

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Indian Navy Set To Commission Mahendragiri

- The Indian Navy is set to commission its **sixth Project 17A** indigenous stealth frigate, **Mahendragiri (F38)**, at **Visakhapatnam** on 11 Jul 2026.
- Named after the majestic Mahendragiri **mountain range** in the **Eastern Ghats**, the frigate embodies resilience, strength, and unwavering resolve. As the first Indian Naval warship to bear this name, Mahendragiri is truly sui generis.
- Designed in-house by the Indian Navy's **Warship Design Bureau (WDB)** and built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**, Mumbai, Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A stealth frigate, exemplifies India's growing expertise in indigenous warship design and construction.
- Incorporating advanced stealth features, enhanced survivability, reduced radar signature, and a high degree of automation, the frigate is powered by a modern **Combined Diesel or Gas propulsion system**, enabling high-speed operations with exceptional endurance across the full spectrum of maritime missions.
- With over 75 percent indigenous content, Mahendragiri exemplifies the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- Capable of undertaking anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine operations, Mahendragiri is equally suited for maritime security, power projection, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Search and Rescue (SAR), and sustained presence missions.



Undersea Cable Network for Submarine Detection

- Bharat is moving to plant eyes and ears on the Indian Ocean seabed. DRDO has kicked off the hunt for an industry partner to develop and deploy an **Underwater Fiber Optic Sensing System** a fixed network of undersea sensors that will keep round-the-clock watch on submarines prowling India's waters.
- The Kochi-based **Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL)**, DRDO's premier underwater warfare lab, has floated an expression of interest (EOI) to identify a "lead system integrator" for the turnkey development, supply, transportation, deployment and commissioning of the system.
- The network will comprise seabed sensor nodes linked by subsea fibre-optic cables to a shore station where the data will be received, monitored and analysed.
- The move comes with the undersea battlespace in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) getting increasingly contested.
- Chinese nuclear and conventional submarines periodically prowl the IOR, while Chinese survey and "research" vessels systematically map the region's waters, data invaluable for future submarine operations.
- Pakistan, in turn, has also begun inducting eight Chinese-origin Hangor-class diesel-electric submarines with **air-independent propulsion (AIP)**, the first of which has already been launched.
- The concept has well-established precedents. During the Cold War, the United States deployed the **Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS)**, a network of seabed-

mounted hydrophone arrays connected by undersea cables to detect and track Soviet submarines.

- The US and Japan later expanded similar underwater surveillance architecture across the western Pacific to monitor Chinese submarine movements, while China has built its own “**underwater Great Wall**” of seabed acoustic sensors in the South China Sea.
- According to the EOI, the UFOSS will comprise underwater “wet-plant” systems including sensor array nodes, subsea fibre-optic cables, junction boxes and branching units linked through a beach manhole to a shore station.
- The selected integrator will be responsible for the entire project, from integration and deployment to commissioning, one year of operations and lifecycle support for the system’s planned 20-year service life. Execution has been tentatively pegged at 48 months.
- The proposals for this project are due by September 1, with consortiums of up to five companies besides the lead bidder allowed to pool specialised capabilities.
- Bidders will also need proven expertise across subsea cable manufacturing and deployment, underwater systems, marine surveys, system integration and shore monitoring stations, backed by assets like dedicated cable-laying ships, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and cable burial ploughs.



