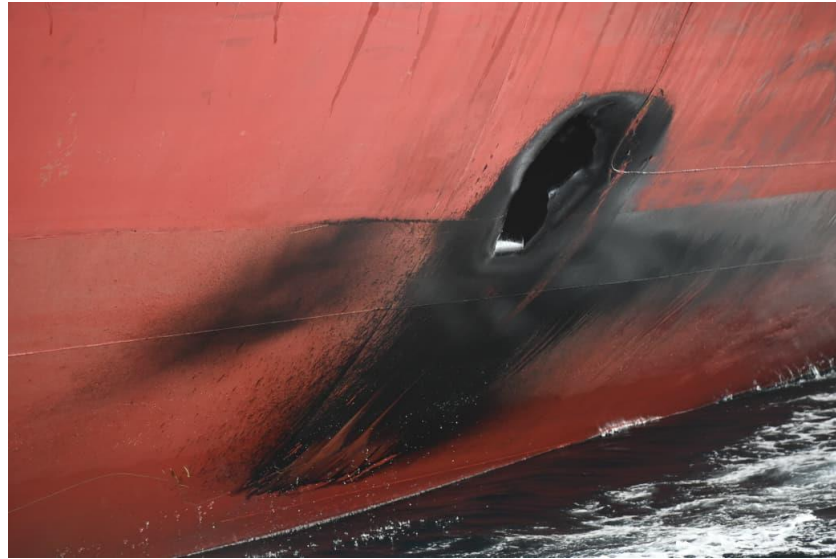


Daily Defence Current Affairs

12 June 2026

Indian Navy Safely Recovers Unexploded Missile Warhead

- The Indian Navy successfully completed a complex operation involving the recovery of an unexploded missile warhead from the crude oil tanker MT Olympic Life.
- The Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, which did not have any Indian nationals onboard, was on passage from Fujairah, UAE, to Kochi reported an explosion in its hull, while off the coast of Oman on 26 May 2026.
- The vessel reported the presence of an unexploded ordnance as it continued its transit towards Kochi.
- On receipt of information through the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region, the Indian Navy initiated a coordinated response. Kochi based Southern Naval Command deployed a specialist Explosive Ordnance Disposal team for a detailed assessment.
- The team confirmed that a projectile had penetrated the vessel's hull, traversed multiple structural compartments and was lodged inside a fuel tank.
- After completion of prescribed safety procedures, the EOD team employed advanced diagnostic methods to identify and isolate the detonation mechanism before carrying out the safe extraction of the warhead along with the associated debris.
- The Indian Navy's prompt response, to an emergency at sea, irrespective of the nationality of the crew or the ownership of MT Olympic Life, reaffirms its role as a responsible maritime force dedicated to global maritime safety and a trusted and preferred security partner in the region.



A Tripartite MoU Signed Between GOI, Assam and Nagaland

- In the presence of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, a Tripartite MoU was signed in New Delhi between the Government of India, the Government of Assam and the Government of Nagaland for facilitating mineral oil operations in the **Assam–Nagaland boundary areas**.
- Amit Shah said that we have witnessed a historic moment. He stated that this agreement will open up possibilities for oil and natural gas exploration as well as mineral mining
- Amit Shah said that the North-East possesses not only vast reserves of oil and gas but also an immense wealth of minerals. He stated that, with the signing of this MoU, there is potential for the current extraction capacity of 1,000–1,500 barrels per day to increase by more than tenfold.

- The Home Minister expressed confidence that, with the exception of one or two states, AFSPA would be completely withdrawn from the entire North-East by next year.
- **AFSPA stands for Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.**
- It is a law in India that grants special powers to the armed forces in areas declared as "**disturbed areas**" by the government.
- **Key Provisions**
- Under AFSPA, armed forces personnel can:
 - Use force, including firing upon individuals, under certain circumstances to maintain public order.
 - Arrest without a warrant.
 - Conduct searches without a warrant.
 - Destroy arms dumps, fortified positions, or shelters used by insurgents.
- **Areas of Application**
- AFSPA has been applied at different times in parts of:
 - Jammu and Kashmir (AFSPA was largely withdrawn in several areas in recent years)
 - Manipur
 - Nagaland
 - Assam
 - Other northeastern states, depending on security conditions.
- **Arguments in Favor**
- Supporters argue that AFSPA:
 - Helps combat insurgency and terrorism.
 - Enables quick military action in conflict-prone regions.
 - Protects security personnel operating in dangerous environments.
- **Criticism**
- Critics argue that AFSPA:
 - Can lead to human rights violations.
 - Provides excessive immunity to security forces.
 - Has been associated with allegations of misuse and lack of accountability.
- **Historical Background**
- AFSPA was first enacted in **1958** for the Northeast and later extended to other regions facing insurgency. It has remained one of India's most debated security laws.



