Daily Defence Current Affairs
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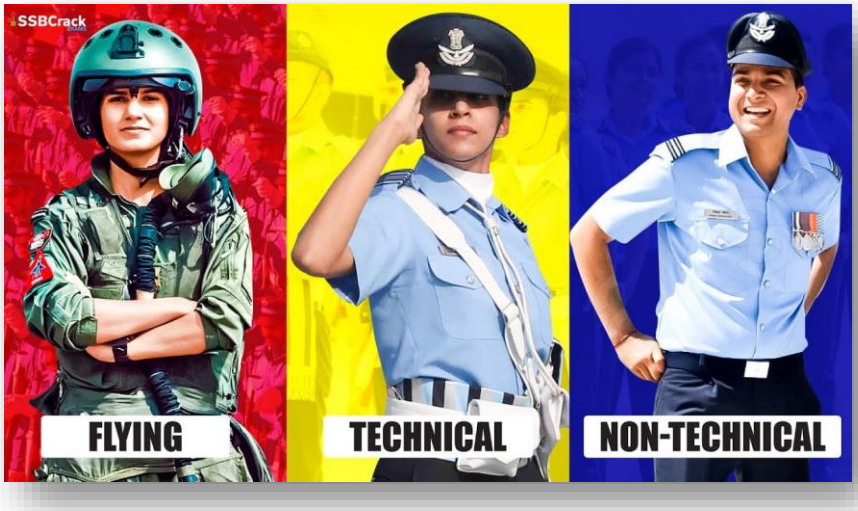
IAF Announces Entry For Technical Branch

- IAF is pleased to announce the introduction of a scheme for induction into the Technical Branch (Officers Cadre), allowing eligible candidates to apply based on their **Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) scores.**
- Under this new initiative, candidates possessing a valid GATE score will be eligible for direct shortlisting for testing at the Air Force Selection Boards (AFSBs).
- Selection will be based on merit, effectively exempting these candidates from the preliminary written examination, such as the **Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT).**
- The GATE Score scheme will be applicable exclusively for induction into the Technical Branch. The AFCAT will continue to serve as the standard admission test for induction into all branches of the IAF, including the Technical Branch.
- The entry-level educational qualifications for the GATE Score scheme will remain consistent with the existing induction criteria for the Technical Branch via AFCAT. A comprehensive list of acceptable GATE subjects have been formally promulgated by the IAF in **AFCAT Notification 02/2026.**
- To provide maximum flexibility and opportunity to aspirants, eligible candidates may apply for the Technical Branch through both the AFCAT and the GATE Score schemes, as per their choice.

