

Current Affairs

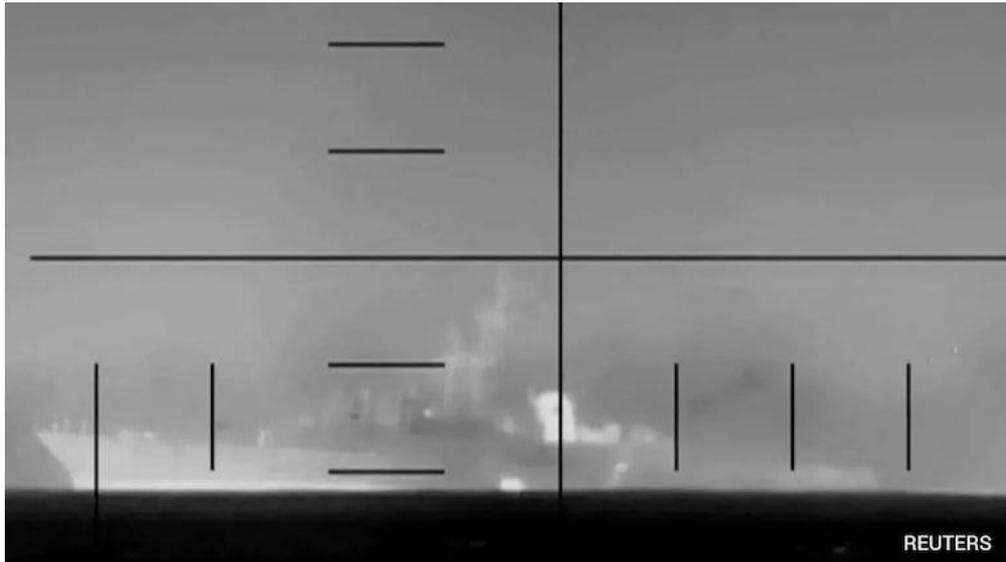
06 March 2025

Indian Navy Sar Efforts Iris Dena

- A distress call from IRIS Dena was received at the MRCC Colombo in the early hours of 04 Mar 2026, as reported by the Sri Lanka Navy. The ship was operating 20 NM west of Galle in the SAR region under Sri Lanka's responsibility.
- On receipt of the information, the Indian Navy promptly launched its SAR efforts commencing with a long-range maritime patrol aircraft at 1000 hr on 04 March 26 to augment the search efforts led by Sri Lanka. Another aircraft with air droppable life rafts was also kept standby for immediate deployment.
- INS Tarangini which was operating in vicinity was deployed for aiding the rescue efforts and arrived in search area by 1600 hr on 04 Mar 2026. By this time SAR had been undertaken by Sri Lanka Navy and other agencies.
- INS Ikshak has also sailed from Kochi to augment the search efforts and continues to remain in the area to search for missing personnel as a humanitarian measure for ship wrecked personnel. Coordination with the Sri Lanka side on Search and Rescue efforts is ongoing.
- India Sent Vessel To Help Sinking Iranian Warship Near Sri Lanka: NavyThe Indian Navy launched search and rescue operations following a distress signal from the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena, which sank in the Indian Ocean after being struck by a torpedo from a United States submarine.
- India Sent Vessel To Help Sinking Iranian Warship Near Sri Lanka: Navy
- The sinking occurred on March 4 when a US submarine torpedoed IRIS Dena in international waters.
- The Indian Navy launched search and rescue operations following a distress signal from the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena, which sank in the Indian Ocean after being struck by a torpedo from a United States submarine.

