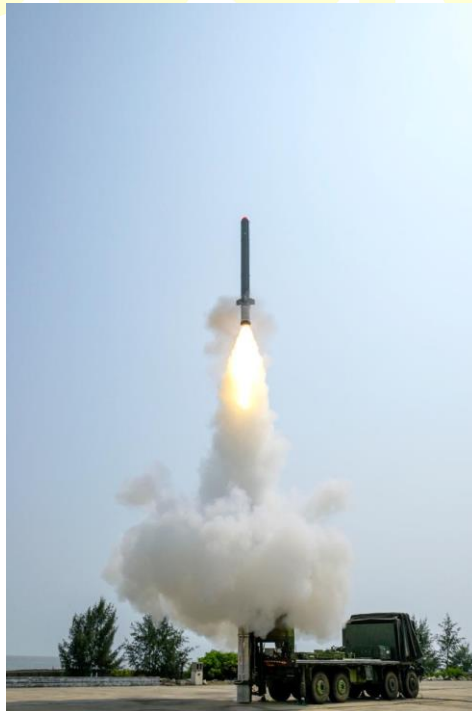


Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Successful Flight-test of Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile

- DRDO conducted a successful flight-test of **Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)** from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on June 15, 2026. All the test objectives were fully met, as per the data captured by various tracking instruments deployed by Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.
- The LRLACM is an indigenously developed missile with all sub-systems developed by various DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry partners. **Aeronautical Development Establishment**, Bengaluru is the Nodal Laboratory. The launch was witnessed by senior officials from DRDO and user representatives from the Indian Navy & the IAF.



MoD Establishes Two New NCC State Directorates

- In a significant step towards empowering youth and expanding access to the National Cadet Corps (NCC), Ministry of Defence approved the creation of two new independent NCC State Directorates in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, increasing the total number from 17 to 19.
- The establishment of independent State Directorates in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand will bring the NCC closer to the cadets and educational institutions it serves. The new administrative structure will enable more focused coordination, improved supervision and enhanced support for training and developmental activities.
- It will also provide greater opportunities for the youth of these states through improved training infrastructure and support mechanisms.
- Guided by the PM Narendra Modi's vision of empowering India's youth, the decision will help more young people develop into confident, capable and socially committed citizens prepared to contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress.
- Established in 1948 with an initial strength of 20,000 cadets, NCC has grown into the world's largest uniformed youth organization with over 20 Lakh cadets. The organization has witnessed an increase of 6 lakh cadets between 2014 and 2025 and is currently present in more than 750 districts across country.
- With renewed administrative strength, the organization continues to shape responsible citizens and contribute towards building a stronger, more capable and Viksit Bharat.



‘Operation DRISHTI’

- In a major healthcare outreach initiative under Operation DRISHTI, a specialised ophthalmic team from the Indian Army and Indian Air Force has commenced a Mega Advanced Surgical Eye Camp at Military Hospital Namkum, Ranchi.
- The camp is being conducted from June 15-19, 2026 with an aim to restore vision and improve the quality of life of more than 200 beneficiaries with free of cost advanced eye surgeries.
- To support the mission, world-class medical equipment has been airlifted to Ranchi through Indian Air Force service aircraft, enabling the delivery of specialised surgical care in the region.
- Director General Armed Forces Medical Services Vice Admiral Arti Sarin highlighted the importance of the humanitarian mission. She stated that the mission is a testament to the military's dual identity as both a formidable guardian of the nation's borders and a compassionate architect of social resilience.
- Operation DRISHTI is a flagship outreach programme that combines advanced ophthalmic expertise with humanitarian service.
- Prior to Ranchi, the initiative successfully conducted eight advanced surgical eye camps across the country, including in Leh, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Bhuj, Kutch, and Bagdogra, bringing specialised eye care to remote and underserved regions.