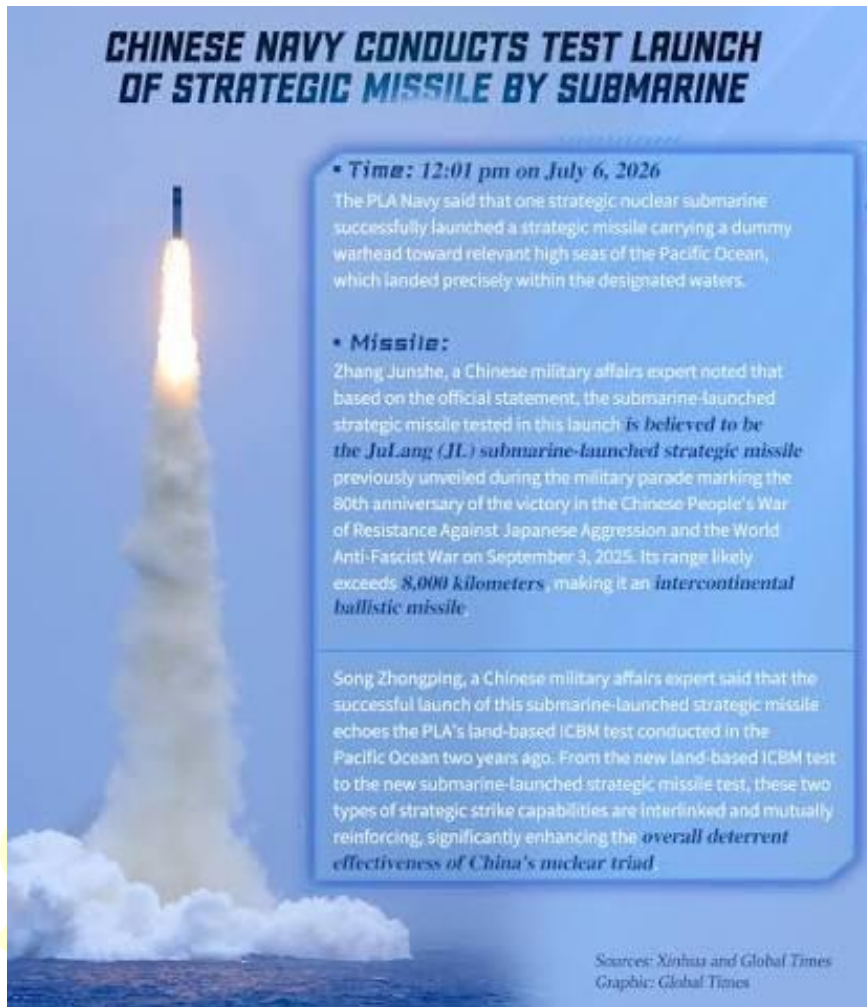
‘The Octagon’ – World’s Largest Military HQ

- Egypt has officially inaugurated its new State Strategic Command Headquarters, popularly known as "**The Octagon**", marking a significant milestone in the country's military modernization programme.
- Located in Egypt's New Administrative Capital, the massive defence complex is now regarded as the world's largest military headquarters by land area, surpassing the size of the Pentagon in the United States.
- **Why is it Called "The Octagon"?**
- The headquarters derives its name from its distinctive architectural design. The complex consists of eight interconnected octagonal buildings arranged around two central command structures.
- This layout symbolizes integrated military command while combining traditional Egyptian architectural elements with modern defence infrastructure.
- **Size and Scale**
- The Octagon covers nearly 22,000 acres, making it approximately 750 times larger than the Pentagon's main building footprint. It also provides more than 50 million square feet of built-up space and includes 13 strategic and logistical zones, making it one of the largest defence administrative complexes in the world.
- **Advanced Military Capabilities**
- The headquarters has been designed as a fully integrated command centre equipped with advanced Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I) systems along with Artificial Intelligence-enabled technologies. These capabilities are intended to improve:
 - Real-time operational coordination
 - Faster military decision-making
 - Secure communication across all armed forces
 - Intelligence sharing among defence agencies
 - Efficient crisis and emergency management
- **Part of Egypt's New Administrative Capital**
- The Octagon forms an important component of Egypt's ambitious New Administrative Capital project, which aims to relocate several key government institutions from Cairo to a newly developed city.



China's Navy Conducts Strategic Submarine Missile Test

- China's PLA Navy has confirmed the successful launch of a strategic missile from a nuclear-powered submarine into the Pacific Ocean on 6 July 2026, marking its second such test in international waters since 2024.
- The launch, though described as routine training, has triggered strong protests from regional countries including Australia, New Zealand, and Japan, who view it as destabilising.
- The missile was fired at 12:01 p.m. local time from a strategic nuclear submarine and carried a dummy warhead. According to Chinese authorities, the projectile landed precisely within the designated waters of the Pacific Ocean.
- Beijing emphasised that the test was part of its annual military training programme, was conducted in line with international law and practice, and was not aimed at any specific country or target.
- Relevant nations were notified in advance, though several governments expressed concern that the warning came only hours before the launch.
- The timing of the launch coincided with the start of "Joint Sea-2026," annual naval exercises conducted with Russia off Qingdao, highlighting Beijing's deepening military cooperation with Moscow.
- Regional reactions were swift. New Zealand condemned the test, noting that it took place within the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone established under the 1986 Treaty of Rarotonga, which China ratified in 1987.



Two Assam Rifles Soldiers Killed

- Two Assam Rifles soldiers were killed and several others injured in an ambush by suspected militants in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Monday, police said.
- The incident occurred around 1.30 pm in the Nungshang Khong area of the hill district when the suspected militants fired at a convoy of the paramilitary force, a senior officer said.
- State Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam condemned the attack on security forces and asserted that such an incident disrupts peace and harmony in the strife-torn state.
- Security forces have been conducting search operations and area domination in the fringe and vulnerable localities across Manipur since ethnic violence broke out three years ago.