Indian Army Inducts 106 Turbojet-Powered Peacekeeper

- The Indian Army has received a major boost to its unmanned warfare arsenal with the induction of 106 advanced kamikaze drones. These turbojet-powered systems, named **Peacekeeper (Agniveg)**, have been delivered by defence technology firm SMPP and are designed to strike deep inside enemy territory while operating effectively in contested electromagnetic environments.
- According to SMPP, the Peacekeeper (Agniveg) drone has an operational range of 180 kilometres and can reach speeds of up to 450 kilometres per hour. It is engineered to conduct autonomous precision strike missions against critical military infrastructure, logistics hubs, command centres, radar installations, and other strategic targets.
- The Peacekeeper (Agniveg) drones are expected to play a pivotal role in India's evolving military doctrine, which emphasises precision warfare, rapid response, and reduced collateral damage.
- The drones successfully underwent user trials, where they reportedly achieved high accuracy with a circular error probable (CEP) of less than five metres, the company said. The system also showed an operational range of around 180 km.



CSIR-NAL Secures Production Partner For HANSA-3

- CSIR-NAL has confirmed that Pioneer Clean Amps is the production partner for the indigenous HANSA-3 (NG) trainer aircraft, while the SARAS Mk-2 program remains in the design phase with critical configuration changes expected to be finalised soon.
- The CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) Director, Abhay A Pashilkar, announced that the organisation has already tied up with a production partner for the HANSA-3 (NG) trainer aircraft. Work is actively underway to bring this next-generation two-seater trainer into large-scale production.
- Pioneer Clean Amps, the identified partner, has been collaborating with CSIR-NAL for nearly a year on pilot training initiatives. The company is establishing a ₹150 crore facility at Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh, capable of producing up to 100 aircraft annually, signalling a major boost to India's indigenous aviation ecosystem.
- The HANSA-3 (NG) is designed specifically for Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) training, addressing the growing demand for trained pilots in India. Currently, there are about 38 Flight Training Organisations (FTOs) in the country, but the Ministry of Civil Aviation aims to expand this number to 70 or more in the coming years.
- The SARAS MK-2 is a 19-seat multi-role light transport aircraft intended to strengthen India's regional connectivity under the UDAN scheme. It will feature advanced technologies such as a pressurised cabin, digital avionics, glass cockpit, autopilot, and command-by-wire flight controls, making it suitable for both civilian and military operations.



Tata, Airbus Conduct First Test Flight Of Maiden 'Made In India' C295 Military Transport Aircraft

- Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus completed the first test flight of maiden 'Made in India' Airbus C295 military transport aircraft from the Final Assembly Line in Vadodara. The model marked the first of 40 aircraft to be built in India, advancing the defence programme's objective of delivering the first such aircraft to the Indian Air Force this year.
- Marking a milestone for Indian aviation and defence, the test flight was a crucial step in the aircraft's postproduction testing process.
- Calling it a "game changer", Airbus' Defence division announced that the C295 India programme is the first instance of a military aircraft being manufactured in India by the private sector.
- In October 2024, **Tata and Airbus** inaugurated the Final Assembly Line (FAL) complex for the Airbus C295 aircraft in Vadodara, Gujarat in India. The collaborative project marks the first instance of the private sector setting up an aircraft facility in India.
- The C295 programme will produce more than 85% structural and final assembly of 40 aircraft along with the manufacturing of 13,000 detail parts in India, for which the two partners certified 21 special processes and onboarded 37 India-based suppliers, both from the private and public sectors.
- The **C-295** is a medium tactical military transport aircraft designed and manufactured by [Airbus Defence and Space](#). It is widely used for troop transport, cargo delivery, medical evacuation, maritime patrol, surveillance, and disaster-relief operations.
- **Overview**

- The C-295 is known for its versatility, reliability, and ability to operate from short and semi-prepared airstrips. It is designed to perform missions in challenging environments and can support both military and humanitarian operations.
- **Key Features**
- Twin-turboprop tactical transport aircraft
- Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) capability
- Can operate from unprepared and rough airfields
- Suitable for troop and cargo transport
- Used for medical evacuation and disaster relief
- Advanced avionics and navigation systems
- High fuel efficiency and low operating costs
- **C-295 in India**
- India signed a major agreement in September 2021 with TATA & Airbus for the procurement of **56 C-295 aircraft** to replace the aging HS-748 Avro fleet.
- **Distribution of Aircraft**
- First **16 aircraft** are being manufactured in Spain and delivered in fly-away condition.
- Remaining **40 aircraft** are being manufactured in India at Vadodara, Gujarat.
- This is the first military aircraft manufacturing project of its kind in India's private sector.
- **Significance for India**
- **Strengthening Airlift Capability**
- The C-295 enhances the Indian Air Force's ability to transport troops, equipment, and supplies rapidly across the country.
- **Boost to 'Make in India'**
- The project supports the government's Make in India initiative by promoting indigenous manufacturing and creating a domestic aerospace ecosystem.
- **Employment Generation**
- The manufacturing facility and supply chain are expected to create thousands of direct and indirect jobs.
- **Strategic Importance**
- The aircraft can operate in remote, mountainous, and border regions, making it valuable for logistics support along India's frontiers.
- **Uses of C-295**
- Military troop transport

