

6. Short News

Advance Agni Missile with MIRV System

Context - DRDO has successfully conducted a flight trial of an Advanced Agni missile equipped with a Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) system.

1. This was the second known test of the advanced Agni-5, also referred to as 'Mission Divyastra', an MIRV-capable iteration of Agni-5.

Agni 5 Missile

1. Agni-5 is India's long-range nuclear-capable intercontinental-range ballistic missile (ICBM-class) designed for strategic deterrence and advanced strike capability.
2. Developer - Developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.
3. Range - Has a strike range of over 5,000 km, enabling coverage of distant strategic targets.
4. Stages - It is a surface to surface, three-stage solid-fuel missile.
5. Launch Platform - Can be launched from a road-mobile canisterised platform, improving survivability and rapid deployment.
6. Strategic Role - Strengthens India's credible minimum deterrence and second-strike nuclear capability.
7. First Test - Successfully first tested in 2012 from Odisha.

Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) System

1. Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) is a missile technology that enables a single ballistic missile to carry multiple warheads.
2. Global Leaders - MIRV technology was first developed by the USA, later followed by the Soviet Union, UK, France, and China.

Key Features -

1. Independent Targeting - Each warhead can strike a different target independently after being released in flight.
2. MIRV systems can also deploy decoys and penetration aids to evade enemy missile defence systems.

Significance -

3. Strategic Advantage - MIRV significantly enhances a country's deterrence capability and strike efficiency.
4. Defence Penetration - The system helps overcome missile defence shields by deploying multiple warheads simultaneously.
5. Payload Flexibility - MIRV-equipped missiles can carry nuclear or conventional payloads depending on strategic requirements.

National Panchayat Awards 2025

Context - National Panchayat Awards 2025 were announced by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to recognise excellence in grassroots governance and sustainable rural development.

Highlights of the National Panchayat Awards 2025

1. A total of 42 Panchayats from across India were selected, with Karnataka winning the highest number of awards (6), followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha (5 each).
2. Assessment - Awards are linked to the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0, promoting transparent and data-driven assessment.
3. Cash Prize - Winning Panchayats will receive financial incentives ranging from ₹50 lakh to ₹5 crore under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

About the National Panchayat Awards

1. Nodal Ministry - Administered annually by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

2. Scheme Linkage – Institutionalised under the Incentivization of Panchayats component of the revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).
3. Focus Areas – Promote inclusive, participatory, transparent, and sustainable rural governance through community-led initiatives.
4. SDG Alignment – Since 2023, the awards framework has been aligned with the nine themes of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).
5. Categories of Awards –
 1. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar – Recognises outstanding Gram Panchayats for their performance across 9 Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) themes.
 2. Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar – Best-performing Panchayats at the District, Block, and Gram Panchayat levels on an overall basis.
 3. Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award – Gram Panchayats for their efforts towards mobilization and augmentation of Own Source of Revenue.
 4. Climate Action Special Panchayat Award – Gram Panchayats for achieving Net-Zero carbon emissions and usage of renewable sources of energy.
 5. Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar – For Institutions who have provided institutional support to GPs in achieving LSDGs.

Rabindranath Tagore

Context – PM Modi paid heartfelt tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on the occasion of Pochishe Boishakh.

About Rabindranath Tagore

1. Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941), popularly known as ‘Gurudev’, ‘Kabiguru’, and ‘Biswakabi’ was a poet, philosopher, novelist, dramatist, painter, composer, and social reformer from Bengal.
2. Pochishe Boishakh – Pochishe Boishakh refers to the 25th day of the Bengali month of Boishakh, celebrated as the birth anniversary (7th May) of Rabindranath Tagore.
 1. Pochishe Boishakh is also a poem written by Rabindranath Tagore on his birthday (1922).
3. Nobel Prize – He became the first non-European Nobel laureate in Literature in 1913 for his work *Gitanjali*.
4. Bengal Renaissance – Tagore was a leading figure of the Bengal Renaissance, promoting humanism, modernism, and cultural reform through literature and education.
5. Educational Contributions – He founded Visva-Bharati University at Santiniketan in 1921, promoting holistic and global education beyond rote learning.
6. National Anthems – He composed India’s national anthem “Jana Gana Mana” and Bangladesh’s national anthem “Amar Sonar Bangla.”
7. Protest Against Colonial Rule – In 1919, he renounced his British knighthood (awarded in 1915) in protest against the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
8. Literary Works – His major literary works include *Gitanjali*, *Ghare Baire* (The Home and the World), *Gora*, and *Char Adhyay*.
 1. Where the Mind is Without Fear – His famous poem Where the Mind is Without Fear (Chitto Jetha Bhayshunyo), included in *Gitanjali*, envisioned an India free from fear, ignorance, and narrow divisions.
 2. *Ekla Chalo Re* – Written during the Swadeshi Movement in 1905, encouraged individuals to continue their struggle courageously even without public support.
9. Views on Nationalism – Tagore strongly criticised aggressive nationalism and believed that humanity should transcend narrow patriotism and rigid borders.
 1. His famous idea was – “Patriotism cannot be our final spiritual shelter; my refuge is humanity.”

