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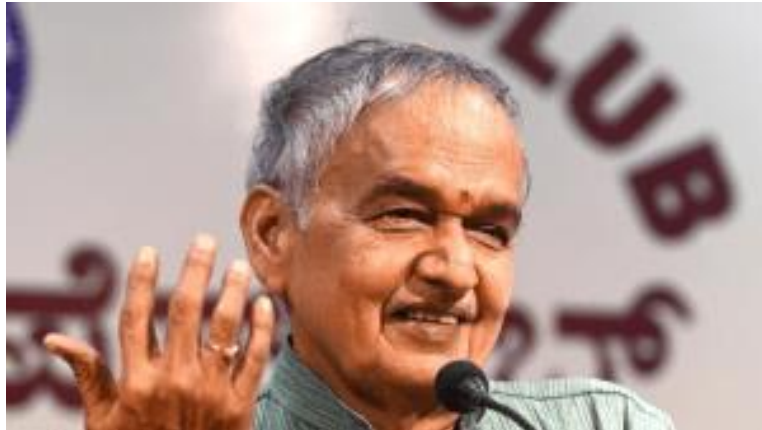
Kamarajar Port Becomes India's Second Major Port with 18-Metre Draft Capability

- Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) becomes the second port in the India to offer an 18 meter operational draft, after the successful completion of the Capital Dredging Phase VI project.
- It is developed with the investment of ₹440 crore, this upgraded infrastructure enables the port to handle fully laden Capesize vessels carrying up to 1,70,000 Deadweight Tonnage (DWT).
- The Capital Dredging Phase VI project was undertaken to transform the Kamarajar Port into a Cape Compliant Port, which is capable of handling some of the world's largest bulk cargo vessels.
- A Cape Compliant Port which can accommodate Capesize vessels, among the largest dry bulk cargo ships operating worldwide.
- These ships are traditionally too large to transit through the Panama or Suez Canals when it fully loaded and usually navigate around the Cape of Good Hope, giving them the name "Capesize."
- The ability to receive the Capesize vessels allows ports to transport the larger cargo volumes in a single voyage, it improving overall efficiency and reducing transportation costs.



Girish Bharadwaj, Bridge Man of India, Dies at 76

- Girish Bharadwaj, a Padma Shri awardee known as the “Bridge Man of India”, died at the age of 76 on 7 July 2026 in a private hospital in Sullia in Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka.
- He was a mechanical engineering graduate from PES College of Engineering in Mandya and had been receiving treatment for a heart-related ailment at KVG Hospital.
- The Government of India conferred the Padma Shri on Girish Bharadwaj in 2017 for contributions to rural infrastructure and social work. He is survived by two sons and a daughter, and his wife Usha had predeceased him.
- The Padma Shri is the fourth-highest civilian award in India.
- Suspension bridges use cables or chains to support the bridge deck.
- PES College of Engineering is located in Mandya, Karnataka.
- Payaswini is a river in Dakshina Kannada district.



Ugram Indigenous Assault Rifle Clears Army Trials

- The Ugram is an indigenous 7.62×51mm assault rifle developed in India by the Armament Research and Development Establishment, a laboratory of the **DRDO and Dvipa Defence India Private Limited**.
- It cleared the Indian Army's General Staff Qualitative Requirement trials and the Ministry of Home Affairs Board trials in July 2026.
- The rifle is expected to be procured by Central Armed Police Forces in India. These include the Central Reserve Police Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sashastra Seema Bal, and National Security Guard.
- The General Staff Qualitative Requirement, or GSQR, is the technical and operational standard used by the Indian Army for equipment trials.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs oversees several Central Armed Police Forces, including the CRPF, ITBP, SSB, and NSG.
- The INSAS rifle is a 5.56mm service rifle that has been used by Indian security forces since the 1990s.
- Atmanirbhar Bharat is a Government of India initiative linked with domestic manufacturing and reduced import dependence.



Natural History Museum in Aizawl Becomes India's 21st Repository

- The Natural History Museum at Mizoram University in Aizawl was designated as a repository under the Biological Diversity Act on 19 June 2026. The Union Environment Ministry announced the designation on 7 July 2026 after a recommendation from the National Biodiversity Authority.
- The museum became India's 21st designated repository for biological material.
- A designated repository is a facility that keeps biological material in safe custody. It also serves as a legal registry for biological resources used in research and commercial activity. Such repositories store voucher specimens, which are preserved reference samples used for identification and verification.
- The Natural History Museum will maintain voucher specimens of flora and fauna from Mizoram and the North-Eastern region. The listed flora includes pteridophytes and macrofungi, while the fauna includes reptiles, amphibians, fishes, moths, beetles, and butterflies.
- The museum will also function as a depository for type specimens of newly discovered species from the region.



