

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 05 May 2026

### Project Deepak Celebrates its 66th Raising Day

- Project Deepak of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrates its 66th Raising Day on May 04, 2026 at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, marking over six decades of dedicated service in the strategically vital regions of the Western Himalayas.
- Having area of responsibility spanning key districts of Himachal Pradesh including Shimla, Kinnaur, Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti, Project Deepak- one of the oldest projects- has also been at the forefront of developing critical infrastructure such as the historic construction of historic Hindustan-Tibet Road and key stretches of Manali-Leh axis.
- Numerous rescue operations, under this project, have been successfully undertaken during natural calamities. Notably, in May 2023, BRO teams rescued around 300 stranded motorists at Baralachala Pass and in July 2023, over 250 civilians were evacuated from Chandrataal during a challenging high-altitude rescue mission.
- Raised in 1961, the project has been instrumental in executing critical infrastructure works in some of the most challenging terrains of the country.



## US Clears \$686 Million F-16 Radar Upgrade For Pakistan

- United States has decided to proceed with a radar upgrade program for Pakistan's fleet of F-16 fighter aircraft, a move that is expected to raise serious concerns in India.
- Pakistan currently operates between 75 and 85 F-16s, and the upgrade is being carried out under a \$488 million contract awarded to American defence major Northrop Grumman Systems Corp.
- The deal, announced in April 2026, involves engineering and technical support for F-16 radar systems under the United States Air Force's foreign military sales programme, which also covers several other countries.
- The radar upgrade program is seen as a significant enhancement to Pakistan's air combat capabilities, particularly as it coincides with Islamabad hosting delegations from both the United States and Iran for peace negotiations aimed at ending the West Asia conflict. The timing of the deal underscores Washington's continued engagement with Pakistan despite regional tensions.
- This contract follows a separate notification issued in December 2025 by the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), which had informed Congress of a proposed \$686 million package to upgrade and support Pakistan's F-16 fleet.



## Midhani Inaugurates State-of-The-Art Aerospace Fasteners Facility In Hyderabad

- Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) has inaugurated a cutting-edge Aerospace Fasteners Facility at its Hyderabad plant, marking a major stride in India's self-reliance in defence and aerospace manufacturing.
- The facility integrates advanced forging and rolling technologies to produce high-performance fasteners from steel, titanium, and superalloys, ensuring reliability under extreme aerospace conditions.
- The inauguration took place on Sunday, led by Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar, with MIDHANI Chairman and Managing Director SVS. Narayana Murty and senior officials in attendance. The event also reflected the Ministry of Defence's emphasis on strengthening indigenous capabilities in critical aerospace components.
- The new facility is equipped with fully automated warm and hot head forging systems, thread rolling machines, and fillet rolling machines, enabling precision, consistency, and efficiency in production. These technologies are essential for manufacturing aerospace-grade fasteners that must withstand demanding operational environments.
- The initiative aligns with the government's 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' missions, ensuring that critical aerospace components are produced domestically to mitigate risks from global supply chain disruptions.



## Pixxel To Launch India's First Orbital Data Centre Satellite

- Pixxel, a planetary intelligence company that builds and operates some of the world's most advanced imaging satellites, today announced a strategic partnership with Sarvam to develop and build India's first orbital data centre satellite.
- Under the partnership, Pixxel will design, build, launch, and operate the Pathfinder satellite. Sarvam will provide the AI backbone, handling both training and inference directly in orbit, with full-stack language models running on board the satellite.
- The Pathfinder, a 200 kg-class satellite, is scheduled to reach orbit as early as Q4 2026, reflecting both the urgency Pixxel sees in this market and the company's growing capability to move from concept to orbit at speed.
- Unlike conventional satellite computing, which relies on low-power edge processors optimised for survival rather than performance, the Pathfinder satellite will host datacentre-class GPUs, the same generation of hardware as on-ground data centres that power frontier AI training and inference.
- The mission will validate real-time AI inference and data processing in the harsh space environment, testing performance, power management, thermal constraints, and real-time data workflows under operational conditions, to establish the technical and commercial groundwork for future orbital data centre systems.



## BEL, Metamind and Kristellar sign MoU for Developing Futuristic Technologies

- Defence PSU BEL, Metamind Systems Private Ltd and Kristellar Aerospace Private Ltd on Monday signed a tripartite MoU here for co-operation and co-development of future-ready products and technologies for both defence and non-defence segments.

