

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Combined Commanders' Conference

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on September 15 inaugurate a three-day combined commanders' conference of the armed forces in Kolkata.
- The conference, which will be held from September 15 to 17, will focus on reforms, transformation and change and operational preparedness, an official statement said.
- The theme for this year's conference, which will be inaugurated by Modi, is **'Year of Reforms - Transforming for the Future'**, it said.
- "The focus of the conference reflects the armed forces' commitment to institutional reforms, deeper integration and technological modernisation, while sustaining a high level of multi-domain operational readiness," it said.
- The conference is the apex brainstorming forum of the armed forces, bringing together the nation's top civil and military leadership to exchange views at the conceptual and strategic levels, it said.



Armed Forces Seek 'Digital Swords'

- The armed forces are seeking new 'digital swords' to counter emerging threats, including indigenous tools to detect deep fakes, cyber ranges to train soldiers in offensive and defensive tactics, and man-portable electronic warfare suites.
- While several tools are available in the global market, the armed forces require indigenous solutions to deal with sensitive information and customisation. On the list of technologies it requires in the near future is a Deep Fake detection software that can achieve 100% accuracy in almost real time.
- Deepfakes are images, videos, or audio that have been edited or generated using artificial intelligence, AI-based tools or audio-video editing software. They may depict real or fictional people and are considered a form of synthetic media, that is media that is usually created by artificial intelligence systems by combining various media elements into a new media artifact.



India To Acquire 5th-Generation Aircraft Engine

- India has finalised a landmark defence agreement with the United States for the acquisition of fifth-generation aircraft engine technology, a deal valued at approximately **₹14,000 crore**, which crucially includes an unprecedented 80 percent technology transfer to HAL.
- The pact, centred on General Electric's **F414 turbofan engine**, is expected to be the backbone of India's indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)

program, slated for induction into both the IAF and the Indian Navy around 2035.

- Parallel to the AMCA-related engine deal, HAL is also ramping up its Light Combat Aircraft (TEJAS) production. The Indian Air Force will take delivery of two TEJAS MK-1 aircraft in October.
- This follows the Cabinet Committee on Security's approval on August 19 for the procurement of 97 more TEJAS fighters at a projected cost of ₹66,500 crore, adding to the earlier order of 83 aircraft.



India Targets 200-Plus Warships By 2035

- India is charting an ambitious course to transform its Navy into a robust, networked blue-water force with a projected strength of over 200 warships and submarines by 2035.
- The strategic expansion comes amid intensifying maritime threats posed by China's rapidly expanding naval footprint in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and Pakistan's efforts to upgrade its submarine fleet with Chinese assistance.
- Currently, the Indian Navy operates around 140 warships, including 17 diesel-electric submarines—11 of which are nearing the end of service life—alongside two indigenous SSBNs and over 250 aircraft and helicopters.
- With older vessels scheduled for retirement, the force aims to reach 200–230 warships and 350 aircraft by the mid-2030s.
- At present, 55 warships are under construction across Indian shipyards at an estimated cost of ₹99,500 crore, while another 74 vessels have received

Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for indigenous construction worth ₹2.35 lakh crore.

India eyes 200 warships, subs by 2035

Navy Has 55 Warships Under Construction In Indian Shipyards

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New Delhi: India is steadily steaming ahead to have a stronger and networked blue-water Navy with over 200 warships and submarines by 2035 to protect its vast maritime interests and tackle the fast-expanding collusive threat from China and Pakistan on the high seas after the land borders.

With the maritime domain becoming increasingly crucial in the national strategic calculus amid the ongoing geopolitical churn, the Navy currently has 55 big and small warships under construction in Indian shipyards at an overall cost of around Rs 99,500 crore, according to the latest information gathered by TOI.

The force also has the initial approval or 'acceptance of necessity (AoN)' for indigenous construction of another 74 warships and vessels for Rs 2.35 lakh crore. These projects, for which

contracts are yet to be inked, include major ones for nine diesel-electric submarines, seven next-generation multi-role stealth frigates, eight anti-submarine warfare corvettes and 12 mine countermeasure vessels.

Also, there are other projects in the pipeline for the grant of AoN, which includes four next-generation destroyers with a displacement of 10,000-tonne each. The Navy also remains keen on the indigenous construction of a second aircraft carrier after the over 40,000-tonne INS Vikrant to eventually replace the older Russian-origin INS Vikramaditya.

"One cannot build a Navy overnight. It takes years of planning and construction. Apart from the P5 (US, Russia, China, France and UK), India is the only nation that can now design, build and operate aircraft carriers and SSBNs (nuclear-powered submarines with ballistic missiles)," a senior officer said.



Navy also has initial nod for indigenous construction of 74 warships & vessels

"Any expenditure on warship-building has a multiplier effect of 1.8 times on the domestic economy, with one shipyard job creating five to six jobs in ancillary industries," he added.

At present, the Navy has 140 warships, including 17 diesel-electric submarines (11 of them very old) and two SSBNs, along with over 250 aircraft and helicopters. With older warships to be progressively retired, plans are in place to build the force to over 200 warships and submarines, with 350 naval aircraft and helicopters, over the coming

decade. "The force-level could even touch 230 warships by 2037," another officer said.

With the world's largest Navy with 370 warships and submarines, China is rapidly expanding its footprint in the Indian Ocean Region, while hunting for more overseas bases and turn-around facilities after Djibouti on the Horn of Africa, Karachi and Gwadar in Pakistan and Ream in Cambodia.

China, of course, is also helping Pakistan enhance its naval capabilities. Pakistan, for instance, will get eight Yuan or

Hangar-class diesel-electric submarines with air-independent propulsion (AIP) for greater underwater endurance from the neighbouring country.

