



## Rapid Fire Current Affairs

### DAC Approves VSHORAD Missile System

The [Defence Acquisition Council](#) (headed by Defence Minister) provided **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for the procurement of **Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORAD) (Infrared (IR) Homing) missile system** being designed and developed by [DRDO](#).

DAC also approved the procurement of the (a) **HELINA Anti-Tank Guided Missiles**, launchers and support equipment for the **indigenous Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH)** (for Army) and (b) **Brahmos Launcher & Fire Control System** and Next Generation Missile Vessels (for Navy).

The acquisitions have been made under '**Buy (Indian-IDDMM)**' category - the **highest priority** procurement under [DAP-2020](#).

These advancements in the defence system can be attributed to the [growing tensions with China at LAC](#).

**Read More** - [VSHORAD](#), [Helina: Anti-Tank Guided Missile](#), [Advanced Light Helicopter \(ALH\)](#)

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### Union Carbide Corporation and Bhopal Gas Tragedy

The **Union Carbide Corporation (UCC)** has said that it is not **willing to pay any more amount than what was settled** with the Central Government in 1989 following the **Bhopal Gas Tragedy** as the **Centre has sought additional funds** of over ₹7,400 crore from UCC.

On December 3, 1989, the highly dangerous and toxic gas, **methyl isocyanate (MIC)** (Chemical formula- **CH<sub>3</sub>NCO** or **C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>NO**), leaked from the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) in Bhopal. The tragedy resulted in the **death of 5,295 people** and injuries to almost 5,68,292 persons besides substantial loss of livestock and property.

**Read More** - [Bhopal Gas Tragedy](#)

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### Restoration Project for Paigah Tombs

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The US Govt will extend **financial support of USD 250,000** (by the **US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation**) towards the **conservation and restoration of 6 of the Paigah tombs**, built in 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, in Hyderabad. The **Aga Khan Trust for Culture** will implement the project.

The Paigah tombs (or **Maqbara Shams al-Umara**) is a necropolis belonging to the nobility of the Paigah family who served the Nizam of Hyderabad (Asaf Jahi dynasty). The tombs, made of lime, mortar and marble, are **one of the finest examples of Indo-Islamic architecture (blend of Asaf Jahi and Rajputana styles)**.

The **Paigahs were among the most influential and powerful families** of Hyderabad in the 18th century. Wealthier than most rulers, they were responsible to **look after the security and defence** of the region. They claimed to be the **descendants of Hazrath Omar bin Al-Khattab, Islam's second caliph**.

**Read More - [Islamic Architecture](#)**

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**Pollution and PM 2.5**

## THE CHOKING REALITY

### **MOST POLLUTED CITIES (For PM 2.5)**

Delhi, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Patna, Muzzafarpur, Noida, Meerut, Gobindgarh, Gaya and Jodhpur

### **MOST POLLUTED CITIES (For PM 10)**

Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Delhi, Noida, Patna, Meerut, Muzzafarpur, Durgapur, Jodhpur and Aurangabad

### CLEANEST CITIES

**Srinagar** (J&K)  
Records PM 2.5 concentration of 26.33 ug/m<sup>3</sup>

**Kohima** (Nagaland)  
Records PM 10 concentration of 26.77 ug/m<sup>3</sup>

### CURRENT ANNUAL AVERAGE SAFE LIMITS

PM 2.5

PM 10

40 ug/m<sup>3</sup>

60 ug/m<sup>3</sup>

**₹6,897cr** in

4 yrs have been spent by the Centre's National Clean Air Programme, but cities are still choking

As per a [CPCB](#) air quality data analysis by the [National Clean Air Programme](#), in 2022, **Delhi was the top polluted city** with an annual avg. **PM 2.5 concentration of 99.7 ug/m<sup>3</sup>**. This is much above the **CPCB standard of 40 ug/m<sup>3</sup> of air**.

The analysis has found that most cities in the top 10 most polluted list of 2022 are from the **Indo-Gangetic Plain**; for PM 2.5 (Delhi, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Patna, Muzzafarpur, Noida, Meerut, Gobindgarh, Gaya and Jodhpur) and for PM 10 (Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Delhi, Noida, Patna, Meerut, Muzzafarpur, Durgapur, Jodhpur and Aurangabad).

The position of the **cleanest city in India in 2022** was jointly held by **Srinagar and Kohima**.

India's current **annual average safe limits** for **PM 2.5 and PM 10 are 40 ug/m<sup>3</sup> and 60 ug/m<sup>3</sup>**. The NCAP initially set a target of reducing key air pollutants PM10 and PM2.5 by **20-30% by 2024** and by **40% by 2026 (base year - 2017)**.

**Read More - [Air Pollution \(PM 2.5 and PM 10\)](#)**