

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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MoD inks Rs 1,476 Crore Contract with BEL

- Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited**, Hyderabad for the procurement of five Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems, worth **Rs 1,476 crore**, for the Indian Army with minimum 72% indigenous content.
- The contract, under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) category, was inked in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh at Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi on May 05, 2026.
- The system will modernise the Indian Army units and strengthen the indigenous defence manufacturing ecosystem of the country. The contract reinforces PM Narendra Modi-led Government's commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make-in-India in the defence sector.



Armenia In Advanced Talks To Acquire Pralay Missile System

- Armenia is in advanced cost negotiations with India for the acquisition of the indigenous Pralay cannisterised surface-to-surface, short-range, tactical ballistic missile, a move that would significantly expand bilateral defence ties and mark one of India's most high-end missile export breakthroughs.
- The export variant is capped at 290 km to comply with MTCR guidelines, but retains precision strike capability and advanced manoeuvrability.
- India and Armenia are engaged in detailed discussions over the Pralay tactical surface-to-surface missile system, with negotiations focusing on cost, specifications, and compliance with international export control frameworks.
- The talks are part of Armenia's broader military-industrial modernisation, as Yerevan seeks to strengthen deterrence against Azerbaijan's long-range precision strike capabilities, including Israeli-origin LORA missiles.
- The Pralay missile, developed by India's DRDO is a solid-fuelled, cannisterised, road-mobile system designed for rapid deployment. It has an operational range of 150–500 km in its domestic variant, but the export version is capped at 290 km to comply with Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) thresholds.
- Despite this limitation, the missile retains high precision with a circular error probable of less than 10 metres, speeds exceeding Mach 6, and the ability to perform terminal manoeuvres to evade modern air defence systems.
- The negotiations are also significant for India's defence export ambitions. Armenia has already procured frontline Indian systems such as Pinaka rocket launchers, Akash surface-to-air missiles, Swathi weapon locating radars, and anti-drone platforms, with contracts exceeding \$1.5 billion.



Vietnam Set To Seal ₹5,800 Crores BrahMos Deal

- Vietnamese President To Lam's upcoming visit to India is expected to centre on a landmark ₹5,800 crore BrahMos missile deal, which, if finalised, would make Vietnam the third Southeast Asian nation to acquire the Indo-Russian supersonic cruise missile.
- The agreement would significantly strengthen Hanoi's coastal defence posture while boosting India's defence export profile in the Indo-Pacific.
- President To Lam has chosen New Delhi as his first major foreign destination since assuming office, underscoring the importance of this defence engagement. The proposed package includes shore-based BrahMos missile batteries, comprehensive training programs, logistics support, and an initial batch of missiles.
- Valued at approximately ₹5,800 crore (around \$700 million), this would be one of Vietnam's largest defence acquisitions in recent years, reflecting its determination to modernise maritime security capabilities.
- The BrahMos missile system, jointly developed by India and Russia, is renowned for its supersonic speed of Mach 2.8, sea-skimming trajectory, and extended range variants. These features make it a formidable anti-ship weapon, difficult to intercept and ideal for long-range sea-denial operations.
- If concluded, Vietnam would join the Philippines, which signed a \$375 million deal in 2022, and Indonesia, which has entered into a procurement pact, as the third Southeast Asian nation to induct BrahMos.



DRDO Secures 600 Acres In Andhra Pradesh

- India has formally approved a ₹1 lakh crore stealth fighter hub in Andhra Pradesh, with DRDO securing 600 acres in Puttaparthi to manufacture the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).
- The facility will produce around 140 fifth-generation jets, marking a decisive step in India's aerospace self-reliance and strategic positioning against regional rivals.
- The DRDO has secured 600 acres of land in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, for the establishment of a dedicated manufacturing and testing complex for AMCA.
- This project represents a pivotal moment in India's defence modernisation, as the AMCA is designed to be a fifth-generation stealth fighter incorporating supercruise, advanced avionics, radar-absorbing materials, and network-centric warfare capabilities.
- The facility is expected to manufacture approximately 140 AMCA jets in its initial phase, with an additional 400 acres earmarked for future expansion. The total investment is projected at around ₹1 lakh crore, making it one of the largest defence manufacturing projects in India's history.
- The Aeronautical Development Agency in Bengaluru will continue to handle systems design, testing, and module assembly, with these modules transported to Puttaparthi for final assembly and ground testing.
- This dual-location model ensures proximity to design expertise while leveraging Andhra Pradesh's uncongested airspace for high-tempo flight trials.
- The timeline is ambitious, with the first prototype targeted for 2028–2029 and full-scale production by 2035. The IAF plans to induct up to 250 aircraft in

phased variants, beginning with 40 MK-1 units powered by GE F414 engines, followed by more advanced MK-2 versions designed to replace the Sukhoi Su-30MKI fleet.