"Pakistan has five old Agosta-class submarines at present. Induction of the Hangar-class boats from next year onwards will give it a major capability jump in sea denial capabilities," the officer said.

Given this, India's depleting conventional underwater combat arm remains a big worry. Commercial negotiations are now finally underway for the construction of six diesel-electric submarines, with both AIP and land-attack cruise missiles, which are worth over Rs 70,000 crore, by Mazagon Docks (MDL) in partnership with German company ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS).

The project to build three more French-origin Scorpene submarines for over Rs 32,000 crore at MDL, however, remains stalled. Apart from the six new Scorpene, the Navy has seven very old Russian Kilo-class and four German HDW submarines at present.

Nepal Gen Z Protest

- Nepal authorities on Tuesday imposed an indefinite curfew in its capital city Kathmandu, reintroducing restrictions just hours after an earlier order was lifted, news agency PTI reported. The Kathmandu District Administration Office issued the curfew orders effective from 8:30 am until further notice. "No movement of people, any type of gathering, demonstration, protest, meeting and sit-in will be allowed during the curfew," said the notice issued by the Chief District Officer of Kathmandu. "However, emergency services, including ambulances, fire engines, vehicles carrying health workers, tourists, media personnel, and air travellers will be permitted to operate in coordination with security personnel," the notice stated.
- The Nepal government Monday revoked the ban on social media platforms in the country that led to the death of at least 19 people and over 400 were injured as protests erupted in Kathmandu after youths – those under the age of 26, termed as Gen-Z – took to the streets in New Baneshwor, opposing the ban and government corruption. With unrest spilling fears across the border, Indian security forces placed the 1,751-km India-Nepal frontier on heightened alert, as reported by The Kathmandu Post.
- **What govt said about the ban:** The government said social media users with fake IDs have been spreading hate speech and fake news, and committing fraud and other crimes via some platforms. In a nationwide protest against the move, thousands of youths, many in their school and college uniforms, marched

towards the country's parliament on Monday with national flags and placards with slogans such as "Shut down corruption and not social media", "Unban social media", and "Youths against corruption", written on them. However, they were stopped by the police who erected a barbed wire barricade.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The theme of the Combined Commanders' Conference 2025 is:

- A. Defence Transformation – Vision 2040
- B. Year of Reforms – Transforming for the Future
- C. Towards a Modernised Armed Forces
- D. Future-Ready India: Strategic Reforms

ANSWER: B

2. What indigenous capability are the armed forces seeking as part of their new "digital swords"?

- A. Nuclear fusion technology
- B. Deep Fake detection software
- C. Hypersonic missile defence
- D. Advanced radar satellites

ANSWER: B

3. The recently finalised India–US defence pact involves transfer of which aircraft engine technology?

- A. Pratt & Whitney F135
- B. General Electric F404

- C. General Electric F414
- D. Rolls Royce EJ200

ANSWER: C

4. By 2035, India aims to expand its Navy to approximately:

- A. 150 warships and 250 aircraft
- B. 180 warships and 300 aircraft
- C. 200–230 warships and 350 aircraft
- D. 250–300 warships and 400 aircraft

ANSWER: C

5. Which Nation Doesn't Participate In Ex Malabar?

- A. Australia
- B. Austria
- C. Japan
- D. USA

ANSWER: B

6. 'Ex AL NAGAH, NASEEM-AL-BAHR, Ex EASTERN BRIDGE' Conducted b/w India &

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

ANSWER: B

7. Who Is The Chairman Of The National Command Authority Of India?

- A. PM
- B. NSA
- C. Cabinet Secretary
- D. Defence Minister

ANSWER: A

8. 'Ex KOMODO' Hosted By

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

ANSWER: D

9. Operational Range of Rudram-1 Is

- A.** 150 km
- B.** 250 km
- C.** 350 km
- D.** 450 km

ANSWER: B

10. Army Air Defence College Is In

- A. Gopalpur, Odisha
- B. Pune, M.H.
- C. Chennai, T.N.
- D. None

ANSWER: A

11. “Sarvatra Izzat-o-Iqbal” Is The Motto Of

- A. Dogra Scouts
- B. Sikkim Scouts
- C. Regiment Of Artillery
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

12. Prahaar Missile Manufactured By

- A. MDL
- B. BDL
- C. CSL
- D. DRDO

ANSWER: B

13. Thales Group Is A Company of ____

- A. UK
- B. USA
- C. Germany
- D. France

ANSWER: D

14. Which Of The Following Is Not The Command Location Of The Indian Army?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Lucknow
- C. Pune
- D. Jaipur

ANSWER: A

15. Which Is The 2 Star Rank In The Indian Army?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Major General
- C. Lt Gen
- D. Colonel

ANSWER: B

16. Bratislava Is The Capital

- A. Oman
- B. Serbia
- C. UAE
- D. Slovakia

ANSWER: D

17. "Courts of India" Book Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. CJI Ranjan Gogoi (Former)
- C. Roopa Pai
- D. Peter Baker

ANSWER: B

18. World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Hq Is At

- A. Paris, France
- B. Vienna, Austria
- C. New York, USA
- D. Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER: D

19. UNICEF Stands For

- A. Union Nations Children's Fund
- B. United Nations Children's Fund
- C. United Nations Children's Future
- D. United International Nations Children's Fund

ANSWER: D

20. __Himalayan pass is situated b/w India and China.

- A. Shenkota
- B. Thalghat
- C. Bhorphat
- D. Shipki La

ANSWER: D