

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 19 June 2026

### Multilateral Military Exercise Khaan Quest

- The Indian Army contingent is set to depart today to participate in the multilateral joint military exercise - Exercise KHAAN QUEST. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 20 June to 03 July 2026 at Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- The Exercise will bring together military forces from across the world to collaborate and enhance interoperability in peace support operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter. The previous edition of the exercise was conducted from 14-28 June 2025 at Mongolia.
- The exercise first started as a bilateral event between USA and Mongolian Defence Forces in the year 2003. Subsequently, from the year 2006 onwards the exercise graduated to a Multilateral Peacekeeping Exercise with current one being the 23rd iteration.
- The Indian Army contingent comprising 40 personnel is being represented by troops from a Battalion of the JAT REGIMENT along with personnel from other Arms and Services.
- The aim of Exercise KHAAN QUEST is to prepare contingents of participating Defence Forces for peacekeeping missions while operating in a multilateral environment.
- The exercise will focus on conduct of joint planning and tactical drills such as establishment of static and mobile check points, cordon and search operations, patrolling, evacuation of civilians from hostile area, counter improvised explosive device drills, combat first aid and casualty evacuation.



## Induction of Indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle

- The first of the six indigenous Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs), being constructed by Chowgule & Company Private Limited for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), was inducted into service in Goa on June 18, 2026.
- The hovercraft aims to enhance ICG's operational effectiveness across a broad spectrum of maritime duties and reinforce its ability to respond to emerging challenges.
- Its induction would further the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and serve as a reflection of the growing strength of the maritime industrial base of the country.
- The induction ceremony was held in the presence of senior ICG officials and representatives from the shipbuilding industry. The induction underscores the organisation's continued focus on modernisation and capability enhancement in support of its mandate to safeguard the nation's maritime interests.
- The contract for the acquisition of six ACVs for ICG was signed between the Ministry of Defence and **Chowgule & Company Private Limited** on October 24, 2026.



## **Bhoomi Pujan for 10,000-Tons Aluminium Extrusion Press**

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will perform the Bhoomi Pujan for the state-of-the-art 10,000-Tons Aluminium Extrusion Press at Yantra India Limited (YIL), Ordnance Factory, Ambajhari in Nagpur, Maharashtra on June 19, 2026.
- The ceremony will be attended by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Sanjeev Kumar and other senior officials of Department of Defence Production as well as YIL.
- The proposed extrusion press will be a major national asset for the defence manufacturing sector. It will strengthen the nation's capability to produce large, high-strength and precision aluminium alloy extrusions to cater to the requirements of defence & aerospace sectors.
- The project will help reduce dependence on imports of critical aluminium extruded components and support indigenous manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision.



## Bharat Forge Defence Arm Partners With US

- Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd (KSSL), the wholly-owned defence subsidiary of Bharat Forge Ltd, on Thursday announced signing a strategic partnership with American military vehicle maker AM General for distinct mounted artillery gun systems for the global market.
- The partnership addresses the requirements of modern defence forces worldwide in an evolving combat scenario, equipping them with compact, robust, mobile, all-weather, all-terrain next-gen mounted artillery gun platforms with a distinct competitive edge, KSSL said in a statement.
- There are numerous opportunities globally and the partnership is intended to support broader allied distribution, positioning the platform as a scalable, exportable artillery solution for partner nations seeking modern, mobile and survivable 155mm fires capability, it said.
- The proposal to the US government includes the development and delivery of a 155mm MTC solution based on the mature, combat-relevant architecture of KSSL's mounted artillery gun platform, with delivery planned in 2027 upon its down-selection, the company said.
- Its 52-calibre 155 mm cannon is combined with the patented Soft Recoil Technology (SRT) recoil mitigation system, an automated load-assist, and an advanced all-weather fire control suite providing indirect and direct fire capabilities, it said. The system fires a standard high-explosive projectile over 40 Kilometres and carries over 20 projectiles and propellant charges on board.



## Pakistan Tries To Reopen A Dormant Front

- The recent arrival of Pakistan's first Hangor-class submarine in Karachi is more than just a routine naval induction. It marks the beginning of a new phase in South Asian undersea competition, one where Pakistan is no longer limiting itself to the Arabian Sea.
- With reports emerging of plans for a sustained presence in the Bay of Bengal, a theatre where Pakistan has not operated since 1971, the strategic implications are widening.
- These submarines, built with Chinese assistance and equipped with Air Independent Propulsion (AIP), give Islamabad a longer reach and greater stealth than ever before. For India, this is not an immediate crisis but a slow shift in the maritime balance that demands constant attention.
- The Hangor-class submarines (Hangor is a Bangla word for shark) are based on a Chinese Type 039A derivative and represent a major leap for Pakistan's underwater fleet. Built under a 2015 agreement, the programme involves eight submarines, with four constructed in China and four in Pakistan at Karachi Shipyard under technology transfer.
- What makes these boats significant is their Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system. Unlike conventional diesel-electric submarines that must surface or snorkel frequently, AIP-equipped submarines can remain submerged for weeks.
- This dramatically reduces their exposure to aircraft and surface detection systems and allows them to operate farther from home bases with greater endurance.

