

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Inauguration of Indian War Memorial in Seoul

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Patriots & Veterans Affairs, Republic of Korea (RoK) Mr Kwon Oh-eul jointly inaugurated the Indian War Memorial at Imjingak Park, Seoul on May 21, 2026.
- Constructed as part of the commemorative events marking the 75th anniversary of the Korean War, the memorial stands as a tribute to the courage, sacrifice and humanitarian service rendered by the 60 Para Field Ambulance of the Indian Army and the Custodian Force of India (CFI) during the war.
- Raksha Mantri highlighted the enduring legacy of India's contribution to peace and humanitarian assistance on the Korean Peninsula. He noted that the shared history and sacrifices of the two nations continue to serve as a strong foundation for the India-Republic of Korea Special Strategic Partnership.
- An MoU was signed by the two Ministers aimed at honouring the veterans of the Korean war and strengthening exchanges between them. A memoir was also released in remembrance of the selfless sacrifice of the soldiers.
- The 60 Para Field Ambulance, commanded by Lt Col (Dr) AG Rangaraj, Maha Vir Chakra, earned widespread recognition for its exemplary medical service & dedication in treating thousands of wounded soldiers and civilians under extremely challenging conditions of crossfire.
- Their unmatched bravery and humanitarian approach earned them the title of 'Maroon Angels', given to them by the wounded soldiers and civilian population of RoK.
- India also played a pivotal role in the post-armistice phase of the Korean War through CFI, which was entrusted with the responsibilities under the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (NNRC).
- The NNRC, chaired by India under the leadership of Lt Gen KS Thimayya, was established to facilitate the humane repatriation and custody of prisoners of war following the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement in 1953.



India Launches ₹37,500 Crore Coal Gasification Drive

- India has approved a ₹37,500 crore coal gasification scheme to convert 75 million tonnes of coal and lignite annually into syngas, fertilisers, synthetic fuels, and chemicals.
- The initiative is expected to mobilise ₹2.5–3 lakh crore in investment, generate 50,000 jobs, and significantly reduce India's import bill for LNG, urea, ammonia, and methanol.
- The Union Cabinet's decision marks the largest single push for coal gasification in India's history, building upon the National Coal Gasification Mission of 2021 and superseding the earlier ₹8,500 crore scheme approved in January 2024.
- The program is central to India's target of gasifying 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030, leveraging the country's vast reserves of 401 billion tonnes of coal and 47 billion tonnes of lignite.
- Coal gasification involves feeding coal into high-temperature gasifiers, where it reacts with steam and limited oxygen to produce synthesis gas, or syngas.
- This versatile fuel can be used to manufacture fertilisers such as urea and ammonia, chemicals including methanol and olefins, clean fuels like synthetic natural gas and dimethyl ether, and even hydrogen for industrial applications.
- The scheme provides financial incentives of up to 20 per cent of plant and machinery costs, capped at ₹5,000 crore per project, ₹9,000 crore per product category, and ₹12,000 crore per corporate group.

- The economic rationale is compelling. India's import bill for LNG, urea, ammonia, methanol, and related commodities stood at approximately ₹2.77 lakh crore in FY2025.



RRP Defence Wins ₹29.8 Crore BEL Contract

- RRP Defence has secured a ₹29.8 crore order from Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to supply high-precision germanium lenses, reinforcing India's indigenous capabilities in electro-optics and thermal imaging.
- The deal highlights the growing importance of advanced optical components in defence applications, particularly for surveillance, weapon sights, and target acquisition systems.
- RRP Defence, an original equipment manufacturer specialising in electro-optical systems and thermal imaging technologies, will design, engineer, and customise the germanium lenses to meet BEL's specific technical and operational requirements.
- These lenses are considered mission-critical because of their ability to efficiently transmit infrared radiation, which is essential for imaging accuracy in low-visibility and night-time conditions.
- RRP Defence, headquartered in Navi Mumbai, operates across multiple entities focused on semiconductors, defence systems, drones, and aerospace technologies. The group has been expanding its footprint in thermal imaging systems, unmanned aerial vehicle platforms, and semiconductor-linked technologies.



