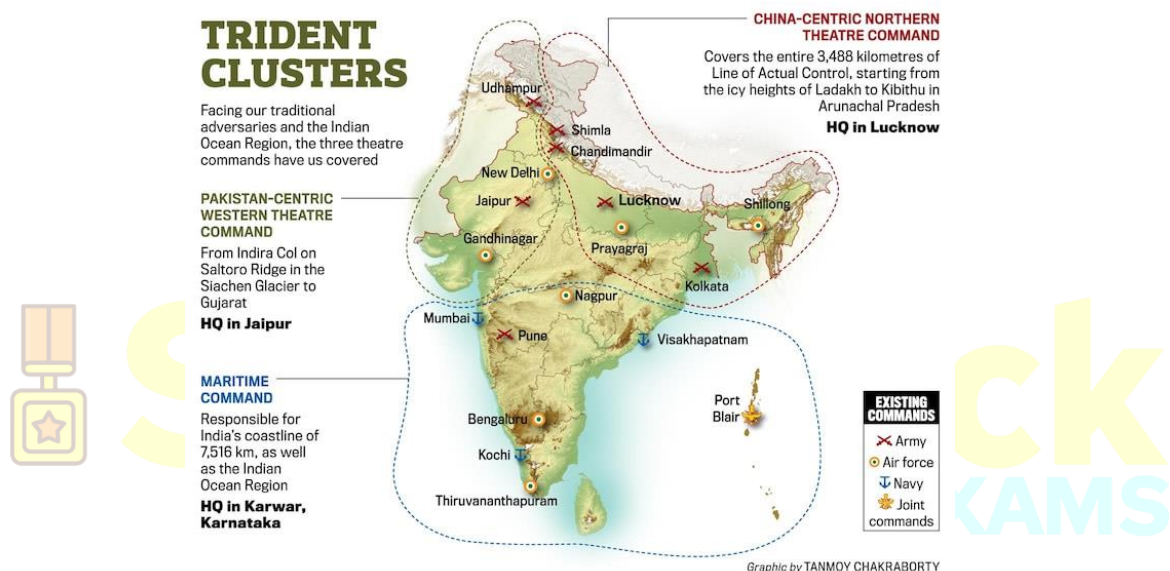


India's Theatre Command

- India's top military leadership is set to convene in Jaipur on 7–8 May for the Joint Commanders' Conference, a gathering that will bring together senior commanders from the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- The meeting will focus on integration, procurement priorities and operational challenges, reflecting the armed forces' ongoing push to strengthen coordination across the three services. While such conferences have been held before, this year's event carries added weight as it coincides with the final stages of approval for integrated theatre commands.
- CDS General Anil Chauhan recently confirmed at the Ran Samvad seminar in Bengaluru that the internal process for theatre commands is nearly complete. He stated that the proposal is ready to move to the Defence Minister and subsequently to the Cabinet Committee on Security. Defence Budget Updates
- According to him, consultations among the services have been conducted through a structured mechanism to resolve inter-service issues before the proposal advances further. He acknowledged that while there is broad agreement on the concept, differences remain over how the structure should be executed.
- The proposal under consideration recommends appointing four-star theatre commanders, placing them on par with the service chiefs. Initially, three primary theatre commands are expected to be established. The western theatre command, focused on Pakistan, is likely to be led by an Air Force officer.
- The northern theatre command, centred on China and the Line of Actual Control, is expected to be headed by an Army officer. The maritime theatre command, overseeing operations in the Indian Ocean Region, is likely to be

commanded by a Navy officer. The plan also includes the creation of a Vice Chief of Defence Staff and deputy commanders for each theatre.

