

Daily Defence Current Affairs

02 May 2026

'Mahendragiri' Delivered

- Mahendragiri (Yard 12654), the sixth ship of Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) and fourth ship of the class built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), was delivered to the Indian Navy on 30 Apr 2026 at MDSL, Mumbai.
- The delivery marks a significant milestone in achieving self-reliance in warship design and construction.
- Project 17A frigates are versatile multi-mission platforms designed to address current and emerging challenges in the maritime domain.
- This state-of-the-art frigate reflects a quantum leap in naval design, stealth, firepower, automation, and survivability, and stands as an admirable symbol of Aatmanirbharta in warship building.
- P17A ships are fitted with an advanced weapon and sensor suite as compared to the P17 (Shivalik-class). These ships are configured with Combined Diesel or Gas propulsion plants, comprising a diesel engine and a gas turbine that drive a Controllable Pitch Propeller on each shaft, and a state-of-the-art Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).
- Mahendragiri is the sixth P17A ship to be delivered to Indian Navy in the span of less than 17 months from the delivery of the first P17A (Nilgiri) by M/s MDSL on 20 Dec 2024.
- Delivery of Mahendragiri showcases the design, shipbuilding, and engineering prowess of the nation, and reflects Navy's unrelenting focus on Aatmanirbharta in both ship design and shipbuilding. With an indigenous content of 75%.



Lt General Balbir Singh Assumes Charge Of Chinar Corps

- Lieutenant General Balbir Singh assumed command of Srinagar-based Chinar Corps of the Army. He has over 34 years of service.
- Lt Gen Singh paid obeisance at the Chinar War Memorial in Srinagar, honouring the supreme sacrifice of soldiers and affirmed his resolve to work in close synergy with the civil administration and the 'awaam of Kashmir' to strengthen peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
- The Army said he possesses extensive experience in counter-infiltration and counter-terrorism operations in J&K and the Northeast. A Srinagar-based defence spokesperson said he has previously commanded the Counter Insurgency Force (Victor) in South Kashmir.



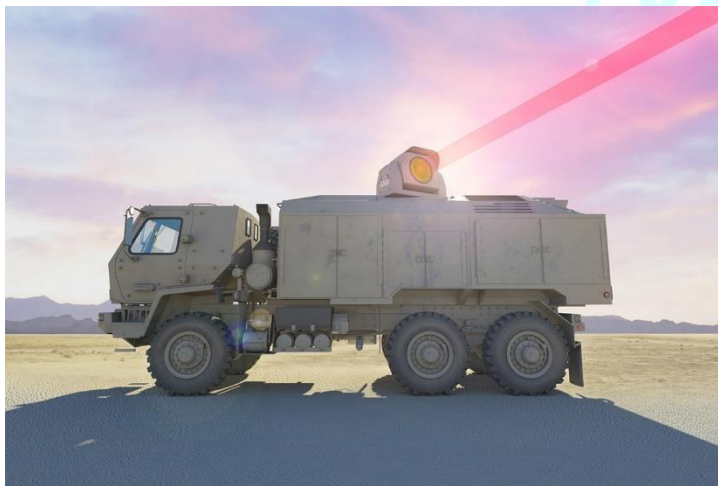
India Successfully Tests Phase-II Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile

- India has successfully conducted a significant test of its long-range anti-ship hypersonic missile system from a defence facility off the Odisha coast.
- The DRDO achieved a milestone by testing Phase-II of the Long-Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile which incorporates a two-stage hypersonic glide vehicle design. This marks a crucial advancement in India's pursuit of next-generation strike capabilities.
- Top defence sources confirmed that the hypersonic missile achieved impressive range, precisely striking a target 1,500 km away—a breakthrough that extends the nation's maritime defensive perimeter significantly farther into the ocean.
- The LR-AShM has been developed to meet the Indian Navy's coastal defence requirements, with the ability to engage both stationary and moving maritime targets. It is designed to carry multiple payload configurations, enhancing its operational flexibility.
- The missile operates as a hypersonic glide vehicle, following a quasi-ballistic trajectory. It achieves speeds up to Mach 10 during its initial powered phase, before transitioning into a controlled glide phase at an average velocity of around Mach 5.