NATO Military Committee Concludes 195th Chiefs of Defence Meeting

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Committee concluded its 195th Chiefs of Defence Meeting at NATO Headquarters in Brussels on 19 May 2026.
- The meeting brought together the military leadership of all 32 NATO member countries to discuss key security challenges, defence preparedness, military transformation, and future strategic priorities of the alliance.
- **Importance of the NATO Military Committee**
- The NATO Military Committee is the highest military authority within NATO. It provides military advice to NATO's political leadership and helps coordinate collective defence strategies among member nations. Chiefs of Defence from all allied countries participate in these important sessions to review current security situations and future military planning.
- **Major Participants in the Meeting**
- The meeting was chaired by Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, who currently serves as the Chair of the NATO Military Committee. Senior NATO commanders including Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) General Alexis G. Grynkeiwich and Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) Admiral Pierre Vandier also attended the session.
- **Key Issues Discussed**
- Collective Defence and Deterrence
- Military Transformation
- Defence Spending Commitments

- European Security Situation



US Pauses \$14 Billion Taiwan Arms Sale

- The United States has paused a proposed USD 14 billion arms sale to Taiwan amid concerns over munitions requirements linked to the ongoing conflict with Iran, according to a report by The Hill.
- Speaking during a Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee hearing on Thursday, Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao said the pause was aimed at ensuring the US military maintained adequate stockpiles for "**Operation Epic Fury**".
- According to the report, the US has used thousands of missiles since the Iran conflict began on February 28, including large numbers of long-range stealth cruise missiles, Tomahawk missiles, Patriot interceptors, Precision Strike missiles and ATACMS ground-based missiles.
- The White House is reportedly preparing to request between USD 80 billion and USD 100 billion in supplemental funding from Congress for the Iran conflict, with a substantial portion expected to replenish advanced weapons systems used during the 12-week war, which has remained under a tense ceasefire since early April.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where was the Indian War Memorial inaugurated in May 2026?

- A. Tokyo
- B. Seoul
- C. Beijing
- D. Bangkok

ANSWER: B

2. Which Indian Army unit was honoured at the Indian War Memorial in South Korea?

- A. Rajput Regiment
- B. Sikh Regiment
- C. 60 Para Field Ambulance
- D. Gorkha Rifles

ANSWER: C

3. What is the main objective of India's ₹37,500 crore coal gasification scheme?

- A. Increase coal exports
- B. Produce syngas and industrial chemicals
- C. Build nuclear plants
- D. Import LNG

ANSWER: B

4. Which company awarded a ₹29.8 crore contract to RRP Defence for germanium lenses?

- A. HAL
- B. DRDO
- C. BEL
- D. BDL

ANSWER: C

5. The 195th Chiefs of Defence Meeting was organized by which organization?

- A. ASEAN
- B. NATO
- C. BRICS
- D. SCO

ANSWER: B

6. Marine Engineering Training Establishment of the Indian Navy located at

- A. Noida
- B. Kochi
- C. Pune
- D. Wayanad

ANSWER: C

7. RIMPAC Stands For

- A. Rim of the Pacific Exercise
- B. Rim of the Perfect Exercise
- C. Rim of the Pacific Economy
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

8. IAF celebrates 60 years of Glorious Service Of

- A. INS Hansa
- B. INS Parundu
- C. Chetak
- D. Dhruv

ANSWER: C

9. INS Ranjit Is A

- A. Destroyer**

- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Tank

ANSWER: A

10. Which Country Is Not The Member Of G-7?

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Russia
- D. USA

ANSWER: A

11. Berlin Is The Capital Of

- A. France
- B. Qatar
- C. Germany
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

12. "Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings in the BCCI" Book Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Vinod Rai
- D. Anurag Thakur

ANSWER: C

13. Where Is The Hq Of The Southern Western Command of The Indian Army?

- A. Jaipur
- B. Jabalpur
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

14. Sea Dragon Exercise Hosted By

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

15. India Purchased C 130 J from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

16. Ex KHANJAR Conducted B/W India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. Kazakhstan
- D. Kyrgyzstan

ANSWER: D

17. OPEC Hq Is In

- A. Vienna
- B. New York
- C. Chennai
- D. Abu Dhabi

ANSWER: A

18. Gangtok Is The Capital Of

- A. Sikkim
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Telangana
- D. Tripura

ANSWER: A

19. What Is The Full Form Of JCB?

- A. Joseph Cyril Bamford
- B. Joseph Cyrus Bamford
- C. Joseph Cyril Bofors
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

20. Lt Gen. Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of IAF?

- A. Vice Admiral

- B. Air Commodore
- C. Commodore
- D. Air Marshal

ANSWER: D