- More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the ethnic strife between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. INS Mahendragiri (F38), scheduled to be commissioned on 11 July 2026, belongs to which class of warships?

- A) Project 15B Destroyer
- B) Project 17A Stealth Frigate
- C) Project 75 Submarine
- D) Nilgiri-class Corvette

Answer: B) Project 17A Stealth Frigate

Q2. INS Mahendragiri has been named after which geographical feature of India?

- A) Aravalli Hills
- B) Vindhya Range
- C) Mahendragiri Mountain Range in the Eastern Ghats
- D) Satpura Hills

Answer: C) Mahendragiri Mountain Range in the Eastern Ghats

Q3. Which organization designed INS Mahendragiri, and which shipyard built it?

- A) DRDO and Cochin Shipyard Limited
- B) Warship Design Bureau (Indian Navy) and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- C) HAL and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- D) Bharat Electronics Limited and Goa Shipyard Limited

Answer: B) Warship Design Bureau (Indian Navy) and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

Q4. The Octagon, recently seen in the news, is the new military headquarters of which country?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) Türkiye
- C) Egypt
- D) United Arab Emirates

Answer: C) Egypt

Explanation: The Octagon is Egypt's new State Strategic Command Headquarters located in the New Administrative Capital.

Q5. The Octagon is located in which city/region of Egypt?

- A) Alexandria
- B) Cairo
- C) New Administrative Capital
- D) Port Said

Answer: C) New Administrative Capital

Explanation: The headquarters has been built in Egypt's New Administrative Capital, developed to accommodate key government and military institutions.

Q6. Why is Egypt's military headquarters called "The Octagon"?

- A) It has eight military divisions.
- B) It consists of eight interconnected octagonal buildings.
- C) It was inaugurated on the eighth day of the month.
- D) It is surrounded by eight security walls.

Answer: B) It consists of eight interconnected octagonal buildings.

Explanation: The headquarters derives its name from its unique architectural design featuring eight interconnected octagonal structures.

Q7. The advanced C4I system integrated into The Octagon primarily enhances which of the following?

- A) Agricultural planning
- B) Civil aviation management
- C) Military command, communication, control, and intelligence
- D) Space exploration

Answer: C) Military command, communication, control, and intelligence

Explanation: C4I stands for **Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence**, enabling efficient military operations and decision-making.

Q8. The Octagon has been developed as part of Egypt's broader initiative to:

- A) Expand its naval fleet.
- B) Shift key government institutions to the New Administrative Capital.
- C) Develop a new international airport.
- D) Establish a regional space agency.

Answer: B) Shift key government institutions to the New Administrative Capital.

10. Akash Prime Is A

- A. Rocket
- B. Air Defence Missile System
- C. Sniper Rifle
- D. Tank

ANSWER: B

11. NAVIC Stands For

- A. India Regional Navigation Satellite System
- B. Indian Regional Navigator Satellite System
- C. Indian Regional Navigation Satellite Source
- D. Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System

ANSWER: D

12. Major Rank Of the Indian Army Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of The Indian Navy?

- A. Captain
- B. Inspector
- C. Lt Commander

D. Vice-admiral

ANSWER: C

13. Training Command of IAF is located at

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bangalore
- C. Gurugram
- D. Lucknow

ANSWER: B

14. Captain Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of IAF Is

- A. Wing Commander
- B. Squadron Leader
- C. Flight Lt.
- D. Air Chief Marshal

ANSWER: C

15. Colonel Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of Indian Navy Is

- A. Commander
- B. Captain
- C. Group Captain
- D. Lieutenant

ANSWER: B

16. Warsaw Is The Capital Of

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

ANSWER: D

17. "Indian Fiscal Federalism" Book Is Written By

- A. Dr. Bibek Debroy
- B. Dr. Krishna Saksena
- C. Dr. Y.V. Reddy
- D. Jairam Ramesh

ANSWER: C

18. Tangail Airdrop Was Done At Which War

- A. 1948
- B. 1962
- C. 1965
- D. 1971

ANSWER: D

19. War Cry of NAGA REGIMENT

- A. Bharat Mata ki Jai
- B. Ki ki so so Lhargyalo
- C. Jai Durga Naga
- D. Durga Mata Ki Jai

ANSWER: C

20. Sankalp-class OPV Designed And Built By

- A. Goa Shipyard Limited
- B. GRSE
- C. MDL
- D. CSL

ANSWER: A

21. Mitra Shakti Ex Held B/w India &

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. USA

C. UK

D. Nepal

ANSWER: A



SSBCrack
EXAMS