'Project Freedom

- Top US officials spent Monday and Tuesday offering new details on the role the US military will play in helping ships pass through the Strait of Hormuz as part of President Donald Trump's bid to break Iran's chokehold over the waterway.
- Hours later, Trump shelved the operation entirely after being warned it risked escalating a conflict, he is eager to bring to an end.
- That decision - which Trump said he made at the request of mediator Pakistan - suggested the president didn't want to risk another flareup in violence like the one provoked in the first day the operation called Project Freedom went into effect.
- The back and forth shone a spotlight on the bind in which Trump now finds himself: He's under increasing pressure to end a war that's grown increasingly unpopular. At the same time, he has failed to break Iran's control of the strait, a goal he needs to reverse a spike in oil and gas prices.
- Project Freedom was meant to sit at the center of the next phase of the US approach to Iran. According to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Dan Caine, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the Pentagon was deploying guided-missile destroyers with air defense capabilities, more than 100 aircraft, 15,000 personnel in the region, and a mix of drones including underwater platforms.

- The initiative would give commercial shippers a "powerful red, white, and blue dome over the strait" enforced by warplanes, helicopters, drones, surveillance aircraft and other military assets, and that "hundreds more ships from nations around the world are lining up to transit," Hegseth said.
- Later in the day, Secretary of State Marco Rubio described it as a defensive operation. Shippers would pass through "an enhanced security area on the southern side of the strait," Caine told reporters.
- After those officials along with Central Command Commander Admiral Bradley Cooper outlined the idea, Trump abruptly shelved it on Tuesday evening. He said it would be "paused for a short period of time" to create space for all sides to work out a deal to resolve the conflict - even though the two sides have so far been far apart and any agreement looked to be far off.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The MoD signed a ₹1,476 crore contract with which company for ground-based mobile electronic systems?
 - A. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
 - B. Bharat Electronics Limited
 - C. Bharat Dynamics Limited
 - D. Larsen & Toubro

ANSWER: B

2. The export version of the Pralay Missile is capped at what range to comply with international norms?

- A. 150 km
- B. 250 km
- C. 290 km
- D. 500 km

ANSWER: C

3. Which organisation developed the Pralay missile system?

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation
- B. Defence Research and Development Organisation
- C. Bharat Electronics Limited
- D. Aeronautical Development Agency

ANSWER: B

4. The proposed ₹5,800 crore BrahMos missile deal is expected to be signed between India and which country?

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

ANSWER: C

5. The AMCA (Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft) manufacturing facility is being set up in which state?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: D

6. Ex 'Nomadic Elephant' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Malaysia
- C. Mongolia
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

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

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Tiger Triumph

ANSWER: D

8. Which Country Is Not The Member Of QUAD And?

- A. USA
- B. India
- C. Japan
- D. Russia

ANSWER: D

9. Where Is The Hq Of The Central Command of The IAF?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Prayagraj
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: C

10. Which is Not Correctly Matched:

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

ANSWER: C

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

- A. JKRIF
- B. RR
- C. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- D. Madras Regiment

ANSWER: C

12. 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

13. Merkava Mk.4 Is The Tank Of

A. Germany

B. Israel

C. USA

D. India

ANSWER: B

14. Exercises B/w India And Egypt Is Called:

A. SLINEX

B. Indra

C. Yudha Abhyas

D. Ex CYCLONE

ANSWER: D

15. NAY PYI TAW Is The Capital Of

A. Myanmar

B. Mozambique

C. Morocco

D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

16. Colonel Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of Indian Navy Is

A. Commander

B. Captain

C. Group Captain

D. Lieutenant

ANSWER: B

17. From Which Country Has India Purchased Its Apache Helicopters?

A. U.K.

B. Sweden

C. France

D. USA

ANSWER: D

18. Air Commodore of IAF Is Equivalent To The Which Rank Of Indian Army?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Captain
- C. Lt. Colonel
- D. Colonel

ANSWER: A

19. What is the range of the Pinaka rocket launcher system?

- A. 50 kilometers
- B. 80 kilometers
- C. 100 kilometers
- D. 120 kilometers

ANSWER: B

20. Exercise 'Samudra Laksamana conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. Malaysia
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C