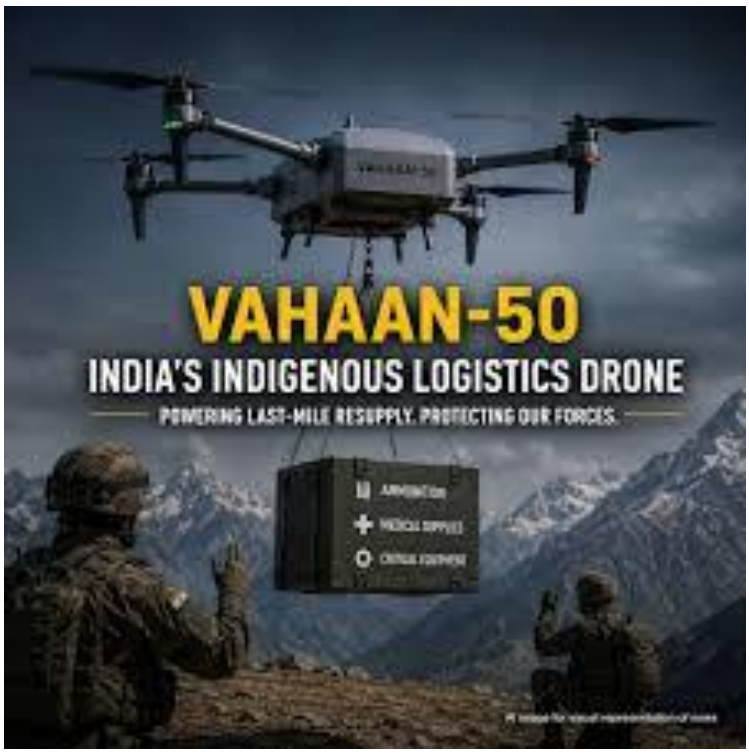


Lt Gen Harjeet Singh Sahi Appointed Chief of Staff, Western Command

- Lieutenant General Harjeet Singh Sahi has been appointed the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Western Command, at Chandimandir Military Station.
- Lt Gen Sahi succeeds Lieutenant General Puneet Ahuja, AVSM, SM, VSM, who has proceeded to assume the appointment of Director General Strategic Planning at Army Headquarters.
- An alumnus of Punjab Public School, Nabha and Indian Military Academy Dehradun, Lt Gen Sahi was commissioned into 23rd Battalion, The Rajput Regiment in December 1988 and presently holds the prestigious appointment of Colonel of The Rajput Regiment.
- The General Officer has extensive operational experience across the Northern, Western and Eastern theatres, including Siachen Glacier. He commanded his battalion and an Infantry Brigade along the Line of Control and Counter Insurgency Force (Kilo) in Jammu and Kashmir.
- He has attended all the important professional courses, including the Staff Course at DSSC Wellington, Higher Command Course at Army War College, Mhow and the NDC Course at National Defence College, New Delhi. Lt Gen Sahi holds two MPhil degrees and a master's degree in Defence and Strategic Studies.

BEL Unveils Vahaan-50

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has unveiled the Vahaan-50, a high-altitude heavy-lift logistics drone with a payload capacity of 50 kilograms, a 10-kilometre range, and a service ceiling of 5,000 metres.
- This indigenous platform is designed to deliver critical supplies to troops in remote and contested terrains, offering a cost-effective alternative to helicopters and mule transport.
- The Vahaan-50 was showcased at the North Tech Symposium 2026 in Prayagraj, underscoring India's commitment to the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- BEL has positioned the drone as a reliable solution for last-mile resupply in high-altitude sectors such as the Himalayas, where traditional logistics are slow, risky, or impractical.
- Its **Vertical Take-Off and Landing** (VTOL) quad-rotor design allows deployment from confined spaces and forward operating bases without the need for runways.
- Technically, the drone demonstrates payload efficiency of nearly 33% of its Maximum Take-Off Weight (MTOW), which is significant for high-altitude operations where thin air reduces lift.
- It is equipped with mission-critical systems including dual GPS units, a parachute fail-safe mechanism, and resilience for GPS-denied environments, ensuring survivability even in contested zones.
- An Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) camera provides real-time surveillance, navigation assistance, and precision targeting during supply drops.



Adani Green Commissions World's Largest 3.37 GWh Battery Storage

- Adani Green Energy has commissioned a massive 3.37 GWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Khavda, Gujarat, making it the world's largest single-location battery storage project outside China.
- Completed in just 10 months, the system can power nearly one million homes for a day and is central to India's clean energy expansion.
- Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has announced the commissioning of a cumulative 3.37 GWh battery storage system at its Khavda renewable energy park in Gujarat.
- This milestone strengthens India's grid-scale clean energy infrastructure and represents one of the fastest utility-scale battery storage deployments globally. The project includes 1.37 GWh of capacity added in March 2026, taking the total operational storage at Khavda to 3.37 GWh.
- The Khavda site is already one of India's largest renewable energy developments. AGEL operationalised 1,000 MW of solar capacity in March 2024 within just 12 months of starting work at the site.
- The broader project spans 538 square kilometres and is part of a 30 GW renewable energy build-out. Currently, 9.9 GW of renewable capacity is

operational at Khavda, underscoring its role as a cornerstone of AGEL's expansion strategy.

Oil India Finds New Gas-Bearing Zone in Rajasthan

- India has discovered the new natural gas bearing zone in the Rajasthan's Dandewala field. This breakthrough is achieved by the state run Oil India Limited (OIL) and it marks the important step to reducing the India's on imported energy.
- This is significant because it expands the hydrocarbon potential of the Dandewala field and it opens fresh opportunities for domestic gas production.
- The Dandewala field is located in the Rajasthan, within the hydrocarbon-rich Rajasthan sedimentary basin.
- This basin is one of the India's major onshore oil and gas producing regions.
- As India remains heavily dependent on imported energy.
- Current dependence includes the,
- Over 85% of crude oil imports
- Around 50% of natural gas imports
- Oil India Limited (OIL) is one of the India's leading upstream energy public sector companies.
- The company has been actively expanding the exploration efforts across multiple sedimentary basins.
- The discovery comes at the crucial time.
- As the global energy markets have faced uncertainty due to the,
- Geopolitical tensions in West Asia
- Supply disruptions

