

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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National Technology Day 2026

- Every year, India celebrates National Technology Day on May 11. For many people, it appears to be just another date connected to science and government events. But in 2026, the importance of technology in India has become much bigger than a symbolic celebration.
- Technology is now directly connected to:
- jobs, education,
- national security,
- digital payments,
- healthcare, startups, artificial intelligence,
- and India's future economic growth.
- **Significance:** Marks 11 May 1998, when India successfully conducted the Operation Shakti (Pokhran-II) nuclear tests under former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Other 1998 Milestones:** On the same day, the Hansa-3 aircraft was tested and the Trishul missile was fired.
- Theme for 2026: "**Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth**," focusing on ethical AI, indigenous technology, and bridging the digital divide.



Girder Laying Ceremony for Indigenous Air Cushion Vehicles

- The Girder Laying Ceremony of the 4th, 5th and 6th Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was held at Rassaim Yard of Chowgule Shipyard, Goa, on May 11, 2026.
- Under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, these ACVs are being manufactured with 50% indigenous material in India, marking a significant leap in the collective pursuit of self-reliance and technological advancement.
- The contract for six indigenously fabricated and constructed ACVs for ICG was signed with Chowgule & Company Private Limited, Goa on October 24, 2024.
- These modern air cushion vehicles will be used for multipurpose maritime roles, including high-speed coastal patrolling and reconnaissance in shallow waters, marshy areas and deep sea and interception/interdiction in areas of operation by both day- night and search and rescue operations, rendering assistance to ships and boats in distress.
- The ACVs will be deployed to safeguard India's vast and dynamic coastal zone, adding significant strategic mobility and operational flexibility to the ICG.



Key Takeaways of 5th IGoM on West Asia Chaired by RM

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh chaired the 5th meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers on West Asia at Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi on May 11, 2026. The meeting took stock of the latest developments in the conflict and discussed ways to bolster India's readiness to ensure its minimum effect on the people.
- The IGoM was informed that the country is secure, and there is no shortage of any petroleum product, even as most other nations have taken emergency measures to dramatically reduce domestic consumption. India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of Natural Gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock.
- The foreign exchange reserves stand at a comfortable \$703 billion. India is the world's third largest oil refiner and fourth largest exporter of petroleum products, exporting to over 150 countries and is meeting domestic demand in full.
- But there is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices are continuing at very high levels. Fuel conservation can ease this burden.
- India is among the few countries where petroleum prices have held steady through this period of global volatility even after more than 70 days since the conflict started. In many nations, prices have increased by 30 to 70 per cent.
- However, India's oil marketing companies have absorbed losses of close to Rs 1,000 crore a day, with under-recoveries running to nearly Rs 2 lakh crore in Q1




'26 so that the burden of global astronomical prices is not passed to the Indian citizens.


- He called for re-evaluation of strategic reserve requirements to tackle issues arising out of supply chain disruptions, with future energy security in mind.



NATION FIRST
PM MODI'S 7 APPEALS

myGov
सर्वे सन्तु सुखिनः

-  **Prioritize Work From Home** wherever possible
-  **Avoid buying gold** for one year
-  Reduce petrol & diesel consumption: **use metro/public transport**
-  **Cut down the use of cooking oil**
-  Reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers and **move toward natural farming**
-  Use fewer foreign-branded products and **adopt Swadeshi**
-  **Avoid foreign travel** for one year



SSB Crack EXAMS

Indian Army Gets Indigenous FPV Kamikaze Drones

- The Indian Army has received two new indigenous combat systems under Emergency Procurement (EP-6), including the UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM) and the AGNIKAA VTOL-1 First-Person View (FPV) Kamikaze Drone.
- Defence sources said that the systems were handed over in Hyderabad in the presence of officials from the Army's Western Command following successful high-altitude, electronic warfare (EW) and precision-guided munition firing trials.
- The two systems, ULPGM and AGNIKAA VTOL-1, have been designed, developed and manufactured indigenously.
- The ULPGM, co-developed by the DRDO and Ad Defence & Aerospace, is India's first indigenous loitering munition in its category. The system is equipped with an Imaging Infrared (IIR) seeker and can be launched from UAVs to target both stationary and moving targets.
- The UAV has an operational range of up to 20 kilometres, while the munition itself has a strike range of 2.5 kilometres.
- The second system, AGNIKAA VTOL-1, has been described as India's first FPV (First-Person View) kamikaze drone in its class.
- The drone has been developed as an anti-personnel precision-strike platform designed for urban warfare, confined spaces and open battlefield operations. It is capable of operating in GPS-denied and electronic warfare environments.
- The drone has a range of up to five kilometres, an endurance of 30 minutes and a top speed of 60 kmph.