- A distress call from IRIS Dena reached the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Colombo during the early hours of March 4, according to a statement from the Navy.
- The frigate was positioned 20 nautical miles west of Galle, within the search and rescue region under Sri Lankan responsibility.
- Upon receiving the information, the Indian Navy initiated its efforts without delay.
- According to the Navy, a long-range maritime patrol aircraft deployed at 1000 hours on March 4 to support the search operations that were already underway under Sri Lankan leadership. A second aircraft, equipped with air-droppable life rafts, remained on standby for rapid deployment if required.
- INS Tarangini, a sailing training ship operating in the vicinity, received orders to assist and reached the search area by 1600 hours that day. By that point, the Sri Lankan Navy and other agencies had already begun search and rescue activities. INS Ikshak, a survey vessel, sailed from Kochi to reinforce the operation. It remains in the area conducting searches for missing personnel as a humanitarian effort on behalf of the shipwrecked crew.
- Coordination between the Indian Navy and Sri Lankan authorities continues.
- The sinking occurred on March 4 when a US submarine torpedoed IRIS Dena in international waters, approximately 40 nautical miles off Galle on Sri Lanka's southern coast. The vessel issued its distress call at dawn, reporting an explosion, but had sunk by the time Sri Lankan rescue ships arrived at the scene. The attack took place about an hour's distance from Galle's main naval base.
- The frigate had been returning to Iran after participating in a military exercise at Visakhapatnam. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described the incident as an "atrocious act at sea" in a post on X, stating that the ship, carrying almost 130 sailors, had been struck without warning in international waters, 2,000 miles from Iran's shores. He called IRIS Dena a "guest of India's Navy" and warned that the United States would "bitterly regret" setting such a precedent.
- US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth confirmed the action at the Pentagon, describing it as a "quiet death" achieved with a torpedo. He said it marked a significant extension of operations in the ongoing conflict sparked by a joint US-Israeli attack on Iran, which has spread beyond the Middle East.

- Sri Lanka has maintained neutrality in the conflict and repeatedly called for a resolution through discussion. Iran remains a major buyer of Sri Lankan tea, the island's primary export.
- A second Iranian warship approached Sri Lankan waters today. The vessel, identified as IRIS Bushehr, carried nearly 300 crew and cadets.



57th Raising Day Ceremony of CISF

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah addressed the 57th Raising Day ceremony of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) as the Chief Guest today in Mundali, Odisha.
- Union Home Minister lays the foundation stone for three residential complexes (Kamrup, Nashik and Sehore) of the CISF to be built at a cost of ₹890 crore, and inaugurated two residential complexes (Rajarhat and Delhi).
- The Central Industrial Security Force is a central armed police force in India, under the Ministry of Home Affairs. CISF's primary mission is to provide security policing services to large institutions, whether state-owned or privately owned.
- The CISF is headed by an Indian Police Service officer with the rank of Director-General, assisted by an IPS officer in the rank of Addl. Director-General. The force is divided into Nine Sectors (Airport, North, North-East, East, West, South, Training, South-East, Central) and also has a Fire Service Wing.



Centre Releases XV Finance Commission Grants to Strengthen Village Councils

- The Union Government has released ₹14.80 crores as Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) grants during FY 2025–26 to Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in Mizoram. This release pertains to the 1st installment of Untied Grants for FY 2025–26 and will benefit all eligible 816 Village Councils in the State.
- The 15th Finance Commission (XV-FC), chaired by N.K. Singh, recommended a 41% share for states from the divisible tax pool for the 2021-26 period, maintaining the same level as 2020-21. Formed in 2017, it focused on fiscal consolidation, GST impact, and performance-based incentives, covering a 6-year period up to March 31, 2026
- The Finance Commission of India is a constitutional body (Article 280) established by the President every five years to recommend the distribution of financial resources between the Union and the States, as well as among the States.
- It ensures fiscal federalism by addressing vertical and horizontal tax imbalances, with the 16th Finance Commission (chair: Arvind Panagariya) currently governing the 2026-31 period, maintaining a 41% state share.