Olee Space Delivers India's First Private DEW

- Pune-based deep-tech start-up OleeSpace has reportedly delivered what is being described as India's first private sector-developed Directed Energy Weapon, or laser weapon system, to the Indian Army.
- Emerging from reported developments in early 2026, the company has concentrated on compact, AI-powered laser systems, marking a significant step forward for private sector involvement in India's advanced defence technology landscape.
- The system unveiled by Olee Space is a compact 2-kilowatt AI-enabled laser sniper platform mounted on an Unmanned Ground Vehicle. It has been specifically designed for close-combat scenarios, perimeter defence, and anti-drone or UAV operations.
- The weapon is capable of neutralising, dazzling, or functionally damaging hostile personnel, vehicles, and equipment within seconds, offering a rapid response capability against diverse threats.
- The platform incorporates AI-based object recognition, enabling it to autonomously track and engage multiple targets simultaneously. This autonomous operation enhances its effectiveness in complex combat environments where speed and precision are paramount.



Iran's IRGC Announces New Rules To Strengthen Control Over Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz

- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has announced "new rules" governing waters near its southern coastline, saying it intends to strengthen

control over key maritime routes in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, as reported by Iranian state media Press TV.

- In a statement released by the IRGC Navy command, the force said it would exert "control over nearly 2,000 km (1,243 miles) of Iran's coastline" stretching across the Arabian Gulf and the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.
- The statement said the measures are aimed at turning the waters into "a source of pride and power for the dear people of Iran, and a source of security and prosperity for the region".
- Earlier on Friday, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei referred to US military bases in the West Asia region as a "paper tiger", questioning their ability to ensure even their own security amid the escalation of tensions between Washington and Tehran.
- According to a message by the Iranian Supreme Leader issued on the occasion of Persian Gulf Day, reported by state broadcaster Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Khamenei said that regional nations share a common destiny and stressed that external powers operating from afar should not interfere in Gulf affairs.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **INS Mahendragiri belongs to which class of warships?**
 - A. Kolkata-class
 - B. Shivalik-class
 - C. Nilgiri-class
 - D. Talwar-class

ANSWER: C

2. INS Mahendragiri was built by which organization?

- A. Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- B. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- C. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- D. Cochin Shipyard Limited

ANSWER: C

3. Lt Gen Balbir Singh assumed command of which Corps?

- A. Strike Corps
- B. Desert Corps
- C. Chinar Corps
- D. Gajraj Corps

ANSWER: C

4. The hypersonic anti-ship missile tested by India was developed by which organization?

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

ANSWER: D

5. What is the approximate strike range achieved by India's hypersonic missile in the test?

- A. 500 km
- B. 1,000 km
- C. 1,500 km
- D. 2,000 km

ANSWER: C

6. Varuna Is A

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

ANSWER: C

7. Ex 'KONKAN, INDRADHANUSH' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. UK

ANSWER: D

8. __Is India's Border Guarding Organisation On Its Border With Pakistan And Bangladesh.

- A. SSB
- B. ITBP
- C. BSF
- D. None

ANSWER: C

9. Eastern Region (E) Of ICG Is Located At

- A. Chennai
- B. Mumbai
- C. Kolkata
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

10. Priyadarshini-class Patrol Vessels Is Manufactured By

- A. CSL
- B. MDL
- C. GRSE
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

11. Indian Navy Founded On

- A.** 26 January 1945
- B.** 26 January 1950
- C.** 26 January 1960
- D.** 26 January 1970

ANSWER: B

12. With Which Nation India Holds 2+2 Dialogue?

- A. Pakistan
- B. Japan

- C. USA
- D. Both B & C

ANSWER: D

13. DRDO Lakshya Is A

- A. Fighter Jet
- B. Ship
- C. Tank
- D. UAV

ANSWER: D

14. Exercise Samudra Shakti Conducted B/w Indonesia &

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

ANSWER: A

15. Captain Rank of Indian Navy Equivalent to Which rank of IAF?

- A. Flying Officer
- B. Flight Lieutenant
- C. Group Captain
- D. None

ANSWER: C

16. Brussels Is The Capital Of

- A. Belgium
- B. Belize
- C. Benin
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: A

17. "Jungle Nama" Book Is Written By

- A. Jhumpa Lahiri
- B. Amitav Ghosh
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Nirupama Rao

ANSWER: B

18. Rapid Action Force Hq Is In

- A. Mumbai
- B. Lucknow
- C. Surat
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: D

19. War Cry Of SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY Is

- A. Garud ka hun bol pyare
- B. Everywhere
- C. Raja Ramachandra ki jai
- D. Jo bole So Nihal, sat sri akal

ANSWER: D

20. "Wings of Fire" Book Is Written By

- A. Jhumpa Lahiri
- B. Amitav Ghosh
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Dr. APJ Kalam

ANSWER: B