- Cargo and logistics operations
- Special forces missions
- Medical evacuation (MEDEVAC)
- Maritime surveillance
- Search and rescue operations
- Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief
- Paratrooper deployment
- **Exam-Oriented Facts**
- **Manufacturer:** Airbus Defence and Space
- **Type:** Tactical Military Transport Aircraft
- **Indian Order:** 56 aircraft
- **Indian Production Partner:** Tata Advanced Systems Limited
- **Manufacturing Hub in India:** Vadodara, Gujarat
- **Purpose:** Replacement of Avro HS-748 aircraft in the Indian Air Force
- **Payload Capacity:** Approximately 9 tonnes
- **Troop Capacity:** Up to 71 personnel



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Indian Navy recovered an unexploded missile warhead from which oil tanker?

- A) MT New Diamond
- B) MT Olympic Life
- C) MT Front Altair
- D) MT Jag Pooja

Answer: B) MT Olympic Life

2. The MT Olympic Life was travelling from Fujairah (UAE) to which Indian city when the incident was reported?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Chennai
- C) Kochi
- D) Visakhapatnam

Answer: C) Kochi

3. Which Indian Navy command deployed the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team for the MT Olympic Life operation?

- A) Western Naval Command
- B) Eastern Naval Command
- C) Southern Naval Command
- D) Andaman & Nicobar Command

Answer: C) Southern Naval Command

4. A tripartite MoU for facilitating mineral oil operations was signed between the Government of India, Assam, and which state?

- A) Manipur
- B) Mizoram
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Nagaland

Answer: D) Nagaland

5. AFSPA stands for:

- A) Armed Forces Special Protection Act
- B) Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act
- C) Armed Force Security Powers Act
- D) Armed Forces Strategic Powers Act

Answer: B) Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act

6. The Peacekeeper (Agniveg) inducted by the Indian Army is a:

- A) Ballistic missile
- B) Main battle tank
- C) Kamikaze drone
- D) Air defence system

Answer: C) Kamikaze drone

7. What is the operational range of the Peacekeeper (Agniveg) drone?

- A) 100 km
- B) 150 km
- C) 180 km
- D) 250 km

Answer: C) 180 km

8. Which company has partnered with CSIR-NAL for the production of the indigenous HANSA-3 (NG) trainer aircraft?

- A) HAL
- B) Tata Advanced Systems
- C) Mahindra Aerospace
- D) Pioneer Clean Amps

Answer: D) Pioneer Clean Amps

9. The SARAS Mk-2 aircraft being developed by CSIR-NAL is designed as a:

- A) Fighter aircraft
- B) Helicopter
- C) 19-seat multi-role light transport aircraft
- D) Unmanned aerial vehicle

Answer: C) 19-seat multi-role light transport aircraft

10. The first Made-in-India C295 military transport aircraft completed its maiden test flight from:

- A) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- B) Hyderabad, Telangana
- C) Nashik, Maharashtra
- D) Vadodara, Gujarat

Answer: D) Vadodara, Gujarat

11. Current CDS Of India Is

- A. Gen Anil Chauhan
- B. Gen Bipin Rawat
- C. General N. S. Raja Subramani
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

12. War Cry Of Mechanised Infantry Regiment Is

- A. Durga Mata K Jai
- B. Raja Ram Chandra K Jai
- C. Bolo Bharat Mata Ki Jai
- D. Bajrang Bali K Jai

ANSWER: C

13. Ex 'BLUE FLAG' Conducted b/w India &

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

ANSWER: D

14. Operation Devi Shakti Was Conducted In

- A. 2016
- B. 2017
- C. 2018
- D. 2021

ANSWER: D

15. Always Alert Is The Motto Of

- A. RAW
- B. IB
- C. DRDO
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

16. Which Is Not An OPV?

- A. INS Saryu
- B. INS Sunayna
- C. INS Gomati
- D. INS Sumitra

ANSWER: C

17. Only Five-star Rank Officer Of The IAF Is

- A. K.M Karippa
- B. V R Chaudhary
- C. R K S Bhadauria
- D. Arjan Singh

ANSWER: D

18. SPYDER Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Air defence system

ANSWER: D

19. Vilnius Is The Capital Of

- A. Lithuania
- B. Qatar

- C. Malawi
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

20. "Making of a General-A Himalayan Echo" Book Is Written By

- A. Ramesh Kandula
- B. Meghna Pant
- C. Hunter Biden
- D. Lt. Gen. Konsam Himalay Singh

ANSWER: D