

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India and UK Conduct 25th Defence Consultative Group Meeting

- Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh co-chaired the 25th India – UK Defence Consultative Group (DCG) Meeting with the Permanent Under Secretary (PUS) for Defence of UK Mr Jeremy Pocklington, at New Delhi on Aug 21, 2026.
- Both countries reviewed the ongoing defence industrial cooperation with emphasis on Research & Development through the India – UK vision 2035 and the Ten year Defence Industrial Roadmap.
- Both sides agreed to expand bilateral exchanges between the armed forces of India and UK through joint exercises, training and capacity building.
- They acknowledged the robust maritime security collaboration in the Indo-Pacific, including establishment of the Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (RMSCE) under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
- The Secretaries exchanged views on issues of regional peace and security and reaffirmed their commitment to mutual security and strategic autonomy. Both sides reiterated that the India-UK Strategic Partnership is based on shared values of peace, stability, freedom, and mutual respect.
- India–UK Vision 2035
- The **India–UK Vision 2035** is a long-term framework designed to deepen and modernise the relationship between India and the United Kingdom. The two countries endorsed the Vision on **24 July 2025 in London**, with the aim of creating a stronger partnership focused on economic growth, technology, education, climate action, defence and security.
- The Vision builds on the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** established between India and the UK in 2021 and seeks to provide a long-term direction for bilateral cooperation up to 2035.
- **What is India–UK Vision 2035?**

- Vision 2035 represents a shared ambition to make the India–UK relationship broader, deeper and more future-oriented.
- It focuses on creating opportunities for:
 - Economic growth and employment
 - Trade and investment
 - Education and skills
 - Technology and innovation
 - Climate and clean energy
 - Defence and security
 - Research and advanced technologies
 - Stronger people-to-people connections
- The framework is intended to produce practical outcomes rather than remain only a political statement.
- **1. Trade, Investment and Economic Growth**
 - Economic cooperation is one of the major pillars of Vision 2035.
 - The two countries seek to increase bilateral trade and investment, open new markets and create employment opportunities.
 - The Vision builds on the **India–UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** signed in 2025. The agreement subsequently came into force on **15 July 2026**, marking an important development in the economic relationship between the two countries.
 - The partnership aims to make trade easier while encouraging businesses and investors from both countries to expand their presence in each other's markets.
- **Key focus areas**
 - Trade expansion
 - Investment
 - Job creation
 - Business partnerships
 - Market access
 - Financial cooperation
 - Innovation-driven growth
- **2. Education and Skills Partnership**
 - Education is another major component of Vision 2035.
 - India and the UK aim to expand cooperation between universities and educational institutions, including **transnational education**, joint programmes and research collaboration.

- An important development has been the establishment of UK university campuses in India. The **University of Southampton** has opened an international branch campus in the Delhi National Capital Region, while **Queen's University Belfast** has established a campus in Gujarat's GIFT City.
- Additional UK universities have also received approval to establish campuses in India.
- **Areas of cooperation include:**
 - Higher education
 - Joint and dual degrees
 - Research partnerships
 - Skill development
 - University campuses
 - Student mobility
 - Innovation and talent development
- The objective is to help create a highly skilled workforce capable of meeting the demands of the future economy.
- **3. Technology and Innovation**
 - Technology cooperation is a central feature of the Vision.
 - The two countries intend to work together on emerging and strategically important technologies through the **Technology Security Initiative (TSI)**.
 - The initiative focuses on areas such as:
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Future telecommunications
 - Critical minerals
 - Semiconductors
 - Quantum technology
 - Biotechnology
 - Advanced materials
 - The partnership is designed not only to promote innovation but also to strengthen technological resilience and supply chains.
- **Why is this important?**
 - Technologies such as AI, quantum computing, semiconductors and biotechnology are increasingly connected with national security and economic competitiveness.
 - Therefore, India–UK technological cooperation can contribute to both **economic development and strategic security**.

- **4. Climate and Clean Energy Partnership**

- Climate change and energy security form another important pillar of Vision 2035.
- India and the UK aim to accelerate cooperation in:
 - Clean energy
 - Renewable energy
 - Climate finance
 - Energy transition
 - Climate resilience
 - Sustainable development
- The objective is to support the transition towards cleaner energy while mobilising investment and finance for climate-related projects.
- The partnership also recognises the importance of strengthening resilience against the effects of climate change.

- **5. Defence and Security Cooperation**

- Defence and security are major strategic components of the India–UK relationship.
- Vision 2035 envisages deeper cooperation in:
 - Defence technology
 - Defence industrial collaboration
 - Military engagement
 - Maritime security
 - Counterterrorism
 - Emerging security threats
 - Indo-Pacific security
- India and the UK have also developed a **10-year Defence Industrial Partnership**, aimed at strengthening cooperation between their defence industries.
- The two countries share an interest in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the **Indo-Pacific region**.

