

Daily Defence Current Affairs

16 May 2026

Defence Manufacturing Gets Major Boost in Andhra Pradesh

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stones for two major defence facilities in Andhra Pradesh. These include the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre** and a **Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility**.
- The projects are expected to strengthen India's indigenous defence ecosystem and support the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative in the defence sector. During the event, Rajnath Singh stated that India's defence production is likely to touch an all-time high of **₹1.75 lakh crore** within the next one to two months.
- The AMCA programme is considered one of India's most ambitious aerospace projects. It aims to develop a fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft equipped with advanced avionics, artificial intelligence support, and modern combat capabilities. The new integration and testing centre will help speed up research, development, and flight trials for the aircraft.
- The **Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility** will focus on producing advanced naval equipment and systems for the Indian Navy. Experts believe the project will improve domestic production capacity and reduce dependence on foreign defence imports.
- The Andhra Pradesh government is also positioning the state as an emerging hub for aerospace and defence manufacturing by attracting investment and promoting industrial infrastructure.



India and UAE Sign Key Strategic Agreements

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the United Arab Emirates and both nations announced several important agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in energy, trade, infrastructure, and technology.
- One of the major outcomes was a strategic collaboration agreement between **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)**. The agreement may allow ADNOC to store up to 30 million barrels of crude oil in India's strategic petroleum reserves, including facilities in Visakhapatnam and future reserves planned in Odisha.
- The agreements are expected to improve India's energy security by ensuring stable crude oil supplies during global disruptions. The partnership also reflects growing trust between India and the UAE in strategic sectors.
- Apart from energy cooperation, both countries discussed expanding investments, strengthening digital and technological collaboration, and improving trade connectivity. The visit further reinforced the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership shared by India and the UAE.
- **Growing Global Role of India**
- These developments show India's increasing emphasis on becoming a global manufacturing and strategic power. While defence projects aim to strengthen military self-reliance, international partnerships like the UAE agreements help secure energy supplies and expand economic cooperation.
- Together, the announcements demonstrate how India is simultaneously focusing on domestic industrial growth and stronger international strategic partnerships to support long-term national development.



Super Sukhoi Upgrade Ensures Su-30MKI Stays Lethal Into 2050s

- The Sukhoi-30MKI has long been the backbone of the Indian Air Force's fighter fleet, with around 260 aircraft in service and routinely deployed for diverse missions ranging from long-range patrols to strike support and multinational exercises.
- Its importance was underlined during Operation Sindoor, where the aircraft launched missiles and disabled Pakistani air force bases, playing pivotal roles in escort and strike missions.
- Having served for over two decades, the latest airframes are expected to remain in service well into the 2050s, making their modernisation a strategic necessity in an era defined by electronic warfare, long-range missiles and real-time battlefield networking.
- The ambitious 'Super Sukhoi' upgrade program, led by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd and the Defence Research and Development Organisation with support from Russian OEMs, seeks to transform the Su-30MKI into a platform capable of thriving in future network-centric battlefields.
- The importance of the Su-30MKI fleet was once again proven during Operation Sindoor, and with the planned upgrades, these aircraft will remain a key part of the IAF's combat fleet well into the 2050s.



Paras Defence Develops Integrated Manpack Drone Detector

- Paras Defence has unveiled a new integrated Manpack Drone Detector combined with a Handheld Drone Jammer, offering India's security forces a portable, indigenous solution to detect and neutralise hostile drones in real time.
- This system strengthens India's counter-UAS ecosystem, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision and addressing the growing threat of UAV incursions across borders and critical infrastructure.
- The integrated Manpack Drone Detector with Handheld Drone Jammer has been developed by Mumbai-based Paras Defence and Space Technologies Limited, through its subsidiary Paras Anti-Drone Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- The Manpack Drone Detector employs radio frequency analysis to identify and classify drones operating within its detection envelope. By monitoring wide frequency ranges, typically from 400 MHz to 6 GHz, the system can detect commercial quadcopters, FPV drones, and even more sophisticated UAVs.



IAF Achieves Major Self-Reliance Milestone with Indigenous Overhaul of Navy's MiG-29K Ejection Seat

- India achieved another important milestone in defence self-reliance as the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Base Repair Depot (BRD) in Nashik successfully carried out the indigenous overhaul of the Indian Navy's MiG-29K fighter aircraft ejection seat. Until now, these critical systems had to be sent to Russia for servicing and overhaul.
- The achievement marks a significant step under India's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative, which aims to reduce dependence on foreign defence maintenance and strengthen domestic military capabilities.
- **Major Boost to Defence Self-Reliance**
- The Base Repair Depot in Nashik has long been responsible for the overhaul and maintenance of fighter aircraft such as the MiG-29 and Sukhoi Su-30MKI. Over the years, the depot developed advanced technical expertise and specialised infrastructure for handling complex aerospace systems.
- Using this expertise, the depot successfully completed the first indigenous overhaul of the MiG-29K ejection seat used by the Indian Navy. The work received approval from the Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness (RCMA), demonstrating the technical capability achieved by Indian defence engineers and technicians.
- Previously, these ejection seats were sent to Russia for repairs and servicing, leading to longer turnaround times, higher costs, and dependence on foreign support. The new indigenous capability is expected to significantly improve operational readiness and reduce delays in aircraft maintenance.
- **Importance of the MiG-29K Fleet**