IIT-Hyderabad Launches India's Largest Indigenous Metal Powder Facility

- IIT-Hyderabad has launched a landmark initiative to establish India's largest indigenous clean metal and alloy powder manufacturing facility through gas atomisation, with a capacity of 100 kg, announced IIT-Hyd on its X Handle.
- Backed by DRDO's Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), industry partner Innomet Advanced Materials Ltd., and funded by the Defence Technology Development Fund (DFTM), this project is set to transform India's additive manufacturing and aerospace ecosystem.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad is embarking on this ambitious project to create a premium metal powder manufacturing facility dedicated to additive manufacturing and aerospace applications.
- The facility will employ advanced gas atomisation technology, enabling the production of high-quality powders with extremely low oxygen content, often less than 150 ppm. This ensures superior purity and performance, which is critical for aerospace and defence components where reliability under extreme conditions is paramount.
- The collaboration involves IIT-Hyderabad providing technical expertise, DMRL under DRDO offering metallurgical and defence-oriented guidance, and Innomet Advanced Materials Ltd. serving as an industry partner to bridge research with production.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. National Technology Day is celebrated in India on:

- A. 15 August
- B. 26 January
- C. 11 May
- D. 28 February

Answer: C. 11 May

2. Consider the following statements regarding National Technology Day 2026:

- 1. The theme for 2026 is “Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth.”
- 2. The theme focuses on ethical AI and indigenous technology.
- 3. National Technology Day was first observed after the Pokhran-I test.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

3. Which of the following achievements also took place on 11 May 1998 along with Operation Shakti?

- 1. Testing of Hansa-3 aircraft
- 2. Firing of Trishul missile
- 3. Launch of PSLV-C1

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

4. **The Indigenous Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) are primarily meant for:**

- A. Space exploration
- B. Railway transportation
- C. Coastal patrolling and rescue operations
- D. Agricultural activities

ANSWER: C

5. **The ULPGM system inducted into the Indian Army was jointly developed by DRDO and:**

- A. HAL
- B. BEL
- C. Ad Defence & Aerospace
- D. ISRO

ANSWER: C

6. **IIT-Hyderabad's new indigenous metal powder facility will mainly support:**

- A. Textile production
- B. Aerospace and additive manufacturing
- C. Food processing industries
- D. Tourism sector

ANSWER: B

7. **Defence Space Agency Hq Is Located At**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Chennai
- D. Noida

ANSWER: B

8. INS Kochi Is A

- A. Guided-missile destroyers
- B. Landing ship tank
- C. Submarine
- D. Frigates

ANSWER: A

9. _ Is Not A G7 member.

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

ANSWER: A

10. The Standard Meridian Of India Is

- A. 82 degrees 30' E
- B. 84 degrees 30' E
- C. 72 degrees 30' E
- D. 92 degrees 30' E

ANSWER: A

11. Army Medical Corps Motto Is

- A. Courage and Valor
- B. Sarve santu niramaya
- C. Service Before Self
- D. Lethal

ANSWER: B

12. Glock 18 Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. Machine Pistol

- C. Assault rifle
- D. Submachine gun

ANSWER: B

13. Which Is the Largest Uranium-producing Country In The World?

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

ANSWER: C

14. Kaiga Atomic Power Plant Is In

- A. Karnataka
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: A

15. Who established the Atomic Energy Commission of India in 1948?

- A. P.K. Iyengar
- B. M.R. Srinivasan
- C. Vikram Sarabhai
- D. Homi Bhabha

ANSWER: D

16. Nay Pyi Taw Is The Capital Of

- A. Bhutan
- B. Nepal
- C. Afghanistan
- D. Myanmar

ANSWER: D

17. “India’s Women Unsung Heroes” Book Is Written By

- A. Chandrachur Ghose
- B. Ruskin Bond
- C. Dr. Thomas Matthew
- D. Meenakshi Lekhi

ANSWER: D

18. Ex ‘Konkan Shakti’ conducted b/w India &

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

ANSWER: B

19. “Kartavyam Anvatma” (Duty before death) Is The Motto Of

- A. RAJPUT REGIMENT
- B. DOGRA REGIMENT
- C. SIKH REGIMENT
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

20. Which Country Isn’t the member of NSG?

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

ANSWER: C