

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 26 June 2026

### IAF Gets Final Operational Clearance of Netra

- DRDO has achieved a significant milestone with the handing over of the Final Operational Clearance (FOC) certificate of the Indigenous 'Netra' Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system to the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The system has been indigenously developed through close collaboration among the IAF, DRDO, and associated industries to significantly enhance airborne surveillance, situational awareness & battle management capability.
- It represents a landmark achievement in India's journey towards self-reliance in advanced aerospace & defence technologies. The Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) was given in 2017.
- The successful induction of the Netra AEW&C system into operational service reflects DRDO's commitment to indigenisation, innovation, and capability enhancement of the Defence Services. The programme stands as a shining example of synergy between operational users, scientific agencies, and defence production establishments.
- Developer: DRDO (Centre for Airborne Systems – CABS)
- Operator: Indian Air Force
- Aircraft Platform: Embraer EMB-145
- Radar Type: Indigenous Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar
- Coverage: Approximately 240° radar coverage
- Mission Endurance: Around 5–6 hours, extendable through aerial refuelling
- India's first indigenous AEW&C system.
- Reduces dependence on imported airborne surveillance platforms.
- Acts as a force multiplier by improving the effectiveness of fighter aircraft.
- Enhances border surveillance along both western and northern frontiers.
- Supports the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence technology.



## Keel- Laying Ceremony of MDL's Next-Gen OPV for ICG

- The keel-laying ceremony of fourth of the six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), being built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) for the ICG, took place in Mumbai, Maharashtra on June 25, 2026.
- This ship, with modern machinery and state-of-the-art systems, is being indigenously designed, developed & constructed by MDL, in line with the Government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- The ceremony was attended by senior officials of ICG and MDL. The contract for the construction of these six NGOPVs was concluded on December 20, 2023.
- This initiative marks a key milestone in ICG's ongoing efforts to enhance its operational capabilities and bolster coastal security, thereby strengthening the nation's strategic autonomy.



## Indian Army Contingent Participates in Exercise Khaan Quest 2026

- The 23rd edition of the Multilateral Joint Military Exercise Khaan Quest 2026 is currently underway at the Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- This edition also marks the 20th anniversary of one of the largest peacekeeping operations training exercises, with participation of over 1,000 troops from 18 countries.
- The Indian Army contingent, comprising 40 personnel and represented by troops from a Battalion of the JAT Regiment along with personnel from other Arms and Services, is actively participating in intensive joint peacekeeping drills in a multinational environment.
- The exercise is being conducted in accordance with the UN mandate and is aimed at enhancing interoperability, communication and coordinated responses in complex operational scenarios.
- The exercise first started as a bilateral event between the USA and the Mongolian Defence Forces in the year 2003. Subsequently, from the year 2006 onwards, the exercise graduated to a Multilateral Peacekeeping Exercise with the current one being the 23rd iteration.



## Andhra Pradesh to Build Drone Delivery Network

- Bengaluru-based aerospace startup Air bound has signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation (APDC) to develop a large-scale drone delivery network across the Amaravati Capital Region, with plans to enable up to 10,000 drone flights a day over the next year.
- The pact was signed in New Delhi on Thursday by APDC Chairperson and Managing Director Geetanjali Sharma and Airbound Founder and CEO Naman Pushp, in the presence of Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu.
- Part of the proposed Amaravati Capital Region Drone Delivery Network (ACR DDN), the collaboration aims to seamlessly connect Amaravati, Vijayawada and Guntur by integrating logistics with healthcare, e-commerce, and commercial stakeholders.
- As part of the phased rollout, pilot operations will begin in Guntur with both parties targeting 10,000 daily drone flights across Andhra Pradesh over the coming year—a scale that could position AP among the largest commercial drone networks globally.
- Central to this network is Airbound's proprietary blended-wing-body tailsitter aircraft. Built from lightweight carbon fibre and weighing just 1.5 kg, the UAV offers an efficient 1.5:1 payload-to-weight ratio compared to the conventional 4:1 industry standard. This specialised design allows the platform to slash delivery costs up to 20 times lower than conventional methods, dropping transit expenses to as low as 10 paise per km.
- The Civil Aviation Minister said Airbound's trajectory highlights India's sovereign capabilities in next-generation aviation. He emphasised that the domestic development and scaling of such cutting-edge technology will generate real connectivity, high-skilled jobs, and economic growth.



## NSA Ajit Doval Meets Russian Counterpart Sergei Shoigu

- National Security Adviser (NSA) **Ajit Doval** held a high-level meeting with **Sergei Shoigu**, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, in New Delhi on **23 June 2026**. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the **16th BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting**, highlighting the continuing strategic engagement between India and Russia.
- **Key Highlights of the Meeting**
- During the discussions, both leaders reviewed the progress made in various areas of India-Russia cooperation. They emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral relations under the framework of the **India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership**, which has been a cornerstone of the relationship for decades.
- The two sides also exchanged views on proposals aimed at enhancing cooperation within the BRICS grouping. The discussions reflected the commitment of both countries to deepen coordination on regional and global security issues while promoting a multipolar international order.
- **Focus on Strategic Cooperation**
- The meeting covered a broad range of strategic issues, including:
  - Review of ongoing India-Russia bilateral cooperation.
  - Strengthening collaboration under the BRICS framework.
  - Enhancing security and strategic dialogue between the two nations.
  - Reaffirming commitment to the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.
  - Exploring new proposals for future cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

