

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 18 May 2026

### India And Netherlands Elevate Ties To Strategic Partnership

- India and the Netherlands have formally elevated their bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership, unveiling a comprehensive roadmap that spans semiconductors, green hydrogen, defence, and water management.
- A landmark **Tata Electronics–ASML agreement**, the adoption of a Green Hydrogen Roadmap, and technical cooperation on Gujarat’s Kalpasar project were among the most significant outcomes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to The Hague.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten agreed to deepen cooperation across trade, investment, semiconductors, green energy, defence, and water management. The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that the two leaders acknowledged the strong momentum in bilateral relations and formally elevated ties to a strategic partnership.
- One of the most notable developments was the signing of a game-changing agreement between Tata Electronics and ASML, the Dutch semiconductor equipment giant. This partnership will support India’s first commercial 300mm chip fabrication facility in **Dholera, Gujarat**, with an estimated investment of USD 11 billion.
- ASML’s advanced lithography technology will be deployed to manufacture semiconductors for automotive, mobile devices, and artificial intelligence applications.
- This agreement builds on earlier collaborations in semiconductors, emerging technologies, and critical minerals, and is expected to generate high-skilled jobs while strengthening India’s semiconductor ecosystem.
- The talks also covered broader strategic issues, including support for the early signing and implementation of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Both leaders highlighted the importance of resilient supply chains, trade facilitation, and mobility, while also emphasising collaboration in agriculture, healthcare, education, and cultural exchanges.
- The roadmap of the strategic partnership for 2026–2030 institutionalises cooperation through regular political dialogue, economic collaboration, and

joint ventures in priority sectors such as renewable energy, maritime infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, and high-tech innovation.



## India UAE \$5 Billion Energy Deal

- India and the UAE further strengthened their strategic partnership after signing several important agreements covering **energy security, defence cooperation, artificial intelligence, maritime infrastructure, and technology collaboration.**
- The agreements were finalised during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Abu Dhabi, where the UAE also announced investments worth **5 billion US dollars in India.**
- The visit highlighted the rapidly growing relationship between the two countries at a time when **global geopolitical tensions** and **energy security concerns** are increasing. Both nations emphasized cooperation in strategic sectors that are vital for long-term economic growth and regional stability.
- One of the most significant outcomes of the visit was the agreement related to India's strategic petroleum reserves. Under the partnership, **Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)** may expand crude oil storage in India's strategic reserves up to 30 million barrels.
- The agreement is expected to improve India's preparedness against global supply disruptions and strengthen long-term energy security.



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EXAMS

# PM's OFFICIAL VISIT TO UAE

## Outcome 1

**Strategic Collaboration Agreement between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)**

## What it means?



Boosts  
**energy security**



Enhances  
**India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves**



Potential collaboration in  
**Liquid Natural Gas** and **Liquid Petroleum Gas**  
storage facilities in India



# PM's OFFICIAL VISIT TO UAE

## Outcome 2

Strategic Collaboration on supplies  
of Liquefied Petroleum gas (LPG)

### What it means?



Boosts  
**energy security**



Strengthens  
**long term supply of LPG**



Supports  
**economic stability and  
long-term strategic  
energy partnership**





# PM's OFFICIAL VISIT TO UAE



## Outcome 3

### Framework for the Strategic Defence Partnership

## What it means?



Strengthens  
**defence industrial collaboration**



Boosts  
**innovation and sharing of technology**



Strengthens  
**national and regional security**



 **PM's OFFICIAL VISIT TO UAE** 

**Outcome 4**

**Arrangement on setting up Ship Repair Cluster at Vadinar**

**What it means?**



Boosts  
shipping, port and coastal infrastructure



Advances  
**Make in India**



# PM's OFFICIAL VISIT TO UAE

## Outcome 5

### Arrangement on Skill Development in Ship Repair

## What it means?



Advances capabilities of  
**Indian maritime workforce**



Positions India as a hub for  
**skilled shipbuilding and ship repair  
professionals**



Boosts  
**Skill India Mission**



# PM's OFFICIAL VISIT TO UAE

## Outcome 6

Arrangement for setting up 8 Exaflop Super Compute Cluster in partnership between CDAC, India and G-42, UAE

### What it means?



Advances setting up  
supercomputer cluster



Boosts  
AI Mission India



# PM's OFFICIAL VISIT TO UAE

## Outcome 7

Investment commitment from UAE to India

### What it means?



**USD 5 bn**  
investments in India



Creates  
**stronger markets and more jobs**



Underscores UAE's sustained commitment to  
**India's development and growth story**



## INDIA-UAE TIES GET STRONGER

PM Modi's Abu Dhabi visit marks another major boost for India's global partnerships

### Key Announcements & Agreements



**Strategic Defence Partnership Framework** signed.



ISPR & ADNOC signed an **MoU on Strategic Petroleum Reserves** to secure India's future energy needs.



Long-term **LPG supply** arrangements to support India's growing energy demand.



**MoU signed for a Ship Repair Cluster** at Vadinar, Gujarat, boosting maritime infrastructure & jobs.



UAE announced **\$5 BILLION** investment in Indian infrastructure and financial institutions.



\*ISPRL – Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited  
\*ADNOC – Abu Dhabi National Oil Company

## India, Sweden deepen Cooperation in AI, Defence

- PM Narendra Modi held wide-ranging bilateral talks with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson in Gothenburg and addressed the European Round Table for Industry (ERT), underlining India's growing strategic and economic engagement with Sweden and Europe.

- Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden also participated in the bilateral meeting and conveyed warm wishes from King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia. PM Modi extended greetings to the Swedish monarch on his 80th birthday.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also awarded Sweden's highest honour, the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross,' on Sunday, in recognition of his exceptional contributions to bilateral ties and his visionary leadership.
- India and Sweden agreed to elevate their bilateral relationship to the level of a Strategic Partnership, reflecting growing cooperation across key sectors and shared democratic values.
- The partnership will be guided by four pillars — Strategic Dialogue for Stability and Security; Next-Generation Economic Partnership; Emerging Technologies and Trusted Connectivity; and Shaping Tomorrow Together – **People, Planet, Health and Resilience**.
- To operationalise the upgraded partnership, the two leaders adopted the India-Sweden **Joint Action Plan 2026-2030**, which lays out a roadmap for cooperation across political, economic, technological, security, climate and people-to-people domains.
- The Prime Minister highlighted the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**, saying connectivity initiatives would add new momentum to India-Europe business cooperation.



## Indian Navy Inaugurates Naval Sailing Node At Bhopal

- The Indian Navy inaugurated its premier Naval Sailing Node at Upper Lake, widely known as Bhojtal, in Bhopal on 17 May 2026.
- Watermanship training has always been an integral part of the training and development procedure for naval personnel, actively building camaraderie and a competitive spirit within their primary domain of operation.
- Developed as a state-of-the-art facility, the Sailing Node will be extensively utilised by the Indian Navy Sailing Team, the Navy Rowing, Canoeing, and Kayaking Teams, as well as NCC for their training. Presently 17 members of Navy Sailing Team out of total 34 personnel in team belong to the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- The facility aims to motivate more youth of Madhya Pradesh to embrace competitive water sports and inspire them to join the Defence Forces.
- This initiative is a significant step towards realising the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of building world-class sporting talent for the Olympics and Asian Games, and aligns with the objectives of the National Sports Policy to promote excellence and expand the talent pool in competitive sports.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. India recently elevated its bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership with which country?**

- A) Germany
- B) Netherlands
- C) France
- D) Italy

**Answer:** B) Netherlands

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**2. Which company partnered with Tata Electronics for India's semiconductor project in Gujarat?**

- A) Intel
- B) Samsung
- C) ASML
- D) Qualcomm

**Answer:** C) ASML

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**3. India's first commercial 300mm chip fabrication facility will be established in which city?**

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

**Answer:** D) Dholera

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**4. The Green Hydrogen Roadmap was adopted between India and which country?**

- A) Sweden
- B) UAE
- C) Netherlands
- D) Japan

**Answer:** C) Netherlands

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**5. Which country announced investments worth 5 billion US dollars in India during PM Modi's visit?**

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) UAE
- C) Sweden
- D) Australia

**Answer:** B) UAE

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**6. ADNOC is associated with which sector?**

- A) Defence manufacturing
- B) Semiconductor production
- C) Oil and energy
- D) Space technology

**Answer:** C) Oil and energy

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**7. India and Sweden adopted which action plan for cooperation till 2030?**

- A) Nordic Economic Plan
- B) India-Europe Vision Plan
- C) India-Sweden Joint Action Plan 2026–2030
- D) Global Innovation Strategy

**Answer:** C) India-Sweden Joint Action Plan 2026–2030

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**8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi received which prestigious Swedish honour?**

- A) Order of Liberty
- B) Royal Order of the Polar Star
- C) Order of European Unity
- D) Swedish Peace Medal

**Answer:** B) Royal Order of the Polar Star

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**9. The Naval Sailing Node inaugurated by the Indian Navy is located at which lake?**

- A) Dal Lake
- B) Chilika Lake
- C) Upper Lake (Bhojtal)
- D) Vembanad Lake

**Answer:** C) Upper Lake (Bhojtal)

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**10. The Indian Navy's Sailing Node in Bhopal aims to promote:**

- A) Space research
- B) Railway training
- C) Competitive water sports and defence participation
- D) Civil aviation training

**Answer:** C) Competitive water sports and defence participation

**11. PBG The Oldest Regiment In The Indian Army, Having Been Raised In**

- A. 1773
- B. 1774
- C. 1779
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**12. INSAS Rifle Manufactured By**

- A. ARDE
- B. HAL
- C. IAI
- D. ISRO

**ANSWER: A**

**13. ISRO Hq Is In**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. Chennai
- D. Bangalore

**ANSWER: D**

**14. Brahmos Is A**

- A. Hypersonic Cruise Missile
- B. Supersonic Cruise Missile
- C. Subsonic Cruise Missile
- D. Ballistic Missile

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Where Is The Hq Of The Central Command of The Indian Army?**

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Lucknow

**ANSWER: D**

**16. Sarmat Missile Is A**

- A. Nuclear-Capable Missile
- B. Cruise Missile
- C. Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles
- D. None

**ANSWER: A**

**17. "The Broken Earth" Book Written By**

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. N.K. Jemisin
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Philip Pullman

**ANSWER: B**

**18. What Is The Capital Of Nigeria?**

- A. Oslo
- B. Abuja
- C. Cape Town
- D. Warsaw

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Ex 'Ajeya Warrior' conducted b/w India &**

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

D. UK

**ANSWER: D**

**20. Operation Ganga Was Conducted By IAF In**

A. UK

B. USA

C. Ukraine

D. Afghanistan

**ANSWER: C**