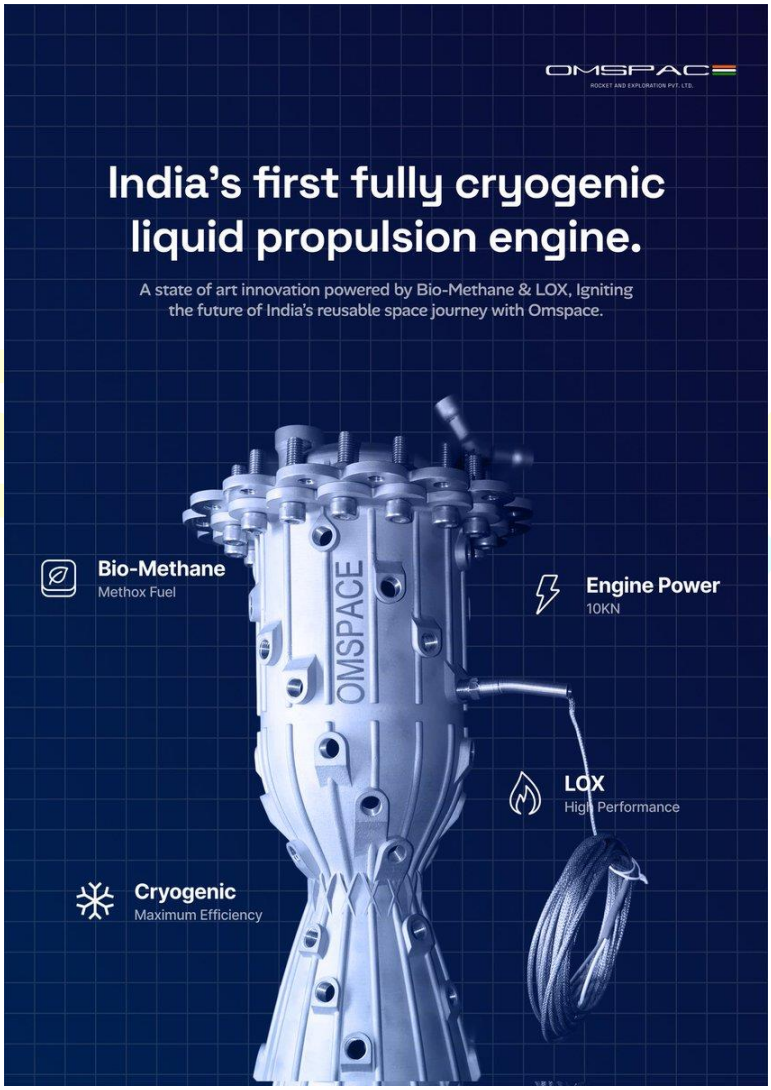
- Crude oil price volatility
- Rising international gas demand

India’s First Fully Cryogenic Bio-Methane And LoX Engine

- India’s private space sector has marked another breakthrough with OMSPACE unveiling the country’s first fully cryogenic liquid propulsion engine powered by **Bio-Methane and Liquid Oxygen (LOX).**
- Delivering 10 kN of thrust, this engine is designed for reusable launch vehicles, combining sustainability with efficiency and proudly engineered on Indian soil.
- The new cryogenic propulsion system represents a significant leap in India’s indigenous aerospace capabilities. Unlike conventional cryogenic engines that rely on imported propellants, OMSPACE has been innovated by using Bio-Methane, a renewable fuel source, paired with LOX.
- This combination not only reduces environmental impact but also enhances reusability by minimising soot formation and thermal stress, which are common challenges in hydrocarbon-based engines.
- Generating 10 kN of thrust, the engine is tailored for small to medium reusable launch vehicles. While modest compared to heavy-lift propulsion systems, this thrust level is ideal for orbital infrastructure missions that demand frequent, low-cost launches.
- OMSPACE’s design philosophy focuses on enabling high-frequency access to space, aligning with global trends where reusability and sustainability are paramount.
- The cryogenic cycle employed ensures maximum efficiency by operating at extremely low temperatures, allowing propellants to remain in liquid form until

combustion. This results in higher specific impulse compared to semi-cryogenic or solid propulsion systems.

