



Daily PIB Summary

26th February

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1. LIST OF OUTCOMES: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO ISRAEL



The visit reaffirmed the growing India–Israel strategic partnership, focusing on:

- Defence and security cooperation
- Agricultural innovation and drip irrigation technologies
- Water conservation and desalination
- Science, technology, and startup collaboration
- Trade and investment expansion

India and Israel emphasized deepening cooperation in critical technologies and strengthening their comprehensive strategic partnership.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

1 India–Israel Relations

- Full diplomatic relations established in **1992**.
- Israel is a key partner in **defence technology and homeland security**.
- Strong collaboration in agriculture through Centres of Excellence across Indian states.

2 Strategic Convergence

Shared priorities include:

- Counter–terrorism cooperation
- High–technology defence systems
- Water management solutions
- Innovation–driven economic growth

Israel is considered one of India’s top defence suppliers.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Defence Cooperation:** Expansion of joint production and technology transfer.
- **Agriculture Partnership:** Advanced irrigation and precision farming technologies.
- **Water Technology:** Collaboration on desalination and wastewater recycling.
- **Innovation & Startups:** Strengthening India–Israel Innovation Bridge.
- **Trade Expansion:** Focus on increasing bilateral trade and investment flows.
- **Counter–Terrorism:** Intelligence and security cooperation reaffirmed.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Capital of Israel:** Jerusalem (disputed status internationally).
- **Diplomatic Relations with India:** Established in 1992.
- **Major Cooperation Areas:** Defence, agriculture, water management, innovation.
- **I2U2 Group:** India, Israel, UAE, USA economic grouping.
- **West Asia Significance:** Strategic energy and geopolitical importance.
- **Drip Irrigation:** Efficient water–saving agricultural technique pioneered in Israel.
- **Desalination:** Removal of salts from seawater.

Static Linkage:

- India–West Asia Relations
- Defence Procurement
- Technology Diplomacy

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC

MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding India–Israel relations:

1. India and Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1992.
2. Israel is one of India’s key defence partners.
3. Israel is a member of the I2U2 grouping along with India, UAE, and China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

(Statement 3 is incorrect – I2U2 includes India, Israel, UAE, and USA.)

2.FUTURE WARFARE COURSE 3.0 CONCLUDES, STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL READINESS



Future Warfare Course 3.0 emphasized the transformation of modern battlefields shaped by:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Cyber warfare
- Autonomous and unmanned systems
- Space and electronic warfare
- Information and psychological operations

The programme reflects India’s push toward integrating advanced technologies into defence doctrine, force structuring, and operational readiness.

It strengthens the Armed Forces’ capacity to respond to hybrid and grey-zone conflicts in a rapidly evolving strategic environment.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

1 Changing Nature of Warfare

Modern warfare is increasingly:

- Multi-domain (land, sea, air, cyber, space)
- Technology-centric
- Data-driven
- Network-enabled

Conflicts such as the Russia–Ukraine war have highlighted the importance of drones, electronic warfare, and cyber operations.

2 India’s Defence Modernisation

India is focusing on:

- Defence indigenisation under Atmanirbhar Bharat
- Integration of AI and robotics in military platforms
- Strengthening cyber defence capabilities
- Space-based surveillance and communication systems

Future Warfare Course aligns with doctrinal and capability reforms.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Multi-Domain Focus:** Integration of land, air, maritime, cyber, and space operations.
- **AI Integration:** Use of artificial intelligence for decision-making and surveillance.
- **Unmanned Systems:** Emphasis on drones and autonomous platforms.
- **Cyber Preparedness:** Enhancing resilience against cyber threats.
- **Strategic Awareness:** Understanding hybrid and grey-zone warfare tactics.
- **Capacity Building:** Training senior officers for next-generation conflict scenarios.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Multi-Domain Warfare:** Simultaneous operations across multiple domains.
- **Cyber Warfare:** Attacks on digital networks and infrastructure.
- **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs):** Drone-based military platforms.
- **Electronic Warfare:** Use of electromagnetic spectrum to disrupt enemy systems.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat (Defence):** Indigenous production of defence equipment.
- **Integrated Theatre Commands:** Proposed restructuring of Indian Armed Forces.
- **Grey-Zone Conflict:** Coercive actions below threshold of conventional war.

Static Linkage:

- National Security Doctrine
- Defence Modernisation
- Emerging Technologies

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. Multi-domain warfare includes operations in cyber and space domains.
2. Unmanned systems are increasingly used in modern military conflicts.
3. Cyber warfare exclusively targets physical military installations.