- Both leaders agreed that sustained dialogue at the highest levels remains essential for addressing emerging geopolitical challenges and ensuring regional stability.
- **India-Russia Strategic Partnership**
- India and Russia share a long-standing relationship based on mutual trust and strategic cooperation. Their partnership extends across several sectors, including:
  - Defence and military cooperation.
  - Energy and nuclear collaboration.
  - Space research and technology.
  - Trade and investment.
  - Counter-terrorism and security.
  - Science, education, and cultural exchanges.
- Regular interactions between the two countries' national security establishments have contributed significantly to expanding cooperation in these fields.
- **Importance of the BRICS Platform**
- The meeting was held alongside the BRICS National Security Advisers' gathering, which provides member countries with an opportunity to discuss common security concerns and strengthen coordination on international issues.
- BRICS has increasingly become an important platform for cooperation in areas such as:
  - Counter-terrorism.
  - Cybersecurity.
  - Global governance reforms.
  - Economic cooperation.
  - Regional peace and security.
  - Emerging technologies.
- India's participation reflects its commitment to promoting dialogue, stability, and multilateral cooperation among emerging economies.
- **Significance**
- The Doval-Shoigu meeting underscores the enduring strength of India-Russia relations despite changing global geopolitical dynamics. By reaffirming their strategic partnership and expanding cooperation under BRICS, both countries

aim to enhance regional security, strengthen diplomatic coordination, and contribute to a more balanced global order.

- **Key Facts**
- **Indian Representative:** National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.
- **Russian Representative:** Sergei Shoigu, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation.
- **Venue:** New Delhi.
- **Occasion:** 16th BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting.
- **Major Focus:** Bilateral strategic cooperation, BRICS collaboration, and regional and global security.



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## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Which organisation developed the indigenous Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system?**

- A) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- B) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- C) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- D) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

**Answer: B) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**

**2. The Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard are being constructed by which shipyard?**

- A) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)
- B) Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)
- C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
- D) Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)

**Answer: C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**

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

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

**Answer: B) Mongolia**

**4. Exercise Khaan Quest is primarily organised to improve cooperation in which type of operations?**

- A) Naval Warfare
- B) Counter-Piracy Missions
- C) United Nations Peacekeeping Operations
- D) Missile Defence Operations

**Answer: C) United Nations Peacekeeping Operations**

**5. Which organisation signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation (APDC) to establish a large-scale drone delivery network?**

- A) IdeaForge Technology
- B) Garuda Aerospace
- C) Airbound
- D) Adani Defence

**Answer: C) Airbound**

**6. The indigenous Netra AEW&C system is mounted on which aircraft platform?**

- A) Airbus A320
- B) Dornier Do-228
- C) Embraer EMB-145
- D) Boeing P-8I

**Answer: C) Embraer EMB-145**

**7. Garuda Shakti Ex Held B/w India &**

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. USA
- C. Indonesia
- D. Nepal

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Warsaw Is The Capital Of**

- A. Poland
- B. Ukraine
- C. Germany
- D. Oman

**ANSWER: A**

**9. War Cry Of MECHANISED INFANTRY REGIMENT Is**

- A. Bol Bajrang Bali Ki jai
- B. Raja Ramachandra ki jai
- C. Bolo Bharat Mata ki jai
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**10. CRPF Motto Is**

- A. Service Before Self
- B. Service and Loyalty
- C. We Protect
- D. Touch the sky with glory

**ANSWER: B**

**11. ICGS Saksham Is A**

- A. Destroyer
- B. Aircraft Carrier
- C. OPV
- D. Refueling Ship

**ANSWER: C**

**12. "Nuclearization of Asia" Book Written By**

- A.** Rene Naba
- B.** VR Chaudhari
- C.** Gen Parvez Musharraf

**D. APJ Abdul Kalam**

**ANSWER: A**

**13. Indian Coast Guard Formed On**

- A. August 18, 1978
- B. September 18, 1978
- C. March 18, 1976
- D. April 18, 1976

**ANSWER: A**

**14. 'MBT Bhishma' Is The Name Of :**

- A. Fighter aircraft
- B. Tank
- C. Armoured vehicles
- D. Infantry regiments

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Barak Is A**

- A. Surface-to-air Missile
- B. Surface-to-Surface Missile
- C. Air-to-air Missile
- D. Surface-to-Sea Missile

**ANSWER: A**

**16. INS Valsura Located At**

- A. Jamnagar, Gujrat
- B. Mumbai, M.H
- C. Kochi, Kerala
- D. A & NC

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Exercise Maitree Conducted B/w India &**

- A. Thailand
- B. Nepal
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Bhutan

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Infantry School Of Indian Army Is At**

- A. Mhow
- B. Bhopal
- C. Gwalior
- D. Jammu

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Officers Training Academy Is At**

- A. Chennai
- B. Bhopal
- C. Gaya
- D. Both A & C

**ANSWER: D**

**20. The IAI Heron UAV Developed By**

- A. USA
- B. South Korea
- C. Israel
- D. China

**ANSWER: C**

