

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 25 May 2026

### Inauguration of NIBE's Mega Defence Complex In Shirdi

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today inaugurated NIBE Limited's landmark defence manufacturing complex in Shirdi, Maharashtra, and flagged off the first **Suryastra Universal Rocket Launcher System**.
- The facility is one of India's largest private-sector defence investments, designed to produce artillery shells, rockets, drones, and advanced munitions, marking a major step in the country's self-reliance drive.
- Spread across 200 acres in Ahilyanagar district, the complex has an annual capacity to produce five lakh 155mm artillery shells, making it the largest private artillery shell facility in India.
- Alongside this, the plant will manufacture missile systems, rocket launchers, kamikaze drones, explosives, and autonomous defence platforms.
- The project carries an investment of over ₹3,000 crore, and is expected to generate thousands of jobs while strengthening the regional industrial ecosystem.
- At the event, NIBE showcased the Suryastra Rocket Launcher System, capable of firing rockets with ranges of 150 km and 300 km. The system had recently been tested at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha, achieving high accuracy.



## India, Oman Strengthen Defence Cooperation

- India and Oman reinforced their growing strategic defence partnership through a specialised military training initiative conducted by two Indian Mobile Training Teams (IMTT) for personnel of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) of Oman.
- The training programmes led by officers from Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) along with personnel from the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, focused on operational coordination and joint logistics preparedness.
- The statement added that the initiative witnessed participation from around 110 officers representing various branches of Oman's armed forces and defence agencies.
- On May 14, India condemned an attack on an Indian-flagged commercial vessel off the coast of Oman, calling the incident "unacceptable" and reiterating the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation and civilian maritime activity amid the conflict in West Asia.



## India, Russia Advance Military Cooperation

- India and Russia held discussions on further deepening their military partnership during the 5th Sub Working Group (Land) meeting.
- Indian Army said that the meeting took place under the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) on Military & Military Technical Cooperation, marking another significant milestone in strengthening defence ties between the Indian Army and the Russian Land Forces.
- As India and Russia continue to intensify the footprint of their "privileged strategic partnership," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, during his visit to India in May, revealed that Moscow and New Delhi have engaged in "detailed discussions" spanning the high-stakes sectors of defence manufacturing, space exploration, and fertiliser cooperation.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12-13, according to a presidential aide. India, as the chair of the BRICS, will host the annual summit of the grouping in September.
- This will be the second visit for Putin to India in a year. He was last in New Delhi for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit that took place in December 2025.



## Graduation Ceremony of 48th Flight Test Course

- Eleven Test Pilots and Six Flight Test Engineers of the 48th Flight Test Course graduated from the Air Force Test Pilots School (AFTPS) in Bengaluru on 23 May 26 post completion of a rigorous 48 weeks multi-discipline training curriculum. This year, the graduating course, comprised of a cohort of 17 officers including 14 officers from Indian Air Force, one officer from Indian Army and two officers from Indian Navy.
- From here on, the graduates will join the Aviation Wing of the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment, which is one of the premier units of the Indian Air Force.
- **Air Chief Marshal AP Singh PVSM AVSM**, Chief of the Air Staff and a distinguished alumnus of the **17th Flight Test Course**, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He presented certificates to all graduating officers and awarded trophies to the meritorious performers. This year, the prestigious "Suranjan Das Trophy" for the best all-round student Test Pilot was awarded to Sqn Ldr KK Singh, VM, while the "Chief of the Air Staff Trophy" for the best student Test Pilot in flight evaluation was awarded to Sqn Ldr Aditya Jamdagni.
- The "Maharaja Hanumanth Singh Sword" for the best all round student Flight Test Engineer was awarded to Wg Cdr Abhinav Kumar. Wg Cdr Pranav Sharma was awarded the "Dunlop Trophy" for best student Flight Test Engineer in flight evaluation and the "Kapil Bhargava Trophy" for the best student in ground subjects was awarded to Sqn Ldr Paras Sharma.
- While addressing the house on the occasion, the Chief Guest exhorted the graduating officers to continue toiling hard with focus and reminded them of the crucial role that they would go on to play towards capability building and modernisation of the Indian Armed Forces.

- Emphasising 'Atmanirbharta' as a strategic necessity for developing resilient indigenous defence capabilities, the CAS highlighted the onerous responsibility that the test crew needs to shoulder to proliferate the nation's indigenisation drive and strengthen the aerospace ecosystem.