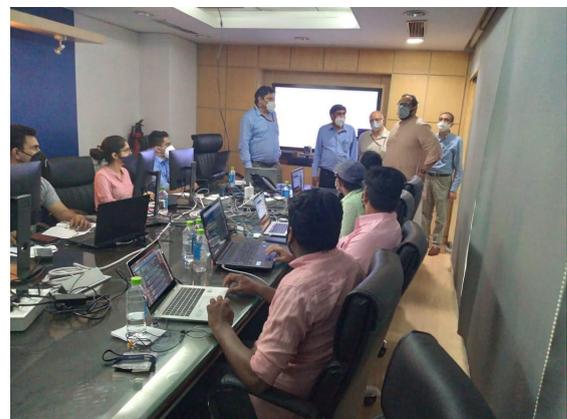
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

(Statement 3 is incorrect – cyber warfare primarily targets digital networks and information systems, though it can affect physical infrastructure indirectly.)

3.INDIA'S SPACE ECOSYSTEM GETS CYBER SHIELD AS SIA-INDIA, CERT-IN RELEASE JOINT GUIDELINES



The joint framework provides cybersecurity best practices for:

- Satellite operators
- Ground infrastructure managers
- Launch service providers
- Space-tech startups

With increasing private participation following space sector reforms, the guidelines aim to ensure:

- Secure satellite communication
- Protection against signal interference and hacking
- Incident reporting and response mechanisms
- Alignment with national cybersecurity protocols

This marks a critical step toward safeguarding India's strategic and commercial space assets.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

1 India's Expanding Space Sector

Post-2020 reforms enabled private participation in space activities under:

- IN-SPACe regulatory framework
- Increased commercial satellite launches
- Growth of space-tech startups

India's space ecosystem now includes communication, navigation, earth observation, and defence applications.

2 Cyber Threats in Space Domain

Space systems face vulnerabilities such as:

- Satellite signal spoofing and jamming
- Ground station cyber intrusions
- Supply chain cyber risks
- Data interception

Given the dual-use nature of space assets, cybersecurity is a national security imperative.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Cybersecurity Standards:** Defined best practices for space operators.
- **Incident Reporting:** Mandatory reporting protocols to CERT-In.
- **Supply Chain Security:** Emphasis on secure hardware and software components.
- **Resilience Planning:** Risk assessment and mitigation frameworks.
- **Public-Private Collaboration:** Coordinated approach between industry and government.
- **Strategic Importance:** Protects critical communication and navigation infrastructure.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **CERT-In:** Nodal agency for cybersecurity incidents (under MeitY).
- **SIA-India:** Industry body representing private space companies.
- **IN-SPACE:** Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre.
- **Space Reforms:** Announced in 2020 to enable private participation.
- **Satellite Vulnerabilities:** Jamming, spoofing, malware infiltration.
- **Outer Space Treaty (1967):** Governs international space activities.
- **Dual-Use Technology:** Civilian technology with military applications.

Static Linkage:

- National Cyber Security Policy
- Critical Information Infrastructure
- Space Security

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. CERT-In functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. Space sector reforms in India have allowed private companies to participate in satellite operations.
3. Satellite signal spoofing refers to physical destruction of satellites in orbit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

(Statement 3 is incorrect – spoofing involves falsifying signals, not physical destruction.)

4.INS ANJADIP – BUILT WITH INDIGENOUS SAIL STEEL TO JOIN INDIAN NAVY FLEET



INS Anjadip represents a major step in strengthening India's naval capabilities through indigenous manufacturing.

Key aspects include:

- Use of **domestically produced warship-grade steel**
- Boost to defence shipbuilding ecosystem
- Reduced import dependence in critical materials
- Enhanced maritime security and coastal defence

The induction aligns with India's focus on indigenous defence production and strategic autonomy.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

1 Defence Indigenisation Push

India has prioritized:

- Indigenous production of warships and submarines
- Development of domestic defence manufacturing corridors
- Promotion of "Make in India" in defence

SAIL developed specialised steel grades for naval platforms, reducing reliance on foreign suppliers.