- The Mikoyan MiG-29K is a carrier-based fighter aircraft operated by the Indian Navy aboard aircraft carriers such as INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya. The aircraft performs multiple roles including fleet air defence, maritime strike missions, and anti-shipping operations.
- The MiG-29K fleet plays a critical role in strengthening India's maritime security and naval combat capabilities. Faster maintenance and repair support within India will improve aircraft availability and fleet readiness during operational deployments.
- **Strengthening Jointness Between Armed Forces**
- The successful overhaul also reflects growing cooperation between the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy. The overhauled ejection seat was formally handed over to the Navy in the presence of senior military officials, including Air Marshal Yalla Umesh and Vice Admiral Rahul Gokhale.
- Defence experts believe such collaboration between services will help India build a stronger and more integrated defence ecosystem. Indigenous maintenance capabilities are especially important during emergencies or wartime situations when foreign support may not be readily available.
- **India's Growing Defence Manufacturing Capability**
- India has increasingly focused not only on manufacturing defence equipment domestically but also on developing advanced repair, maintenance, and overhaul (MRO) capabilities. The Nashik BRD achievement shows that India is steadily moving toward mastering the complete lifecycle support of modern military platforms.
- With projects such as the AMCA stealth fighter, Tejas programme, and indigenous aircraft carrier development already progressing, achievements like this further strengthen India's long-term goal of becoming a global defence manufacturing hub.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which two major defence facilities were launched in Andhra Pradesh?
 - A) Tejas Assembly Unit and Missile Centre
 - B) AMCA Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre and Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility
 - C) BrahMos Factory and Tank Assembly Unit
 - D) Radar Testing Centre and Drone Factory

Answer: B) AMCA Core Integration & Flight Testing Centre and Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility

2. The AMCA programme aims to develop which type of aircraft?
 - A) Cargo aircraft
 - B) Helicopter gunship
 - C) Fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft
 - D) Passenger aircraft

Answer: C) Fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft

3. India's defence production is expected to touch approximately:
 - A) ₹50,000 crore
 - B) ₹1 lakh crore
 - C) ₹1.75 lakh crore
 - D) ₹3 lakh crore

Answer: C) ₹1.75 lakh crore

4. The Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility will mainly support:
 - A) Indian Army
 - B) Indian Coast Guard
 - C) Indian Navy
 - D) DRDO

Answer: C) Indian Navy

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5. Which initiative is closely linked with India's indigenous defence manufacturing efforts?
- A) Digital India
 - B) Make for World
 - C) Aatmanirbhar Bharat
 - D) Skill India

Answer: C) Aatmanirbhar Bharat

6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited which country for strategic agreements?
- A) Saudi Arabia
 - B) UAE
 - C) Qatar
 - D) Oman

Answer: B) UAE

7. ISPR signed a strategic collaboration agreement with:
- A) Saudi Aramco
 - B) Qatar Energy
 - C) ADNOC
 - D) BPCL

Answer: C) ADNOC

8. ADNOC may store up to how many barrels of crude oil in India's reserves?
- A) 5 million barrels
 - B) 10 million barrels
 - C) 20 million barrels
 - D) 30 million barrels

Answer: D) 30 million barrels

9. Which Indian city currently has strategic petroleum reserve facilities mentioned in the agreement?
- A) Chennai

- B) Kochi
- C) Visakhapatnam
- D) Mumbai

Answer: C) Visakhapatnam

10. The Su-30MKI upgrade programme is popularly known as:

- A) Super Tejas
- B) Super Sukhoi
- C) Mission Garuda
- D) Project Astra

Answer: B) Super Sukhoi

11. Approximately how many Su-30MKI aircraft are currently in service with the IAF?

- A) 100
- B) 150
- C) 260
- D) 500

Answer: C) 260

12. The Super Sukhoi programme is being led by:

- A) ISRO and BEL
- B) HAL and DRDO
- C) Indian Navy and HAL
- D) BHEL and DRDO

Answer: B) HAL and DRDO

13. Paras Defence recently developed which indigenous system?

- A) Laser missile shield
- B) Drone aircraft carrier
- C) Integrated Manpack Drone Detector with Handheld Drone Jammer
- D) Underwater surveillance drone

Answer: C) Integrated Manpack Drone Detector with Handheld Drone Jammer

14. The Manpack Drone Detector mainly uses which technology for drone detection?

- A) Infrared imaging
- B) Radio Frequency analysis
- C) Sonar tracking
- D) Satellite navigation

Answer: B) Radio Frequency analysis

15. The Manpack Drone Detector can monitor frequencies between:

- A) 10 MHz to 100 MHz
- B) 100 MHz to 200 MHz
- C) 400 MHz to 6 GHz
- D) 8 GHz to 12 GHz

Answer: C) 400 MHz to 6 GHz

16. The indigenous overhaul of the Navy's MiG-29K ejection seat was carried out at:

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Pune
- C) Nashik
- D) Hyderabad

Answer: C) Nashik

17. Before indigenous overhaul capability was developed, MiG-29K ejection seats were sent to which country?

- A) France
- B) Israel
- C) Russia
- D) USA

Answer: C) Russia

18. The MiG-29K is primarily a:

- A) Cargo aircraft

- B) Carrier-based fighter aircraft
- C) Reconnaissance helicopter
- D) Bomber aircraft

Answer: B) Carrier-based fighter aircraft

19. Which aircraft carriers operate the MiG-29K fleet?

- A) INS Kolkata and INS Chennai
- B) INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya
- C) INS Arihant and INS Chakra
- D) INS Delhi and INS Mysore

Answer: B) INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya

20. The approval for the indigenous overhaul work was given by:

- A) HAL
- B) ISRO
- C) RCMA
- D) BEL

Answer: C) RCMA