## Marco Rubio India Visit Highlights

- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said a new consular wing at the US Embassy in New Delhi will provide infrastructure for more rigorous vetting, processing and screening to protect US borders. Rubio said every visa decision is a national security decision and added that the new facility would support American personnel working on the frontlines of advancing US interests and President Donald Trump's America First foreign policy.
- Foreign Affairs Expert Robinder Sachdev said US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's India visit comes at a crucial time as several important bilateral issues remain unresolved between New Delhi and Washington. Sachdev said the past year had been among the most difficult phases in India-US relations in the last 25 years, marked by policy differences and disputes. However, he noted that both countries continue to share strong long-term potential and strategic convergence. According to Sachdev, one of Rubio's key objectives during the visit would be to help restore stability in bilateral ties and move the relationship beyond the tensions witnessed over the past year.
- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there is a chance the United States may have something to say on Iran in the coming days during his visit to India. Rubio's remarks come amid heightened focus on regional security and

developments related to Iran, as Washington continues consultations with key partners on strategic and geopolitical issues.

- US Ambassador Sergio Gorrill said Marco Rubio extended an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on behalf of President Donald Trump to visit the White House in the near future.
- After meeting Marco Rubio, Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X: We discussed sustained progress in the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and issues related to regional and global peace and security.

### 'Not targeted at India': Marco Rubio clears the air on green card, H-1B, student visa policy changes

Rubio added that the changes will cause some "friction points," but were not targeted at India.

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By [Danita Yadav](#) X



United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio speaks during a joint press conference with Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar in New Delhi (Arvind Yadav/ HT Photo)

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which defence manufacturing company inaugurated its mega defence complex in Shirdi, Maharashtra?
  - A. HAL
  - B. DRDO
  - C. NIBE Limited
  - D. BEL

**ANSWER: C**

**2. The Suryastra Universal Rocket Launcher System showcased at the Shirdi defence complex is capable of firing rockets up to which maximum range?**

- A. 100 km
- B. 150 km
- C. 200 km
- D. 300 km

**ANSWER: D**

**3. The 48th Flight Test Course graduation ceremony was conducted at which institution?**

- A. National Defence Academy
- B. Air Force Test Pilots School
- C. Defence Services Staff College
- D. Indian Naval Academy

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Which organisation successfully completed the final development trials of the indigenous UPLGM-V3 precision-guided missile in May 2026?**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Who became the first woman officer in Indian Air Force history to earn the Category-A Qualified Flying Instructor rating in 2026?**

- A. Saanya
- B. Shaliza Dhani
- C. Avani Chaturvedi
- D. Bhawana Kanth

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Which company entered into a strategic collaboration with France-based Exail for the Indian Navy's Unmanned Mine Counter-Measure Suite in May 2026?**

- A. L&T
- B. BEL
- C. HAL
- D. BHEL

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Who Is The Responsible Minister Of The Defence Acquisition Council?**

- A. Home Minister
- B. Defence Minister
- C. External Affairs Minister
- D. PM

**ANSWER: B**

**8. 'Air Independent Propulsion System' Is Inducted**

- A. Helicopter
- B. UAV
- C. Submarine
- D. Destroyer

**ANSWER: C**

**9. Regimental Centre of GARHWAL RIFLES Is In**

- A. Happy Valley, Shillong, Meghalaya
- B. Ranikhet, Uttarakhand
- C. Lansdowne, Uttarakhand
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:**

- A. Desert Eagle
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Indradhanush

**ANSWER: D**

**11. 'Nirdeshak' Ship Is built by**

- A. MDL
- B. GRSE
- C. CSL
- D. DRDO

**ANSWER: B**

**12. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island Is Located At**

- A. A&N
- B. Ladakh
- C. J&K
- D. Puducherry

**ANSWER: A**

**13. V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust Is Located In**

- A. T.N
- B. M.H
- C. Goa
- D. A.P

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Full-Form of ATAGS Is**

- A. Adventure Towed Artillery Gun System
- B. Advanced To Artillery Gun System
- C. Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System
- D. Advanced Towed Artillery Gum System

**ANSWER: C**

**15. At Which Of The Following Places Is The Heavy Vehicles Factory Located?**

- A. Kanpur
- B. Khadki
- C. Avadi
- D. 24 Paraganas

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Sofia Is The Capital Of**

- A. Brunei
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Bulgaria

**ANSWER: D**

**17. "Prashata Ranvirta" Is A Motto Of**

- A. Jammu And Kashmir Rifles
- B. Gorkha Regiment
- C. Punjab Regiment

D. None

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Exercises B/w India And Bangladesh Is Called:**

A. GARUDA SHAKTI

B. SLINEX

C. SAMPRITI

D. Yudha Abhyas

**ANSWER: C**

**19. Barrett M95 Is A**

A. Sniper Rifles

B. Helicopter

C. ATAGS

D. ATGM

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Astra Is A**

A. Air-to-air Missile

B. Air-to-surface Missile

C. Air-to-sea Missile

D. None

**ANSWER: A**