India – Finland Joint Statement

- **1. Historic State Visit to India**
President of Finland **Alexander Stubb** visited India from **4–7 March 2026** at the invitation of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**. The visit included meetings in **New Delhi and Mumbai** and participation in the **11th Raisina Dialogue**, where the Finnish President delivered the keynote address.
- **2. High-Level Bilateral Engagement**
President Stubb met **President Droupadi Murmu** and held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Modi. The discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in political, economic, and technological sectors.
- **3. Strategic Partnership Announced**
India and Finland agreed to elevate their relationship to a **Strategic Partnership in Digitalization and Sustainability**, reflecting shared interests in innovation, green development, and emerging technologies.
- **4. Cooperation in Emerging Technologies**
Both leaders emphasized collaboration in **AI, 5G, 6G, quantum computing, and high-performance computing**, recognizing digital transformation as a driver of inclusive economic growth.
- **5. Support for AI Development**
Finland congratulated India for hosting the **AI Impact Summit 2026**, and both countries stressed the need for **safe, trustworthy, and inclusive development of artificial intelligence**.
- **6. Boost to Trade and Investment**
Leaders encouraged businesses to utilize opportunities from the **India–EU Free**

Trade Agreement (FTA) and set a goal to **double India–Finland bilateral trade by 2030**.

- **7. Focus on Sustainable Development**

Both countries highlighted cooperation in **climate action, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development goals (SDGs)** to address global environmental challenges.

- **8. Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation**

India and Finland reaffirmed their commitment to a **rules-based international order**, with the **United Nations at its core**, and supported reforms in global institutions.

- **9. Finland Supports India’s UNSC Bid**

Finland reiterated its support for **India’s permanent membership in a reformed UN Security Council**, emphasizing the need for a more representative global governance system.

- **10. People-to-People and Research Collaboration**

Both nations agreed to strengthen exchanges among **students, researchers, professionals, and businesses**, promoting innovation and mutual understanding.

- **Conclusion**

The visit marked a significant step in **deepening India–Finland relations**, focusing on **digital innovation, sustainability, trade expansion, and multilateral cooperation**, while laying the groundwork for a future-oriented strategic partnership.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. A distress call from IRIS Dena was received by which organization?

- A. Indian Navy
- B. Sri Lanka Navy
- C. Maldives Coast Guard
- D. Bangladesh Navy

Answer: B. Sri Lanka Navy

2. The distress call from IRIS Dena was received at which maritime coordination center?

- A. MRCC Mumbai
- B. MRCC Chennai
- C. MRCC Colombo
- D. MRCC Kochi

Answer: C. MRCC Colombo

3. The ship IRIS Dena was operating approximately how far west of Galle?

- A. 10 NM
- B. 15 NM
- C. 20 NM
- D. 50 NM

Answer: C. 20 NM

4. Which country's President congratulated India for hosting the AI Impact Summit 2026?

- A. Norway
- B. Finland
- C. Sweden
- D. Denmark

Answer: B. Finland

5. The leaders of India and Finland emphasized the development of Artificial Intelligence that is:

- A. Competitive and exclusive
- B. Military-focused
- C. Safe, trustworthy, and inclusive
- D. Privately controlled

Answer: C. Safe, trustworthy, and inclusive

6. India and Finland reaffirmed their commitment to a rules-based international order with which organization at its core?

- A. NATO
- B. G20
- C. United Nations
- D. World Bank

Answer: C. United Nations

7. The leaders stressed the importance of achieving which global agenda?

- A. Millennium Development Goals
- B. Sustainable Development Goals
- C. Paris Development Targets
- D. Global Economic Framework

Answer: B. Sustainable Development Goals

8. The landmark Free Trade Agreement mentioned in the passage was concluded between:

- A. India and ASEAN
- B. India and EU
- C. India and Nordic Countries
- D. India and OECD

Answer: B. India and EU

9. India and Finland agreed to elevate their relations to a Strategic Partnership in which areas?

- A. Defence and Security
- B. Digitalization and Sustainability
- C. Space and Nuclear Energy
- D. Agriculture and Trade

Answer: B. Digitalization and Sustainability

10. India and Finland aim to achieve what target regarding bilateral trade by 2030?

- A. Triple trade value
- B. Double trade value
- C. Maintain current trade level
- D. Reduce trade deficit

Answer: B. Double trade value