\$10 Billion to 190 Billion Bioeconomy

- India's science, technology and innovation landscape has undergone an unprecedented transformation over the last twelve years, marked by a nearly twenty-fold expansion of the bioeconomy.
- Addressing a press conference on “**12 Years of Transformative Growth in Science, Technology and Innovation**” at the SSB Auditorium, CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said science and technology have moved from laboratories to the lives of ordinary citizens and have become a central pillar of India's development journey.
- Highlighting India's biotechnology revolution, the Minister said the country's bioeconomy has grown from nearly **10 billion US dollars** in 2014 to over 190 billion US dollars today, with a target of reaching **300 billion US dollars** by 2030.
- He noted that India had only **17 weather radars in 2014**, compared to nearly 50 operational radars today, with another **50 planned under Mission Mausam**. He said the country has also expanded lightning detection systems, forecasting networks and rain-monitoring infrastructure on an unprecedented scale.
- India is now moving ahead with ambitious future goals, including the establishment of the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035** and an Indian landing on the **Moon by 2040**, while preparations continue for future human spaceflight missions.



Indian Navy Retires Iconic Sea King 42B

- The Indian Navy has officially retired its legendary Sea King MK-42B helicopter fleet, marking the end of an era for one of its most iconic squadrons.

- The historic **Indian Naval Air Squadron 330**, known as the “**Harpoons**,” has been “number plated” after more than five decades of distinguished service.
- The ceremonial final flight of the Sea King Bravo helicopters took place from INS Shikra, the Western Naval Command base in Colaba, Mumbai. While the MK-42B variant has been retired, other configurations of the Sea King will continue to operate within the Navy’s rotary wing fleet.
- The Sea King helicopters, often referred to as the “Flying Frigates,” were armed with advanced torpedoes, depth charges, and missiles. They played a crucial role in anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship missions, and search-and-rescue operations.
- Their versatility made them indispensable assets for India’s maritime security. Commissioned on 17 April 1971 at **INS Garuda in Kochi** under Commander MP Wadhawan, **INAS 330** quickly established itself as one of the most decorated squadrons in naval aviation history.
- The squadron saw extensive service during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, and on 26 July 1971, the first multi-role helicopter landed on INS Vikrant, India’s aircraft carrier, marking a milestone in naval aviation.
- Over its 55-year tenure, the “Harpoons” earned an extraordinary 22 Nausena Medals, a testament to their valour and operational excellence. At any given time, the squadron operated between six to eight Sea King helicopters, maintaining a formidable presence in the Indian Navy’s arsenal.



Indian Army Introduces New Uniform Code

- The Indian Army introduced a new uniform code through the 174-page Army Uniforms-2026 Pamphlet in June 2026. The manual is the first comprehensive update to the Army's dress regulations in eight years and covers formal attire, winter working dress, ceremonial wear, grooming standards, and women officers' clothing options.
- The Indian Army's dress code is governed by service regulations that specify uniforms for formal, ceremonial, mess, and working occasions. The 2026 pamphlet replaces older dress instructions and removes several colonial-era terms from official usage, including "Royal".
- The indigenous Bandi jacket has been introduced as formal civil attire for Indian Army officers. It is worn over a full-sleeved shirt with formal trousers and closed footwear.
- The ceremonial sword carriage has been made optional for Reviewing Officers during parades, while swords remain authorised for parade commanders, contingent commanders, and designated personnel during major ceremonial events such as Republic Day.
- The Indian Army released the 174-page Army Uniforms-2026 Pamphlet in June 2026.
- The update is the first comprehensive revision of Army dress regulations in eight years.
- The Battle Jacket will replace the jersey-based winter uniform, Dress 3A, by June 2029.
- Republic Day is one of the major ceremonial occasions where designated personnel may carry swords.



10 Firms In Race For Rs 30,000 Crore Defence Drone Deal

- In the race for 87 Medium-Altitude Long-Range, Endurance unmanned aerial vehicles deal, around 10 bids have been received from Indian private and public sector firms.
- Around 10 bids have been received from Indian public and private sector firms by the Defence Ministry for the over Rs 30,000 crore project to buy 87 UAVs for the Indian Air Force.
- The firms that have participated in the project include Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited, Ad Defence Systems Limited, Tata Advanced Systems Limited, Larsen and Toubro, and Raphe mPhibr Ltd.
- Valued at over Rs 30,000 crore, the project will reduce reliance on foreign defence equipment. The drones will come equipped with advanced surveillance and combat features, including real-time intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.
- Officials also revealed that plans are in place to integrate indigenous missile systems with these drones.
- The armed forces have finalised the specifications for the drones through a comprehensive scientific study, highlighting the growing need for effective surveillance along the country's borders with both Pakistan and China. Until now, Indian forces have heavily relied on foreign suppliers like the United States and Israel for their drone requirements.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **DRDO successfully tested the Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) from which location on 15 June 2026?**