- While Metamind is an Indian technology firm specialising in AI-driven data analytics and digital transformation solutions, Kristellar is a next-generation Indian Aerospace & Defence technology startup engaged in the design, development and manufacture of mission-critical products, systems and solutions in Aerospace and Defence technologies.
- "By combining BEL's manufacturing capabilities and marketing outreach, Metamind's expertise in strategic government relations, project governance and operational management, and Kristellar's advanced R&D capabilities and systems engineering, the collaboration will enhance competitiveness, mitigate execution risks and ensure the delivery of scalable, future-ready solutions, thereby maximising the long-term value and success of projects undertaken," BEL said in the statement.
- According to BEL, with the objective of strengthening indigenous capabilities and supporting the Government of India's Make in India initiative, the companies aim to cooperate in areas such as advanced technology development, manufacturing, and the supply of aerospace and defence systems, electronic modules, and sub-systems.
- These include cyber security, mass manufacturing of semiconductor technologies, data centres, and other products, systems, and solutions for Indian defence and non-defence segments.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Project Deepak is associated with which organization?**

- A. Indian Army
- B. Border Roads Organisation
- C. National Highways Authority of India
- D. Central Public Works Department

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Which of the following roads is a major contribution of Project Deepak?**

- A. Golden Quadrilateral
- B. East-West Corridor
- C. Hindustan–Tibet Road
- D. Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

**ANSWER: C**

**3. The F-16 radar upgrade contract for Pakistan has been awarded to which company?**

- A. Lockheed Martin
- B. Boeing
- C. Northrop Grumman
- D. Raytheon Technologies

**ANSWER: C**

**4. MIDHANI's new Aerospace Fasteners Facility is located in which city?**

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Chennai
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Pune

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Pixxel's Pathfinder satellite aims to demonstrate which capability?**

- A. Space tourism
- B. Missile defence systems
- C. Real-time AI data processing in orbit
- D. Weather forecasting only

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Which country is not a founding member of the SCO?**

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. India
- D. Kazakhstan

**ANSWER: C**

**7. The Douglas C-47 Skytrain or Dakota Is A**

- A. UAV
- B. Military Transport Aircraft
- C. Fighter Aircraft
- D. None

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Defence Industrial Corridor (DICs) Is/Are Located In**

- A. UP
- B. T.N
- C. M.H
- D. Both A & B

**ANSWER: D**

**9. Solomon Islands Is Located On**

- A. Indian Ocean
- B. Pacific Ocean
- C. Arctic Ocean
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Saab AB Is An Aerospace Company of**

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. China

**ANSWER: B**

**11. C-130J Super Hercules Is A**

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Transport Aircraft

**ANSWER: D**

**12. "Secure Application for Internet (SAI)" Has Been Developed By**

- A. IAF**
- B. Indian Army**
- C. ICG**
- D. NSG**

**ANSWER: B**

**13. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Nepal Is Called:**

- A. Surya Kiran**
- B. SLINEX**
- C. Indra**
- D. Yudha Abhyas**

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Hq Of Mazagaon Dockyard Limited Is In**

- A. New Delhi**
- B. Mumbai**
- C. Chennai**
- D. Kolkata**

**ANSWER: B**

**15. "Battle Ready for 21st Century" Book Is Written By**

- A. Shashi Tharoor**
- B. Geetanjali Shree's**
- C. Richa Mishra**
- D. Lt Gen AK Singh and Brig. Narendra Kumar**

**ANSWER: D**

**16. Where Is The Hq Of The Eastern Command of The Indian Navy?**

- A. Kochi**
- B. Vishakhapatnam**
- C. Pune**
- D. Mumbai**

**ANSWER: B**

**17. Joint Exercises B/w The India And USA Is Called:**

- A. Surya Kiran
- B. Vajra Prahar
- C. Yudha Abhyas
- D. Both B & C

**ANSWER: D**

**18. In IAF Flights are sub-divisions of squadrons, commanded by a\_\_.**

- A. Squadron Leader
- B. Flying Officer
- C. Air Marshal
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**19. DRDO Lakshya Is A**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**20. Exercise Samudra Shakti Conducted B/w Indonesia &**

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

**ANSWER: A**