- At present, India operates through 17 single-service commands—seven each under the Army and Air Force, and three under the Navy. The theatre command concept aims to replace this fragmented structure with integrated commands capable of fighting as a unified force.
- If approved, the reform would represent the most significant restructuring of India’s armed forces since Independence, with four-star theatre commanders functioning alongside the service chiefs under a more integrated command system.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The SCO Defence Ministers’ Meeting 2026 is scheduled to be held in:

- A. Tashkent
- B. Beijing
- C. Bishkek
- D. Astana

Answer: C. Bishkek

Explanation: The 2026 SCO Defence Ministers’ Meeting will take place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

2. India is represented at the SCO Defence Ministers’ Meeting by:

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Rajnath Singh
- C. Ajit Doval
- D. S. Jaishankar

Answer: B. Rajnath Singh

Explanation: The Defence Minister leads India's delegation at the SCO meeting.

3. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was established in:

- A. 1995
- B. 2001
- C. 2010
- D. 2015

Answer: B. 2001

Explanation: SCO was founded on June 15, 2001, in Shanghai.

4. India became a full member of the SCO in:

- A. 2015
- B. 2016
- C. 2017
- D. 2018

Answer: C. 2017

Explanation: India joined SCO as a full member in 2017.

5. India recently provided personal watercraft (PWC) to:

- A. Maldives
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Myanmar
- D. Sri Lanka

Answer: D. Sri Lanka

Explanation: The PWCs were given to enhance Sri Lanka's coastal security and rescue operations.

6. Which Indian naval vessel participated in IN-SLN DIVEX 2026?

- A. INS Vikrant
- B. INS Arihant
- C. INS Nireekshak
- D. INS Kolkata

Answer: C. INS Nireekshak

Explanation: INS Nireekshak took part in the bilateral diving exercise with Sri Lanka.

7. According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India's military expenditure in 2025 was approximately:

- A. USD 70 billion
- B. USD 82 billion
- C. USD 92.1 billion
- D. USD 110 billion

Answer: C. USD 92.1 billion

Explanation: India's defence spending rose by 8.9% to USD 92.1 billion in 2025.

8. Which company signed a ₹3,800 crore aerospace contract with Rolls-Royce?

- A. HAL
- B. Tata Advanced Systems
- C. DRDO
- D. Sigma Advanced Systems

Answer: D. Sigma Advanced Systems

Explanation: Sigma secured a long-term aerospace manufacturing deal with Rolls-Royce.

9. The proposed Northern Theatre Command of India is primarily focused on:

- A. Indian Ocean Region
- B. Pakistan
- C. China and Line of Actual Control
- D. Southeast Asia

Answer: C. China and Line of Actual Control

Explanation: The northern command will handle security concerns along the China border.

10. India currently operates how many single-service military commands?

- A. 12
- B. 15
- C. 17
- D. 19

Answer: C. 17

Explanation: India has 17 commands (Army: 7, Air Force: 7, Navy: 3), which may be integrated into theatre commands.

11. Who has been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog?

- A. Raghuram Rajan

- B. Arvind Subramanian
- C. Ashok Kumar Lahiri
- D. Urjit Patel

ANSWER: C

12. Barak Is A

- A. Surface-to-air Missile
- B. Surface-to-Surface Missile
- C. Air-to-air Missile
- D. Surface-to-Sea Missile

ANSWER: A

13. "Ordnance Factory Day" in India Is Observed On

- A. 14 March
- B. 15 March
- C. 16 March
- D. 18 March

ANSWER: D

14. INS Valsura Located At

- A. Jamnagar, Gujrat
- B. Mumbai, M.H
- C. Kochi, Kerala
- D. A & NC

ANSWER: A

15. Exercise Maitree Conducted B/w India &

- A. Thailand
- B. Nepal
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: A

16. Infantry School Of Indian Army Is At

- A. Mhow
- B. Bhopal
- C. Gwalior
- D. Jammu

ANSWER: A

17. Officers Training Academy Is At

- A. Chennai
- B. Bhopal
- C. Gaya
- D. Both A & C

ANSWER: D

18. Northern Army Command headquarters Is in

- A. Jaipur
- B. Udhampur
- C. Pune
- D. Lucknow

ANSWER: B

19. DF-41 ICBM Is A Missile Of

- A. India
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. North Korea

ANSWER: C

20. The IAI Heron UAV Developed By

- A. USA
- B. South Korea
- C. Israel
- D. China

ANSWER: C