- A. Pokhran, Rajasthan
- B. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha
- C. Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- D. Chandipur, West Bengal

Answer: B

2. **Which DRDO laboratory served as the nodal laboratory for the development of the Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)?**

- A. Defence Research Laboratory, Tezpur
- B. Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad
- C. Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru
- D. Defence Electronics Research Laboratory, Hyderabad

Answer: C

3. **With the creation of new NCC State Directorates in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, the total number of NCC State Directorates has increased to:**

- A. 17
- B. 18
- C. 19
- D. 20

Answer: C

4. **Operation DRISHTI, conducted at Military Hospital Namkum in Ranchi, is primarily related to:**

- A. Cardiac surgeries
- B. Eye care and vision restoration
- C. Cancer treatment
- D. Orthopedic treatment

Answer: B

5. **According to Dr. Jitendra Singh, India's bioeconomy has grown from about 10 billion US dollars in 2014 to over how much in 2026?**

- A. 100 billion US dollars
- B. 150 billion US dollars
- C. 190 billion US dollars
- D. 250 billion US dollars

Answer: C

6. **Which helicopter fleet was officially retired by the Indian Navy in June 2026?**

- A. Chetak
- B. ALH Dhruv
- C. Kamov Ka-31

D. Sea King MK-42B

Answer: D

7. **Under the Army Uniforms-2026 Pamphlet, which indigenous attire has been introduced as formal civil dress for Indian Army officers?**

A. Jodhpuri Suit

B. Kurta-Pajama

C. Bandi Jacket

D. Achkan

Answer: C

8. **Operation Cactus, conducted in 1988, aimed to protect the President of which country?**

A. Maldives

B. Sri Lanka

C. Mauritius

D. Seychelles

ANSWER: A

9. **Operation Rajeev, carried out in 1987, targeted the capture of which post in Siachen?**

A. Kargil

B. Dras

C. Qaid

D. Batalik

ANSWER: C

10. **UDHR Stands For**

A. Universal Declaration of Human Rights

B. Universal Declaration of Human Riot

C. Universal Declared of Human Rights

D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

11. **Which one of the following statements is/are correct regarding BRICS?**

1. **The official theme for India's 2026 BRICS Chairship is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".**

2. **The New Development Bank is one of the initiatives of BRICS.**

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C

12. World Economic Forum Hq Is In

- A. Geneva, Switzerland
- B. Lausanne, Switzerland
- C. The Hague, The Netherlands
- D. Gland, Switzerland

ANSWER: A

13. Which Is Not An Asian Country?

- A. Singapore
- B. Brunei
- C. UAE
- D. Peru

ANSWER: D

14. GPMG Stands For

- A. General Purple Machine Gun
- B. General Purpose Machine Gun
- C. General Purpose Machine Gum
- D. None

ANSWER: B

15. 'Ex Zapad' Conducted B/W India &

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

ANSWER: B

16. Padma Vibhushan Award Was Instituted on

- A. 2nd January 1954
- B. 2nd January 1955
- C. 2nd January 1956
- D. 2nd January 1957

ANSWER: A

17. Hq Of Department of Space Is In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Kochi
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: B

18. CAIR Stands For

- A. Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics
- B. Centre for Artificial Intelligent & Robotics
- C. Centre for Artillery Intelligence & Robotics
- D. Centre form Artificial Intelligence & Robotics

ANSWER: A

19. "An Odyssey in War and Peace" Book Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. SHF Manekshaw
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Lt Gen J.F.R. Jacob

ANSWER: D

20. With reference to the Project 15B warships, consider the following statements:

- 1. They are equipped with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and long-range Surface-to-Air Missiles.**
- 2. 'INS Surat' was the first-ever ship of Project 15B Destroyers.**
- 3. Project 15B warships are completely indigenous.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

ANSWER: A

 **SSBCrack**
EXAMS