

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India to Host Colombo Security Conclave

- India will host the NSA-led Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) on Wednesday and Thursday here for the first time, eyeing to strengthen its role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The CSC comprises India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius and Bangladesh. Interestingly, Bangladesh NSA Khalilur Rahman will participate in the CSC meet here despite lukewarm ties.
- The Colombo Security Conclave was established in 2020, when India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to expand the scope of their trilateral meeting on maritime cooperation. Mauritius joined the conclave at the fifth meeting of the grouping in Male in March 2022.
- **Background and Formation**
- The CSC traces its origin to the **Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation** established in 2011 between India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. This cooperation focused on improving maritime surveillance, sharing information, and addressing non-traditional security threats.
- In 2020–21, the framework was expanded and formally named the **Colombo Security Conclave** to address a wider range of security issues. Mauritius later joined as a **new member**, while Bangladesh and Seychelles participate as **observers**.
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- **Members and Observers**
- **Member Countries**
- **India**
- **Sri Lanka**

- **Maldives**
 - **Mauritius**
 - **Observer States**
 - **Bangladesh**
 - **Seychelles**
 - The expansion reflects the growing importance of the Indian Ocean Region and the shared responsibility of regional nations to safeguard maritime interests.
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- **Objectives of the Colombo Security Conclave**

- CSC aims to strengthen regional collaboration across multiple security domains. Its objectives include:

- **1. Enhancing Maritime Safety and Security**

- Coordinating naval surveillance
- Combating maritime crimes such as piracy and illegal fishing
- Ensuring safe and secure Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs)

- **2. Counterterrorism and Radicalisation Prevention**

- Sharing intelligence on terror networks
- Strengthening cooperation on counter-radicalisation programs

- **3. Cyber Security and Data Protection**

- Developing joint cyber response mechanisms
- Training and capacity-building for cyber defence

- **4. Combating Narcotics and Organized Crime**

- Increasing cooperation in tracking narcotics routes
- Joint operations to dismantle trafficking networks

- **5. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)**

- Improving preparedness for natural disasters

- Coordinated response during emergencies in the Indian Ocean Region
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- **Structure and Working Mechanism**
- The CSC works through **National Security Advisors (NSA)-level meetings, working groups, and joint exercises**. The three main working groups are:
- **Maritime Security Working Group** – Led by *Sri Lanka*
- **Counterterrorism Working Group** – Led by *India*
- **Cyber Security Working Group** – Led by *Maldives*
- Each group conducts regular consultations, tabletop exercises, and practical training programs.
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- **Key CSC Exercises and Initiatives**
- **1. CSC Focused Operation**
- Joint patrolling by member countries to curb illegal maritime activities, ensure ocean safety, and enhance coordination.
- **2. Cyber Drill Series**
- Regular cybersecurity exercises designed to assess readiness against cyberattacks and promote information sharing.
- **3. Joint Maritime Exercises**
- Integrated naval drills help improve interoperability and demonstrate commitment to collective maritime security.
- **4. Information Fusion and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Cooperation**
- The CSC partners with India's IFC-IOR (Information Fusion Centre–Indian Ocean Region) for real-time information exchange on maritime threats.
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- **Importance of the Colombo Security Conclave**

- The CSC plays a strategic role in strengthening India's neighbourhood-first and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision. Key significance includes:
- **Strengthening Regional Security**
- Enhances collective capabilities to address challenges such as terrorism, smuggling, piracy, and cyber threats.
- **Promoting Maritime Stability in the IOR**
- Ensures safety of vital shipping lanes that carry major global trade.
- **Countering Extra-Regional Influences**
- Creates a cooperative security framework led by Indian Ocean nations, reducing dependency on external powers.
- **Boosting Bilateral and Multilateral Ties**
- Deepens trust among member countries and encourages long-term defence partnerships.



Trump Says He Will Sell F-35s to Saudi Arabia

- President Donald Trump he will sell F-35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia despite some concern within the administration that such a sale could lead to China gaining access to the U.S. technology behind the advanced weapon system.

- The announcement came on the eve of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's highly anticipated Washington visit, his first to the United States in more than seven years.
- Saudi Arabia is expected to announce a multibillion-dollar investment in U.S. artificial intelligence infrastructure, and the two countries are will lay out details about new cooperation in the civil nuclear energy sector, according to a senior Trump administration official who was not authorized to comment publicly ahead of the formal announcement.
- Another long-standing concern, which also derailed a potential similar sale to the United Arab Emirates, is that the F-35 technology could be stolen by or somehow transferred to China, which has close ties to both the UAE and Saudi Arabia, according to three administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations on the matter.