- The most striking development is Pakistan’s signalling of a possible sustained naval presence in the Bay of Bengal, a region it has not operated in since the 1971 war when another Pakistani submarine also named Hangor sank India's **INS Khukri**.
- For India, the Bay of Bengal has traditionally been a relatively secure water space dominated by its own navy and protected by geography. The potential entry of Pakistani submarines into this region introduces a psychological and operational shift.
- India currently operates around sixteen conventional submarines along with nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines under the Arihant-class. Its conventional fleet includes **Kalvari, Sindhughosh and Shishumar-class boats**, though several older submarines are being phased out.
- The Kalvari-class submarines are expected to receive indigenous DRDO-developed AIP systems, with the first likely becoming operational around the end of 2026 or shortly after.
- The Hangor programme also reflects a deeper structural shift in the region: the increasing integration of Chinese naval technology into Pakistan’s fleet. This extends beyond hardware into training, sensors and combat systems, effectively creating interoperability between Chinese and Pakistani undersea warfare doctrines.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Exercise Khaan Quest 2026 is being conducted in which country?**

- A) Kazakhstan
- B) Mongolia
- C) South Korea
- D) Japan

**Answer:** B) Mongolia

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**2. The primary objective of Exercise Khaan Quest is to prepare participating forces for:**

- A) Naval warfare operations
- B) Cybersecurity missions
- C) Peacekeeping missions in a multinational environment
- D) Space defence operations

**Answer:** C) Peacekeeping missions in a multinational environment

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**3. The first indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV) inducted into the Indian Coast Guard was built by:**

- A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- C) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- D) Chowgule & Company Private Limited

**Answer:** D) Chowgule & Company Private Limited

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**4. The proposed 10,000-ton Aluminium Extrusion Press is being established at:**

- A) Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- B) Pune, Maharashtra
- C) Ambajhari, Nagpur
- D) Hyderabad, Telangana

**Answer:** C) Ambajhari, Nagpur

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**5. Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL) has partnered with which US company for mounted artillery gun systems?**

- A) Lockheed Martin
- B) Boeing Defense
- C) AM General
- D) Northrop Grumman

**Answer:** C) AM General

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**6. What is the key advantage of the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system used in Pakistan's Hangor-class submarines?**

- A) Increased missile range
- B) Ability to launch aircraft
- C) Reduced fuel consumption on the surface
- D) Longer underwater endurance without surfacing

**Answer:** D) Longer underwater endurance without surfacing

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

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

**ANSWER: B**

**8. The Douglas C-47 Skytrain or Dakota Is A**

- A. UAV
- B. Military Transport Aircraft
- C. Fighter Aircraft
- D. None

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Infantry Day Is Always Observed On**

- A. 26 Oct
- B. 27 Oct
- C. 28 Oct
- D. 29 Oct

**ANSWER: B**

**10. PBG The Oldest Regiment In The Indian Army, Having Been Raised In**

- A. 1773
- B. 1774
- C. 1779
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**11.INSAS Rifle Manufactured By**

- A. ARDE
- B. HAL
- C. IAI
- D. ISRO

**ANSWER: A**

**12. ISRO Hq Is In**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. Chennai
- D. Bangalore

**ANSWER: D**

**13. Brahmos Is A**

- A. Hypersonic Cruise Missile
- B. Supersonic Cruise Missile
- C. Subsonic Cruise Missile
- D. Ballistic Missile

**ANSWER: B**

**14. Where Is The Hq Of The Central Command of The Indian Army?**

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Lucknow

**ANSWER: D**

**15. 'Five S' Vision of Sammaan Coined By PM Modi Stands For**

- A. Samvaad –Sahyog –Shanti –and Suyog
- B. Samvaad –Sahyog –Sahitya –and Samriddhi

- C. Samvaad –Suknya –Shanti –and Samriddhi
- D. Samvaad –Sahyog –Shanti –and Samriddhi

**ANSWER: D**

**16. Sarmat Missile Is A**

- A. Nuclear-Capable Missile
- B. Cruise Missile
- C. Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles
- D. None

**ANSWER: A**

**17. "The Broken Earth" Book Written By**

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. N.K. Jemisin
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Philip Pullman

**ANSWER: B**

**18. What Is The Capital Of Nigeria?**

- A. Oslo
- B. Abuja
- C. Cape Town
- D. Warsaw

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Ex 'Ajeya Warrior' conducted b/w India &**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**20. Operation Ganga Was Conducted By IAF In**

- A. UK
- B. USA
- C. Ukraine
- D. Afghanistan

**ANSWER: C**