- **6. Focus on the Indo-Pacific**

- The Indo-Pacific has acquired growing strategic importance because of its economic, maritime and geopolitical significance.
- India and the UK intend to cooperate more closely on:
 - Maritime security
 - Freedom of navigation
 - Regional stability

- Defence cooperation
- Emerging security challenges
- International law
- The UK's 2026 review of Vision 2035 specifically highlighted cooperation on freedom of navigation and regional stability.
- **7. Research and Innovation**
- Research cooperation is expected to connect universities, scientists, businesses and technology organisations in both countries.
- The emphasis is shifting towards areas that can have long-term strategic and economic significance, including:
 - AI
 - Biotechnology
 - Quantum technology
 - Semiconductors
 - Advanced materials
 - Telecommunications
 - Clean technologies
- This can help both countries develop new technologies while strengthening their research ecosystems.
- **8. People-to-People Connections**
- India and the UK have strong historical, educational, cultural and diaspora connections.
- Vision 2035 seeks to further strengthen these links through:
 - Education
 - Student exchanges
 - Research collaboration
 - Professional connections
 - Cultural interaction
 - Business links
 - Diaspora relationships
- These people-to-people connections provide an important foundation for the broader strategic partnership.
- **9. Why Is Vision 2035 Important for India?**
- The partnership can provide India with opportunities in several strategically important areas.
- **Economic benefits**

- Greater trade and investment can support businesses, employment and economic growth.
- **Technological benefits**
- Cooperation with the UK's advanced research and technology ecosystem can support India's development in emerging technologies.
- **Defence benefits**
- Greater defence-industrial cooperation can contribute to India's capabilities and technological self-reliance.
- **Educational benefits**
- More university partnerships and research collaboration can strengthen India's higher-education ecosystem.
- **Climate benefits**
- Cooperation in clean energy and climate finance can support India's energy transition.
- **10. India–UK Vision 2035 and Current Developments**
- Vision 2035 is already being translated into practical cooperation.
- In June 2026, UK Foreign Secretary **Yvette Cooper** visited India and held discussions with External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** on the implementation of Vision 2035. The review covered areas including economic growth, technology and innovation, defence and security, climate and education.
- This demonstrates that Vision 2035 is intended to be an **active and evolving framework**, with regular reviews to assess progress and identify new areas of cooperation.



Terrier Cyber Quest 2026

- The Territorial Army, in collaboration with Cyber Peace, has launched Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 (TCQ 3.0), a national-level hackathon aimed at developing innovative solutions to contemporary defence, cybersecurity and information-domain challenges.
- In the third edition of the competition, Indian Army seeks to bring together technical talent from academia, industry, research institutions, government organisations and the Armed Forces.
- The initiative will focus on emerging areas including Artificial Intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, threat mitigation and digital awareness, while encouraging development of indigenous solutions relevant to national security.
- **Bug Hunting:** A cybersecurity challenge commencing with an online Capture-the-Flag (CTF) qualifier and culminating in an in-person live sandbox finale. Participants will be required to identify and document vulnerabilities in simulated critical infrastructure environments.
- **AI Kavach:** An AI and machine-learning based challenge aimed at developing solutions for predictive threat intelligence, automated defence mechanisms and anomaly detection.
- **Creators Challenge:** A digital media and storytelling competition for content creators, communicators and influencers to develop impactful awareness campaigns addressing threats such as deepfakes, phishing, online scams and misinformation.
- Registrations for the competition are open till 31 August 2026. The online shortlisting phase will be conducted from 1 to 10 September 2026, followed by the Grand Finale in New Delhi from 6 to 8 October 2026. The award ceremony will be held on 9 October 2026.



14th India-Nepal Joint Working Group Meeting

- The 14th meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group (JWG) was held on 20–21 August 2026 in Dehradun.
- Both sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation on border management and security, and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in these areas.
- Discussions covered addressing trans-border crime and criminal activities; the strengthening and effective utilisation of border infrastructure, particularly Integrated Check Posts (ICPs), roads and railway networks; and the removal of encroachments and maintenance of boundary pillars.
- The two sides also exchanged views on strengthening institutional coordination and capacity building across various sectors and agreed to sustain engagement in these areas.



USS Abraham Lincoln Departs Middle East

- The USS Abraham Lincoln has finally departed the Middle East after a record-breaking nine-month deployment, marked by crew exhaustion, mental health concerns, and supply shortages.
- The Japan-based USS George Washington has arrived to assume operational duties, while families and lawmakers continue to press for accountability over the conditions endured by sailors.
- The USS Abraham Lincoln has begun its return voyage to San Diego after more than 260 days at sea. The deployment was extended due to the US war against Iran, which began in late February 2026.