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

Context – The Government has appointed Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Retd) as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

1. He will be the third person to assume the post after Gen Bipin Rawat and Gen Anil Chauhan.

About Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani

1. Previous Key Appointments – Currently serving as Military Adviser at the National Security Council Secretariat.
 1. Earlier served as Vice Chief of the Army Staff.
 2. Also served as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Indian Army Central Command.
2. Major Command Appointments – He commanded 16 Garhwal Rifles in counter-insurgency operations in Assam under Operation Rhino.
 1. Commanded 168 Infantry Brigade in Jammu & Kashmir.
 2. Led 17 Mountain Division in the Central Sector.
 3. Commanded 2 Corps, the Indian Army's premier strike corps on the Western Front

About the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

1. The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is the highest-ranking military officer in India and serves as the principal military adviser to the Government on Tri-Service matters.
2. Establishment – The post was created in 2019 to promote jointness, integration, and coordination among the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
3. Appointment Authority – Appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
4. Eligibility – Can be selected from Army, Navy, or Air Force.
5. Order of Precedence – The CDS ranks 12th in the Indian order of precedence, equivalent to the three service chiefs.
6. Rank and Status – Holds the rank of a four-star General equivalent to Service Chiefs.

Role –

1. Principal Military Adviser to Raksha Mantri.
2. Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC).
3. Secretary of Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in Ministry of Defence.

Duties –

4. Promotion of Jointness – Enhances coordination in operations, logistics, and training.
5. Defence Planning – Oversees integrated acquisition and capability planning.
6. Tri-Service Administration – Administers joint organisations and agencies.
7. Strategic Role – Advises the Nuclear Command Authority.
8. Military Reforms – Drives theatre command reforms and modernisation.

Limitations of CDS –

9. No Operational Command – Operational control remains with Service Chiefs.
10. No Independent Combat Powers – Cannot independently deploy forces or order operations.
11. Limited Financial Authority – Major capital acquisitions remain outside CDS control.

Significance of the CDS –

12. Integrated Military Advice – Provides unified advice to civilian leadership.
13. Tri-Service Coordination – Strengthens cooperation among armed forces.
14. Efficient Resource Utilisation – Reduces duplication in defence infrastructure and expenditure.
15. Improved Crisis Response – Enables faster strategic decision-making.
16. Global Alignment – Aligns India with advanced military systems globally.

ICGS ACHAL

Context – Recently, the Indian Coast Guard (ICGS) commissioned ICGS Achal at Goa Shipyard Limited.

About ICGS ACHAL

1. Classification – The Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Achal is a new-generation Adamyra-class Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) of the Indian Coast Guard.

2. Meaning of the Name - The name "Achal" means "firm", symbolising steadfast commitment towards maritime security.
3. Construction Programme - It is the fifth vessel in a series of eight Fast Patrol Vessels being constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited for the Indian Coast Guard.
4. Operational Control - It will function under the administrative and operational control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (North West).

Features of ICGS ACHAL

1. Propulsion - Powered by two 3000 kW advanced diesel engines.
2. Speed and Endurance - Capable of achieving a top speed of 27 knots with an operational endurance of 1500 nautical miles.
3. Advanced Technologies - Equipped with an Integrated Bridge System, Integrated Machinery Control System, and Automated Power Management System.
4. Indigenous Content - Incorporates nearly 60% indigenous content, reflecting India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
5. Dual Certification - Holds dual-class certification from the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) and the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).

Functions of ICGS ACHAL

1. Maritime Surveillance - Undertakes coastal and offshore surveillance operations.
2. Interdiction Operations - Supports interdiction and anti-smuggling missions.
3. Search and Rescue - Conducts Search and Rescue (SAR) operations at sea.
4. Pollution Response - Assists in marine pollution response and environmental protection.

About ICGS

1. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is India's maritime law enforcement and search-and-rescue agency to protect the nation's maritime interests and ensure safety at sea.
2. Establishment - It was established in August 1978 and functions under the Ministry of Defence.
3. Jurisdiction - It exercises jurisdiction over India's territorial waters, contiguous zone, and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

India-Algeria Defence Meet

Context - India and Algeria held their first Joint Commission on Defence Cooperation in New Delhi to strengthen bilateral strategic and military engagement.

Key Highlights of India-Algeria Defence Commission Meeting

1. Defence Cooperation Framework - Both countries signed the Rules of Procedure to guide implementation of the India-Algeria Defence Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2024.
2. Areas of Collaboration - Discussions focused on military training, joint exercises, defence industry cooperation, medical collaboration and institutional defence engagement.
3. Strategic Significance - The meeting reflected India's expanding defence diplomacy in Africa and diversification of strategic partnerships in the Mediterranean region.

About Algeria

1. Algeria, officially the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, is the largest country in Africa with Algiers as its capital city.
2. Location - Maghreb region of North Africa along the Mediterranean coast.
3. Algeria is bordered by -
 1. Mediterranean Sea in the north
 2. Tunisia and Libya in the east
 3. Niger in the southeast
 4. Mali and Mauritania in the southwest
 5. Morocco and Western Sahara in the west

Geography



6. Desert Dominance – The Sahara Desert covers more than 80% of Algeria's total land area.
7. Mountain Ranges–Major Mountain systems include the Tell Atlas, Saharan Atlas and Hoggar (Ahaggar) Mountains.
8. Highest Peak – Mount Tahat in the Hoggar Mountains is the highest peak in Algeria.
9. River System – The Chelif River is the longest river in Algeria.
10. Climate – Mediterranean climate along the coast with hot dry summers and mild rainy winters, while the Sahara region remains extremely hot and arid.
11. Vegetation – Northern Algeria contains cork oak and pine forests, whereas desert vegetation in the south includes palm oases, shrubs and drought-resistant grasses.