Tripura Makes Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana Mandatory

- Tripura made the full version of the **National Song Vande Mataram** and the **National Anthem Jana Gana Mana** compulsory in all schools across the state on 7 July 2026. The order applies to government schools, government-aided schools, private schools, and recognised madrassas in **Tripura**.
- The School Education Department issued the directive in line with guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs dated 28 January 2026 on respect, protocol, and rendition of the National Song.
- The Tripura Council of Ministers approved the decision in a meeting held on 25 June 2026, and the policy came into effect on 3 July 2026.
- Vande Mataram is India's National Song, and Jana Gana Mana is India's National Anthem. The National Anthem was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 24 January 1950, and the National Song has been used in official and public contexts since the freedom movement period.
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India And Indonesia Sign BrahMos And Astra Deal

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Indonesia has marked a significant milestone in bilateral relations, with the signing of more than eight agreements across defence, technology, health, education, and cultural cooperation.
- The centerpiece of these accords was the long-anticipated **BrahMos missile** deal, which firmly positions Indonesia as a key partner in India's expanding coastal missile deployment network across **Southeast Asia**.
- Alongside this, India agreed to supply **ASTRA air-to-air missile systems** under a new arrangement between **Bharat Dynamics and Indonesia's Republic Corps**, further strengthening defence interoperability.
- The agreements extended well beyond defence. A framework on maritime safety and security was finalised, reflecting the shared priority of safeguarding sea lanes in the Indo-Pacific.
- The ongoing multi-nation tour, which includes **Australia and New Zealand**, is firmly aligned with India's **Act East Policy** and the **MAHASAGAR Vision**, reinforcing New Delhi's commitment to a **free and open Indo-Pacific**.

India, Indonesia Boost Def Ties with BrahMos, Maritime Security Pacts

Powering Up

India, Indonesia extend space cooperation framework



Deepen collaboration in farm & allied sectors

Look to strengthen minerals, steel supply chains



Expand telecom, research and innovation tieups

Back open and rules-based Indo-Pacific region



Two sides also ink MoUs on critical minerals; will jointly develop Sabang port

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

New Delhi: India and Indonesia upgraded their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, concluding agreements on BrahMos missiles, air-to-air Astra missiles and maritime safety and security.

The two nations also signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on rare earth magnets and cooperation in minerals and technology used in the steel supply chain. To strengthen the critical mineral supply chain, India will invest in manufacturing of steel, nickel and rare earth permanent magnets in Indonesia. The country has the world's largest nickel deposits.

India will also provide assistance for conservation and restoration of the Prambanan Temple Complex, Yogyakarta.

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Payment System Integration Announced

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The agreements were among 20 documents and announcements after a summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta. The Indian PM is on a three-day official visit to Indonesia.

"A golden era beckons both our nations," Modi told a joint press conference with the Indonesian President. "We share a common culture in our history, shared trust in the present, and shared prosperity in our future. I am confident that, together, we will realise the visions of Indonesia Emas (Golden Indonesia) and a developed India."

Referring to critical mineral cooperation, Modi said, "In today's era, supply chain resilience in technology is of great importance."

The two leaders reviewed the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership encompassing trade and investment, defence and security, maritime cooperation, digital and financial technology, energy, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, space, critical minerals and rare earths, culture, tourism, agriculture and people-to-people exchanges.

The growing defence partnership and maritime security cooperation

JOINT DEVELOPMENT



India and Indonesia will jointly develop Sabang port, which overlooks the Strait of Malacca, and is 100 miles away from India's Great Nicobar port project

tion were the highlights of the Modi-Prabowo summit. India and Indonesia will jointly develop Sabang port, which overlooks the Strait of Malacca, and is 100 miles away from India's Great Nicobar port project, giving New Delhi a strategic footprint in the region.

Indonesia is the third country after Philippines and Vietnam to purchase BrahMos missiles, jointly developed by India and Russia. With Indonesia expanding its BrahMos inventory, India decided to support the Southeast Asian country with more batteries for the missile, according to people with knowledge of the matter:

After the success of India's air-to-air missile power during Operation Sindoor, Indonesia has decided to import Astra missiles under the air-to-air missile cooperation accord. These will be fitted to the Indonesian Air Force's Sukhoi fleet.

With Digital Public Infrastructure a key pillar of the partnership, the two leaders welcomed the launch of the Indonesia Open Network (ION) based on India's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). Modi also announced that India's UPI is set to be integrated with Indonesia's payment system.

