

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 23 May 2026

### Successful Test-launch of Agni-1 Ballistic Missile

- Short Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni-1' was successfully test-launched from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha on May 22, 2026. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters. The test was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.
- The Agni-1 is a short-range ballistic missile with a strike range between 700 and 1,200 kilometres. They are claimed to be a part of the "Minimum Credible Deterrence".
- It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads, making it a versatile system within India's arsenal.
- Developed in the aftermath of the 1999 Kargil war, Agni-1 was specifically created to fill the tactical gap between the shorter-range Prithvi-II missile, which has a range of 250 kilometres, and the longer-range Agni-II missile.
- India's missile development trajectory reflects a deliberate strategy of balancing regional deterrence with global credibility. While longer-range systems such as Agni-5 and the proposed Agni-6 are designed to project power across continents, shorter-range systems like Agni-1 remain indispensable for immediate tactical requirements.



## 138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee Meeting

- The 138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee meeting was conducted at Ahmedabad on May 21, 2026 under the Chairpersonship of Director General ICG, Paramesh Sivamani, to review and strengthen the security framework for India's offshore installations and critical energy infrastructure.
- The Committee focused on enhancing maritime domain awareness, strengthening inter-agency coordination, augmenting surveillance capabilities and improving joint response mechanisms to effectively address emerging offshore security challenges.
- During the meeting, deliberations were held on the evolving global and regional security environment, modern warfare dynamics including unmanned and drone-enabled threats, and the expanding offshore exploration activities in the Andaman & Nicobar region.
- The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of all stakeholders towards ensuring robust security of India's offshore assets and critical maritime infrastructure.



## India To Launch 'Smart Border' Project

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the government will launch a "smart border" project in the next year to make the 6,000 km fronts with Pakistan and Bangladesh impenetrable and ensure that the "conspiracy" to change the demography of the areas is defeated.

- Delivering the annual Rustamji Memorial lecture hosted by the Border Security Force (BSF) here, the minister also reiterated that the government would find each and every infiltrator from the country and send them outside India.
- K F Rustamji was the first director general of the BSF after it was raised in 1965.
- The minister also urged BSF troops to ensure that the conspiracy to artificially change the demography of India is defeated. He said current state governments in Tripura, West Bengal and Assam -- all led by the BJP -- believe in the policy that there should no infiltration from across Indian borders.



## India To Host 'Quad' Security Alliance Meeting

- The foreign ministers of the Quad nations will deliberate on the fallout of the West Asia crisis and the prevailing situation in the Indo-Pacific at an India-hosted meeting.
- The New Delhi meeting will be attended by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.
- "In keeping with the Quad vision for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, the ministers will build on discussions held in Washington DC on July 1, 2025," the MEA said.
- "They will exchange views on advancing Quad cooperation across priority areas, review progress on ongoing Quad initiatives, and reflect on recent developments in the Indo-Pacific region and other international issues of mutual concern," it said.

- The Quad, comprising India, the US, Australia and Japan, has emerged as a key grouping largely focusing on peace, security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- In the last Quad summit held in Wilmington in the US in 2024, top leaders of the grouping unveiled major steps to expand maritime security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.



## Major Abhilasha Barak Honoured With UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award 2025

- Indian Army officer Major Abhilasha Barak, serving with the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, has been honoured with the prestigious **United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for 2025**.
- Major Barak is currently serving with the Indian Battalion as Commander of the Female Engagement Team in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). She is also the first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army.
- With this recognition, Major Barak becomes the third Indian peacekeeper to receive the honour. Earlier, Suman Gawani was awarded in 2019 for her service with the **UN Mission in South Sudan**, while Radhika Sen received the award in 2023 for her work with the UN Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The award, instituted in **2016 by the Office of Military Affairs** under the UN Department of Peace Operations, recognises a military peacekeeper who has shown exceptional commitment to promoting gender equality and

implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

- The recipient is selected annually from nominations submitted by Force Commanders and Heads of Mission across UN peacekeeping operations worldwide.
- India remains one of the largest contributors of troops and police personnel to UN peacekeeping missions across the world.



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EXAMS

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Where was the Agni-1 ballistic missile successfully test-launched in May 2026?**

- A. Pokhran, Rajasthan
- B. Chandipur, Odisha
- C. Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- D. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**2. The Agni-1 missile was developed after which major conflict?**

- A. Indo-China War
- B. Indo-Pak War of 1971
- C. Kargil War
- D. Doklam Standoff

**ANSWER: C**

**3. Who chaired the 138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee meeting held in Ahmedabad?**

- A. Rajnath Singh
- B. Amit Shah
- C. Paramesh Sivamani
- D. Manoj Pande

**ANSWER: C**

**4. Which countries are members of the Quad grouping?**

- A. India, China, Russia, Japan
- B. India, US, Australia, Japan
- C. India, France, UK, Australia
- D. US, UK, Japan, South Korea

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Major Abhilasha Barak received the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for which year?**

- A. 2023
- B. 2024
- C. 2025
- D. 2026

**ANSWER: C**

**6. In which city did the Indian Navy inaugurate its premier Naval Sailing Node on 17 May 2026?**

- A. Visakhapatnam
- B. Kochi
- C. Bhopal
- D. Mumbai

**ANSWER: C**

**7. In which city was the third edition of the Kalam & Kavach strategic defence conference inaugurated on May 14, 2026?**

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Hyderabad
- C. New Delhi
- D. Pune

**ANSWER: C**

**8. What is the name of the strategic initiative aimed at establishing manufacturing and integration partnerships across 7 continents and 77 countries for the Kaal Bhairava combat aircraft?**

- A. Operation 777
- B. Mission Garuda
- C. Project Astra
- D. Operation Trident

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Which Indian Naval Ship completed the IOS SAGAR initiative port call at Chattogram, Bangladesh?**

- A. INS Sunayna
- B. INS Vikrant
- C. INS Kolkata
- D. INS Shivalik

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Which organization successfully conducted the long-duration test of an Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor for hypersonic missiles?**

- A. ISRO
- B. DRDO
- C. HAL
- D. BHEL

**ANSWER: B**

**11. The Highest Rank Structure In NSG Is**

- A. Director General
- B. Inspector General
- C. Deputy Inspector General
- D. Group Commander

**ANSWER: A**

**12. INS Tarangini Is A**

- A. Helicopter
- B. Sailing Ship

- C. UAV
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: B**

**13. FGM-148 Javelin Is Made By**

- A. Boeing
- B. Lockheed Martin
- C. Raytheon
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**14. Q.M.HAV Stands For**

- A. Quarter Havildar
- B. Quartermaster Havildar
- C. Quartermaster Hawadar
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Santiago Is The Capital Of**

- A. Oman
- B. Colombia
- C. UAE
- D. Chile

**ANSWER: D**

**16. "Vahana Masterclass" Book Is Written By**

- A. Alfredo Covelli
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. R. Kaushik

**ANSWER: A**

**17. "Balidanam Vir Lakshanam" Is The Motto Of**

- A. JKLI
- B. THE MAHAR REGIMENT
- C. THE BIHAR REGIMENT
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Prithvi III Is A**

- A. Air to Air Missile
- B. Surface to Air Missile
- C. Surface to Surface Missile
- D. Air to Sea Missile

**ANSWER: C**

**19. Shishumar Is a**

- A. Air to Air missile
- B. Sniper Rifle
- C. Anti-tank Guided missile
- D. Submarine

**ANSWER: D**

**20. Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL) Centre Is Located In**

- A. Hyderabad, Telangana
- B. Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- D. Tezpur, Assam

**ANSWER: A**