- The carrier served as a primary launchpad for thousands of air sorties, significantly increasing the operational burden on its crew of approximately 5,000 sailors and Marines.
- The ship left San Diego on 21 November 2025 and was redirected to the Middle East in January 2026. Its mission included supporting the US bombing campaign “Epic Fury” and enforcing a naval blockade of Iranian ports.
- The USS George Washington, normally based in Japan, has now arrived in the Middle East to relieve the Lincoln. It travelled from Da Nang, Vietnam, through the Singapore Strait and Strait of Malacca before entering the Indian Ocean.
- Its redeployment leaves the Pacific temporarily without a US carrier presence, raising concerns about deterrence against China.
- The Lincoln’s return journey to San Diego is expected to take about three weeks. Families expressed immense relief at the ship’s departure, with parents like Jefferson Kelley eagerly awaiting the return of their children after months of uncertainty. The episode has highlighted the broader strain on US naval forces, with extended deployments increasingly testing both equipment and personnel.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India and the United Kingdom endorsed the India–UK Vision 2035 during a meeting held in:

- A. New Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. London
- D. Birmingham

Answer: C. London

2. Which of the following is a major focus of the Technology Security Initiative (TSI) under India–UK Vision 2035?

- A. Tourism and sports
- B. AI, future telecommunications and critical minerals
- C. Agriculture and fisheries
- D. Railway modernisation

Answer: B. AI, future telecommunications and critical minerals

3. Implementation of the India–UK Vision 2035 is to be reviewed annually by:

- A. Defence Ministers of India and the UK
- B. Prime Ministers of India and the UK
- C. External Affairs Minister of India and Foreign Secretary of the UK
- D. Finance Ministers of India and the UK

Answer: C. External Affairs Minister of India and Foreign Secretary of the UK

4. Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 (TCQ 3.0) has been launched by the Territorial Army in collaboration with:

- A. DRDO
- B. CyberPeace
- C. CERT-In
- D. ISRO

Answer: B. CyberPeace

5. Which challenge under Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 focuses on predictive threat intelligence, automated defence and anomaly detection?

- A. Bug Hunting
- B. Creators Challenge
- C. AI Kavach
- D. Cyber Shield

Answer: C. Al Kavach

6. The 14th India–Nepal Joint Working Group meeting held in August 2026 primarily focused on:

- A. Defence exports and aircraft production
- B. Border management and security
- C. Nuclear energy cooperation
- D. Space exploration

Answer: B. Border management and security

7. Which US aircraft carrier was deployed to the Middle East to assume operational duties following the departure of USS Abraham Lincoln?

- A. USS Nimitz
- B. USS Ronald Reagan
- C. USS George Washington
- D. USS Carl Vinson

Answer: C. USS George Washington

8. Ex EASTERN BRIDGE Conducted B/W India &

- A. UK
- B. Oman
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. USA

ANSWER: B

9. Duty, Honour, Courage Is The Motto Of

- A. Maratha Light Infantry
- B. The Grenadiers
- C. Rajput Regiment
- D. Jat Regiment

ANSWER: A

10. Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation Hq Is In

- A. Mauritius
- B. Qatar
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

11. Surface Mine Clearing System on Sarath manufactured by

- A. Ordnance Factory Medak
- B. HAL
- C. DRDO
- D. MDL

ANSWER: A

12. College of Defence Management Is In

- A. Secunderabad
- B. Chennai
- C. Noida
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: A

13. GAGAN Stands For

- A. GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigate
- B. GPS Aided Geography Augmented Navigation
- C. GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

14. 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

15. Harare Is The Capital Of

- A. Uzbekistan
- B. Qatar
- C. Zambia
- D. Zimbabwe

ANSWER: D

16. "Forging Mettle : Nrupender Rao and the Pennar Story" Book Written By

- A. Vijay Sharma
- B. Manish Kumar

C. Sumit Nayar

D. Pavan C Lall

ANSWER: D

17. The Eurocopter Tiger Is A

A. Helicopter

B. Machine Gun

C. UAV

D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: A

18. INS Jalashwa Is A

A. Destroyer

B. OPV

C. Submarine

D. Amphibious transport dock

ANSWER: D

19. CDAC Stands For

A. Centre for Development of Advanced Concept

B. Centre for Development of Adert Computing

C. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

D. None

ANSWER: C

20. Heckler & Koch PSG1 Is A

A. Tank

B. Missile

C. Sniper Rifle

D. Submarine

ANSWER: C