India will also support the development of electronic voting machines (EVMs) under an MoU between the Election Commission of India and Indonesia's General Elections Commission (KPU). The two sides also signed an MoU on cooperation in the field of telecommunications technologies and services as well as one on research, technology, and innovation cooperation. An IIM Bangalore campus will be set up at the Singhasari Special Economic Zone in Indonesia's East Java province.

The two leaders discussed further strengthening of the Asean-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. They reaffirmed their

commitment toward a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific. In this context, the Prime Minister underlined India's MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision. Prabowo conveyed Indonesia's full support for India's ongoing presidency of the BRICS in 2026. On Palestine, Modi supported a two-state solution and long-term peace.

LEARNING FROM INDIA

Subianto said he had duplicated many of Prime Minister Modi's measures at a banquet in Jakarta. With Modi seated beside him, Subianto joked that he was grateful there was no copyright attached to the Indian leader's initiatives. "I follow your career and I copy many of your programmes," Subianto said. He said he had no hesitation in acknowledging this publicly, explaining that Indonesia and India shared similar developmental challenges and that initiatives that worked for hundreds of millions of Indians could also benefit Indonesians.

Modi was conferred the 'Bintang Adipurna,' the highest civilian honour of Indonesia, for furthering ties.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Kamarajar Port recently became India's second major port to achieve which operational draft capability?

- A. 14 metres
- B. 16 metres
- C. **18 metres**
- D. 20 metres

Answer: C. 18 metres

Explanation: After the completion of the Capital Dredging Phase VI project, Kamarajar Port became the second major port in India to have an 18-metre operational draft.

2. The Capital Dredging Phase VI project enables Kamarajar Port to handle which type of vessels?

- A. Panamax vessels
- B. Handymax vessels
- C. Aframax tankers
- D. **Capesize vessels**

Answer: D. Capesize vessels

Explanation: The project transformed Kamarajar Port into a Cape Compliant Port capable of handling fully loaded Capesize vessels carrying up to 1,70,000 DWT.

3. Girish Bharadwaj, popularly known as the "Bridge Man of India," was honoured with which civilian award?

- A. Padma Vibhushan
- B. Padma Bhushan
- C. Bharat Ratna
- D. **Padma Shri**

Answer: D. Padma Shri

Explanation: Girish Bharadwaj received the Padma Shri in 2017 for his outstanding contribution to rural infrastructure through low-cost suspension bridges.

4. The indigenous Ugram assault rifle has been jointly developed by DRDO's Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and which private company?

- A. Tata Advanced Systems
- B. Bharat Forge
- C. Adani Defence
- D. **Dvipa Defence India Private Limited**

Answer: D. Dvipa Defence India Private Limited

Explanation: The 7.62×51 mm Ugram assault rifle is a joint development of ARDE (DRDO) and Dvipa Defence India Private Limited.

5. The Ugram assault rifle uses which calibre ammunition?

- A. 5.56 × 45 mm
- B. 7.62 × 39 mm
- C. **7.62 × 51 mm**
- D. 9 × 19 mm

Answer: C. 7.62 × 51 mm

Explanation: Ugram is chambered for the 7.62×51 mm NATO calibre, providing greater stopping power and range.

6. The Natural History Museum at Mizoram University has become India's:

- A. 18th designated repository
- B. 19th designated repository
- C. 20th designated repository
- D. **21st designated repository**

Answer: D. 21st designated repository

Explanation: The museum in Aizawl was designated as India's 21st repository under the Biological Diversity Act.

7. Which state has made the full rendition of both Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana mandatory in all schools?

- A. Assam
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Nagaland
- D. **Tripura**

Answer: D. Tripura

Explanation: The Tripura Government made the National Song and National Anthem compulsory in all government, aided, private schools, and recognised madrasahs.

8. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Indonesia, India agreed to supply which indigenous air-to-air missile?

- A. Akash
- B. Nag
- C. Rudram
- D. **Astra**

Answer: D. Astra

Explanation: India signed an agreement to supply the indigenous Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) to Indonesia.

9. Which vision guides India's maritime cooperation and Indo-Pacific engagement highlighted during the Indonesia visit?

- A. SAGAR Vision
- B. Vision 2047
- C. Neighbourhood First Policy
- D. **MAHASAGAR Vision**

Answer: D. MAHASAGAR Vision

Explanation: The agreements with Indonesia align with India's Act East Policy and the MAHASAGAR Vision for a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific.

10. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the BrahMos missile?

- A. It is an air-to-air missile developed solely by DRDO.
- B. It is a ballistic missile with hypersonic speed.

C. It is a supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia.

D. It can only be launched from naval ships.

Answer: C. It is a supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia.

Explanation: BrahMos is the world's fastest operational supersonic cruise missile, jointly developed by India and Russia. It can be launched from land, sea, air, and submarine platforms.