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'Jishnu' Displayed At IITF-2025

- The Department of Defence Production's hall at the India International Trade Fair in New Delhi this year aptly demonstrates the country's accelerating defence manufacturing capabilities.
- Among its most striking sections is the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) display, which presents a comprehensive panorama of India's missile ecosystem—from short-range tactical interceptors to long-range precision weapons and UAV-borne munitions.

- In another section of the stand, visitors encounter an array of compact smart munitions designed for drone deployment. These include the **ULPGM (Ultra Light Precision-Guided Munition)** and the **JISHNU** series of guided bombs and missiles.
- The Jishnu drone-delivered missile represents India's growing expertise in precision-guided miniature munitions. Developed by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) in collaboration with the DRDO, Jishnu is a lightweight, compact and high-speed strike system designed for deployment from tactical UAVs.
- The system's 1.5-kilometre effective range and flight time of just nine seconds make it a fast-reacting point-attack capability suited to urban or close-support operations. Its short flight profile implies a high-speed delivery phase with minimal exposure to countermeasures, enhancing the survivability of both the drone and weapon.
- India, for the first time this April, showcased its capability to shoot down fixed-wing aircraft, missiles, and swarm drones using a 30-kilowatt laser-based weapon system.



Paras Defence Secures ₹72 Crores DRDO Order

- Paras Defence and Space Technologies Limited has secured a major contract worth ₹71.68 Crores from the DRDO under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

- The order involves the supply of two advanced Optronic Periscopes for submarine applications, marking a crucial step forward in India's efforts to strengthen indigenous undersea surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.
- The contract, awarded by a domestic government entity, is scheduled for execution between August and September 2026. It is a stand-alone deal with no related party involvement, ensuring a transparent commercial arrangement.
- Optronic Periscopes serve as a critical component of modern submarines, integrating optical and electronic sensors for surface observation, target recognition, and navigation. The systems enhance situational awareness while maintaining stealth, an essential requirement for next-generation undersea warfare platforms.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. India will host the NSA-led Colombo Security Conclave for the first time with participation from which observer country?

- A. Seychelles
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Oman
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: B

2. Which country leads the Counterterrorism Working Group under the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)?

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

ANSWER: D

3. What major concern has been raised regarding the sale of F-35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia?

- A. High operational costs
- B. Possible transfer of technology to China
- C. Pilot training limitations
- D. Limited runway infrastructure

ANSWER: B

4. What is the effective range of the Jishnu drone-delivered precision-guided missile displayed at IITF 2025?

- A. 500 meters
- B. 1.5 kilometres
- C. 5 kilometres
- D. 10 kilometres

ANSWER: B

5. Paras Defence's new ₹71.68 crore contract from DRDO involves the supply of which submarine-related equipment?

- A. Torpedo Launch Tubes
- B. Hull-Mounted Sonar
- C. Optronic Periscopes
- D. Air Independent Propulsion Units

ANSWER: C

6. What is 'Mission 500' related to in the India-US partnership?

- A. A long-term trade agreement
- B. A space exploration project
- C. A 10-year framework for major defence partnership
- D. A nuclear energy collaboration

ANSWER: C

7. Range of Scalp Missile Is

- A. 250 kilometers
- B. 260 kilometers

- C. 270 kilometers
- D. 280 kilometers

ANSWER: A

8. INS IMPHAL Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Destroyer

ANSWER: D

9. 'Ex KOMODO' Hosted By

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

ANSWER: D

10. Zaporizhzhia Plant Is Located On Bank Of

- A. Moskva River
- B. Volga River
- C. Dnieper River
- D. Thames River

ANSWER: C

11. Yuan Wang 5 Is A

- A. Indian Fighter Jet
- B. Chinese Spy Ship
- C. Korean Submarine
- D. None

ANSWER: B

12. Motto of CISF Is

- A. Protection and Security
- B. Duty unto Death
- C. We Protect
- D. Service Before Self

ANSWER: A

13. INS Imphal Manufactured By

- A. CSL
- B. MDL
- C. HSL
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

14.INS Nishank Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Veer class corvette

ANSWER: D

15. INS Shivaji Is An Indian Naval Station Located In

- A. Nagpur
- B. Nashik
- C. Pune
- D. Lonavala

ANSWER: D

16. Ex Samudra Shakti Is Held B/W India &

- A. Italy
- B. Indonesia
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. None

ANSWER: B

17. NIMAS Stands For

- A. National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports
- B. National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Source
- C. National Indus of Mountaineering and Allied Sports
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

18. DIPR Stands For

- A. Defence Institute of Psychological Research

- B. Disaster Institute of Psychological Research
- C. Defence Institute of Psychological Rate
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

19. MORONI Is The Capital Of

- A. COMOROS
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. CROATIA

ANSWER: A

20. "Blind Beauty" Book Is Written By

- A. Boris Pasternak
- B. Habib Tanveer
- C. Jawaharlal Nehru
- D. J.K. Galbraith

ANSWER: A