2 Role of Indigenous Steel

Warship-grade steel must:

- Withstand high stress and corrosion
- Be resistant to extreme marine conditions
- Meet stringent defence standards

The use of SAIL steel reflects maturation of India's metallurgical and defence-industrial capacity.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Indigenous Steel Use:** Built using SAIL-produced warship-grade steel.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Reduces import dependence in defence sector.
- **Naval Strengthening:** Enhances coastal and maritime security.
- **Industrial Ecosystem Boost:** Strengthens domestic shipbuilding capacity.
- **Atmanirbhar Bharat:** Aligns with self-reliance objectives.
- **Defence Manufacturing Growth:** Encourages public-private participation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **SAIL:** Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Steel.
- **Indian Navy:** Maritime branch of Indian Armed Forces.
- **Warship-Grade Steel (DMR series):** Developed for defence platforms.
- **Make in India (Defence):** Policy for domestic defence production.
- **Blue Water Navy:** Navy capable of operating globally across deep waters.
- **Coastal Security:** Strengthened post-26/11 reforms.
- **Defence Corridors:** Established in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Static Linkage:

- Defence Industrial Base
- Maritime Security
- Strategic Autonomy

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. SAIL is a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Steel.
2. Warship-grade steel must meet specific defence and corrosion-resistance standards.
3. The Indian Navy functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

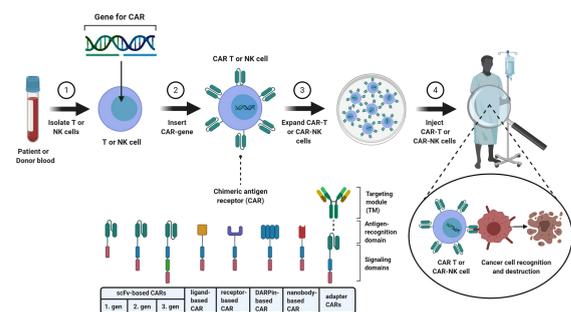
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

(Statement 3 is incorrect – the Indian Navy functions under the Ministry of Defence.)

5.TDB-DST SUPPORTS INDIGENOUS CAR-NK CELL THERAPY PLATFORM FOR ONCOLOGY AND LEISHMANIASIS



The supported platform focuses on developing **CAR-NK cell-based immunotherapy**, a next-generation cellular therapy that enhances the body's immune response against:

- Certain cancers
- Infectious diseases like leishmaniasis

Unlike CAR-T therapy, CAR-NK therapy offers:

- Lower risk of severe immune reactions
- Potential “off-the-shelf” availability
- Reduced treatment cost

The project aligns with India’s goals of **biotech self-reliance, translational research, and affordable healthcare innovation.**

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

1 Technology Development Board (TDB)

The Technology Development Board was established under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995.

Its mandate includes:

- Providing financial assistance for commercialisation of indigenous technologies
- Supporting innovation-driven enterprises
- Promoting industry-academia collaboration

2 CAR-NK Therapy Explained

- **CAR:** Engineered receptor added to immune cells to recognize specific disease targets.
- **NK Cells (Natural Killer Cells):** Part of innate immune system that destroys abnormal cells.
- **Application in Oncology:** Targets tumour-specific antigens.

- **Application in Leishmaniasis:** Aims to enhance immune response against parasitic infection.

Leishmaniasis is a vector-borne disease caused by *Leishmania* parasites, transmitted by sandflies.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Indigenous Platform:** Developed domestically to reduce reliance on imported cell therapies.
- **Oncology Application:** Targeted cancer immunotherapy.
- **Infectious Disease Target:** Innovative approach for treating leishmaniasis.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Potentially more affordable than CAR-T therapy.
- **Translational Research:** Bridging laboratory innovation and clinical application.
- **Biotech Ecosystem Boost:** Strengthens India’s advanced cell therapy capabilities.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **TDB:** Statutory body under DST (Act of 1995).
- **DST:** Ministry promoting science & technology innovation.
- **CAR-T vs CAR-NK:** CAR-NK has lower cytokine storm risk.
- **Leishmaniasis:** Caused by *Leishmania* parasite.
- **Vector:** Female sandfly (*Phlebotomus* species in India).
- **Kala-azar:** Visceral leishmaniasis prevalent in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, UP.
- **Immunotherapy:** Treatment that uses body’s immune system to fight diseases.

Static Linkage:

- Biotechnology Policy
- Public Health & Neglected Tropical Diseases

- Translational Medical Research

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Technology Development Board functions under the Department of Science and Technology.
2. CAR-NK cell therapy involves engineering immune cells to target specific disease markers.
3. Leishmaniasis is transmitted by the Anopheles mosquito.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

(Statement 3 is incorrect – leishmaniasis is transmitted by sandflies, not mosquitoes.)