- The use of Bio-Methane also positions OMSPACE as a pioneer in green propulsion, echoing international efforts to reduce carbon footprints in space exploration.
- The engine is expected to play a crucial role in building reliable orbital infrastructure. By enabling reusable launch vehicles, OMSPACE aims to drastically reduce launch costs, making space access more affordable for satellite operators, research institutions, and commercial ventures.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Indian Air Force introduced a new entry scheme for the Technical Branch based on which examination score?
A. JEE
B. NDA
C. GATE
D. CDS
Answer: C. GATE

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2. Under the new IAF Technical Branch scheme, candidates with valid GATE scores are exempted from:
A. Medical Examination
B. Interview Process
C. Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) written exam
D. Physical Fitness Test
Answer: C. Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) written exam

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3. Lieutenant General Harjeet Singh Sahi has been appointed as the Chief of Staff of:
A. Northern Command
B. Eastern Command
C. Southern Command
D. Western Command
Answer: D. Western Command

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4. Lt Gen Harjeet Singh Sahi was commissioned into which regiment?
A. Sikh Regiment
B. Rajput Regiment
C. Gorkha Rifles
D. Jat Regiment
Answer: B. Rajput Regiment

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5. The Vahaan 50 logistics drone has been developed by:
A. DRDO
B. HAL
C. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
D. ISRO
Answer: C. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

6. What is the payload carrying capacity of the Vahaan 50 drone?
A. 20 kg
B. 35 kg
C. 50 kg
D. 100 kg
Answer: C. 50 kg

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7. Adani Green Energy commissioned the world's largest single-location battery storage project outside China in:
A. Rajasthan
B. Maharashtra
C. Gujarat
D. Tamil Nadu
Answer: C. Gujarat

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8. The newly discovered gas-bearing zone by Oil India Limited is located in:
A. Assam
B. Rajasthan
C. Gujarat
D. Odisha
Answer: B. Rajasthan

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9. OMSPACE developed India's first fully cryogenic propulsion engine powered by:
A. Hydrogen and Oxygen
B. Diesel and Oxygen
C. Bio-Methane and Liquid Oxygen
D. Kerosene and Nitrogen
Answer: C. Bio-Methane and Liquid Oxygen

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10. The thrust generated by OMSPACE's new cryogenic engine is:
A. 5 kN
B. 10 kN
C. 20 kN
D. 50 kN
Answer: B. 10 kN

11.“Sarvatra” (Everywhere) Is The Motto Of

A. JKRIF
B. RR
C. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
D. Madras Regiment

ANSWER: C

12. SLBM Stands For

A. Submarine-launched Ballistic Misery
B. Submarine-launched Ballistic Missile
C. Submarine-launched Ballet Missile
D. Solar-launched Ballistic Missile

ANSWER: B

13. Merkava Mk.4 Is The Tank Of

A. Germany
B. Israel
C. USA
D. India

ANSWER: B

14. Exercises B/w India And Egypt Is Called:

A. SLINEX
B. Indra
C. Yudha Abhyas
D. Ex CYCLONE

ANSWER: D

15. NAY PYI TAW Is The Capital Of

A. Myanmar
B. Mozambique
C. Morocco
D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

16. Colonel Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of Indian Navy Is

A. Commander
B. Captain

C. Group Captain
D. Lieutenant
ANSWER: B

17. From Which Country Has India Purchased Its Apache Helicopters?
A. U.K.
B. Sweden
C. France
D. USA
ANSWER: D

18. Air Commodore of IAF Is Equivalent To The Which Rank Of Indian Army?
A. Brigadier
B. Captain
C. Lt. Colonel
D. Colonel
ANSWER: A

19.What is the range of the Pinaka rocket launcher system?
A. 50 kilometers
B. 80 kilometers
C. 100 kilometers
D. 120 kilometers
ANSWER: B

20.Exercise 'Samudra Laksamana conducted b/w India &
A. Qatar
B. Oman
C. Malyasia
D. Maldives
ANSWER: C