

Daily Defence Current Affairs

08 June 2026

India Discovers Offshore Natural Gas At Sri Vijayapuram

- India has announced a significant breakthrough in its offshore energy exploration program with the discovery of natural gas at the Sri Vijayapuram-3 well, located about 15 kilometres off the east coast of the Andaman Islands.
- The announcement was made by the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, who emphasised that the find reinforces the vast energy potential of the Andaman Sea and marks another success in the ongoing exploration campaign in the basin.
- The discovery was made at a water depth of 355 metres, underscoring the technical capabilities of India's offshore exploration teams in navigating challenging subsea environments.
- The Sri Vijayapuram-3 well forms part of a broader exploration initiative aimed at mapping and harnessing the hydrocarbon potential of India's eastern offshore territories. The Andaman Sea, with its complex geological structures and relatively under-explored basins, has been identified as a promising zone for natural gas reserves.
- This development is likely to stimulate interest among both public sector enterprises and private operators in exploring the Andaman basin further. The combination of strategic location, growing demand, and technological feasibility makes the region an attractive frontier for future investment.



DRDO Develops Indigenous AI For Cyber Defence

- The DRDO has embarked on a significant initiative to develop an indigenous artificial intelligence system tailored for cyber defence.
- This project is designed to address critical areas such as vulnerability discovery, malware analysis, and threat intelligence, with the aim of creating a defence-grade AI capability that operates entirely within secure military networks.
- By doing so, India seeks to reduce its dependence on foreign AI models for sensitive national security applications, ensuring that all model weights, training data, inference logs, and operational outputs remain confined to defence-controlled infrastructure.
- Officials have emphasised that the system will function in a fully air-gapped environment, thereby eliminating risks associated with external connectivity. This approach is intended to safeguard against potential backdoors, adversarial model poisoning, and reliance on overseas computing infrastructure.
- The AI platform will be capable of identifying a wide range of software vulnerabilities, including memory corruption bugs, use-after-free and double-free vulnerabilities, authentication bypasses, injection attacks, cryptographic weaknesses, and logic flaws.
- The scale of the project is ambitious, with DRDO envisioning a large language model in the 30–70 billion parameter category. This places the system in the same class as advanced global AI models currently available.
- This initiative aligns with the Ministry of Defence’s declaration of 2025 as the “Year of Reforms,” which placed strong emphasis on technology-driven transformation in areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cyber capabilities.



Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Will Be Next Vice Chief

- Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, a decorated fighter pilot and seasoned test pilot, has been appointed as the next Vice Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.
- He will assume charge on 1 July 2026, succeeding Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, at a crucial juncture when the IAF is intensifying its modernisation drive and advancing theatre command integration.
- His tenure has been marked by significant contributions towards the creation of integrated theatre commands, improving coordination and operational synergy between the Army, Navy, and Air Force. His transition to the Vice Chief's role is expected to bring this cross-service perspective into the Air Force's leadership structure.
- Commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on 6 December 1986, he is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, the Defence Services Staff College in Bangladesh, and the National Defence College, New Delhi.
- A qualified flying instructor and experimental test pilot, he has logged over 3,300 flying hours on more than 20 types of aircraft, including the Mirage-2000, MiG-21, Jaguar, and Hawk. His operational experience includes participation in major operations such as Rakshak and Safed Sagar during the Kargil War, underscoring his combat credentials.



Prime Minister Modi Visited In Hazira

- On the industrial coastline of Hazira near Surat lies Larsen & Toubro's A.M. Naik Heavy Engineering Complex, a facility that has rapidly evolved from producing heavy industrial equipment to manufacturing some of the most advanced tracked armoured platforms for the Indian Army.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit, his first in seven years, highlighted the strategic and economic significance of this site, which has become emblematic of India's defence modernisation drive.
- The first major breakthrough at Hazira was the K9 Vajra-T, a tracked self-propelled artillery gun adapted from South Korea's K9 Thunder. Tailored for Indian conditions, particularly high-altitude terrain, the Vajra filled a critical gap in mobile artillery capability.
- L&T delivered 100 systems, many now deployed in Eastern Ladakh, and secured an additional order for 100 more, ensuring sustained production. For the Indian Army, it was a leap in capability, and for L&T, proof that a private company could deliver complex defence platforms at scale and on time.
- The Zorawar light tank project brought Hazira into national prominence. Jointly developed with the DRDO, the 25-tonne tank was designed for mountain warfare, where heavy main battle tanks like the Arjun are impractical.

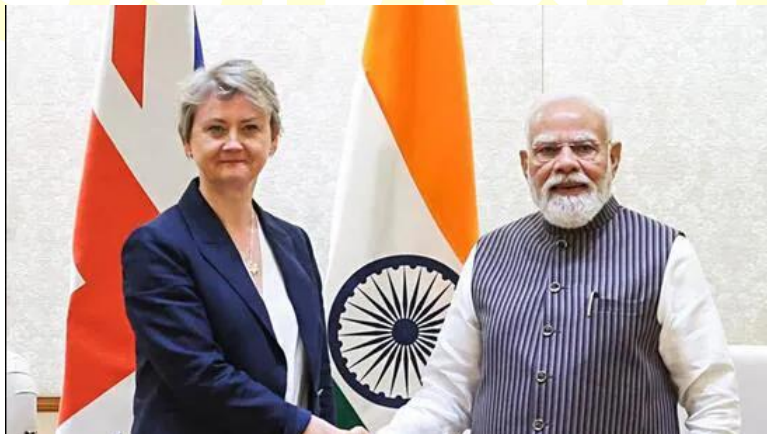
- Hazira's future is the Future Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV), intended to replace the ageing BMP-2 fleet. Equipped with a 30–40 mm main gun and fifth-generation anti-tank guided missiles, the FICV represents one of India's most ambitious indigenous vehicle projects.
- The Hazira complex, in essence, demonstrates how India's defence ambitions are being translated from policy into tangible steel, machinery and operational hardware, marking a decisive step in the country's journey towards self-reliance and global competitiveness in defence manufacturing.



UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper Concludes India Visit

- UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper has concluded her landmark visit to India and China, emphasising strong engagement with global powers to secure Britain's prosperity.
- Her meetings in New Delhi with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar advanced Vision 2035 cooperation, focusing on maritime security, critical minerals, and resilient supply chains.
- Yvette Cooper's visit underscored the UK's determination to remain at the centre of international dialogue. She stressed that Britain cannot isolate itself from global challenges through "cancel culture" in foreign policy, but must instead engage constructively with key interlocutors. This approach, she argued, is essential to deliver growth and security for the British people.
- In New Delhi, Cooper drove forward discussions on issues vital to UK prosperity, including maritime security, economic growth, and safeguarding supply chains from global shocks.

-
- Her talks with Prime Minister Modi and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar built upon the strategic direction set under the Vision 2035 framework, which has become the guiding roadmap for India-UK relations.
- A major focus was the Strait of Hormuz, where disruptions have severely impacted international shipping. Cooper highlighted the urgent need for joint efforts to ease the consequences of its closure.
- To this end, she co-launched the **Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (RMSCE)**, a new institution designed to strengthen UK-India cooperation in maritime security and enhance resilience against global economic shocks. The centre, established under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, will improve maritime domain awareness and collaborative responses to threats at sea.
- India committed **€1.2 million** to establish a satellite observatory campus at the Indian Institute of Technology in Dhanbad, in partnership with the University of Cambridge. This facility will strengthen India's capabilities in supply chain intelligence and support evidence-based policymaking under the National Critical Mineral Mission.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India recently discovered natural gas at the Sri Vijayapuram-3 well located near which region?

- A) Lakshadweep Islands
- B) Gulf of Kutch

- C) Andaman Islands
- D) Gulf of Mannar

Answer: C) Andaman Islands

2. The indigenous AI system being developed by DRDO is primarily aimed at strengthening which capability?

- A) Space Exploration
- B) Cyber Defence
- C) Weather Forecasting
- D) Agricultural Research

Answer: B) Cyber Defence

3. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit will assume charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff on:

- A) 15 August 2026
- B) 1 July 2026
- C) 26 January 2027
- D) 1 January 2027

Answer: B) 1 July 2026

4. The Zorawar light tank project, designed for mountain warfare, is being jointly developed by DRDO and:

- A) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- B) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- C) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
- D) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)

Answer: C) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

5. The Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (RMSCE), launched during the UK Foreign Secretary's visit to India, aims to strengthen cooperation in:

- A) Nuclear Energy
- B) Agricultural Technology
- C) Maritime Security
- D) Space Research

Answer: C) Maritime Security

6. 'Ex AL NAGAH, NASEEM-AL-BAHR, Ex EASTERN BRIDGE' Conducted b/w India &

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

ANSWER: B

7. Who Is The Chairman Of The National Command Authority Of India?

- A. PM
- B. NSA
- C. Cabinet Secretary
- D. Defence Minister

ANSWER: A

8. 'Ex KOMODO' Hosted By

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

ANSWER: D

9. Operational Range of Rudram-1 Is

- A.** 150 km
- B.** 250 km
- C.** 350 km
- D.** 450 km

ANSWER: B

10. Army Air Defence College Is In

- A. Gopalpur, Odisha
- B. Pune, M.H.
- C. Chennai, T.N.
- D. None

ANSWER: A

11. "Sarvatra Izzat-o-Iqbal" Is The Motto Of

- A. Dogra Scouts
- B. Sikkim Scouts
- C. Regiment Of Artillery
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

12. Prahaar Missile Manufactured By

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

ANSWER: B

13. Thales Group Is A Company of ___

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

ANSWER: D

14. Which Of The Following Is Not The Command Location Of The Indian Army?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Lucknow
- C. Pune
- D. Jaipur

ANSWER: A

15. Which Is The 2 Star Rank In The Indian Army?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Major General
- C. Lt Gen
- D. Colonel

ANSWER: B

16. Bratislava Is The Capital

- A. Oman
- B. Serbia

- C. UAE
- D. Slovakia

ANSWER: D

17. "Courts of India" Book Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. CJI Ranjan Gogoi (Former)
- C. Roopa Pai
- D. Peter Baker

ANSWER: B

18. World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Hq Is At

- A. Paris, France
- B. Vienna, Austria
- C. New York, USA
- D. Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER: D

19. UNICEF Stands For

- A. Union Nations Children's Fund
- B. United Nations Children's Fund
- C. United Nations Children's Future
- D. United International Nations Children's Fund

ANSWER: D

20. __Himalayan pass is situated b/w India and China.

- A. Shenkota
- B. Thalghat
- C. Bhorghat
- D. Shipki La

ANSWER: D