

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Navy Charts ₹1 Lakh Crore Warship Build-Up With Projects

- India's naval modernisation drive is entering a decisive phase with three indigenous warship projects worth up to ₹1 lakh crore being prepared for launch.
- Sources indicate that the Indian Navy is advancing plans for Project-15C destroyers, Project-17B frigates, and Project-18A next-generation large surface combatants, which together will form the backbone of the future surface fleet.
- These initiatives are being shaped against the backdrop of intensifying strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific region, where India seeks to expand its maritime footprint and retain a qualitative edge.
- **Project-15C** is the largest and most immediate of the three programs. Under this initiative, the Navy intends to construct four next-generation guided-missile destroyers at an estimated cost of around **₹50,000 crore**.
- The Ministry of Defence is expected to issue the Request for Proposal within the next year, with construction likely to commence three years thereafter, once design approvals and procurement clearances are secured.
- These destroyers will build upon the capabilities of the Kolkata-class (Project-15A) and Visakhapatnam-class (Project-15B) destroyers, while integrating advanced sensors, electronic warfare suites, improved air defence systems, and enhanced strike capabilities.
- **Project-17B** represents the second major undertaking, involving the construction of six advanced stealth frigates at a projected cost of ₹40,000 crore. The plan envisages MDL building three frigates, while GRSE will construct the remaining three.

- **Project-18A** stands out as the most ambitious and complex of the three. The Navy aims to build six large surface combatants of 14,000–15,000 tons, making them among the biggest warships ever constructed in India.



Indian Army Hosts Drone Proficiency Competition

- On 11 July 2026, the Fire & Fury Corps organised an Inter Formation Drone Proficiency Competition in Ladakh's high-altitude terrain.
- The event was conducted under realistic operational conditions, reflecting the Army's determination to test unmanned aerial systems in one of the world's most demanding environments.
- Teams from different formations showcased their skills in handling vertical take-off and landing fixed-wing drones as well as quadcopter UAVs.
- These platforms were employed for surveillance, reconnaissance and operational missions, demonstrating precision, innovation and seamless integration of niche technologies.
- The competition highlighted the Army's growing expertise in unmanned aerial systems. Participants displayed exceptional proficiency in flight control, mission execution and adaptability to harsh terrain.
- The Fire & Fury Corps, responsible for guarding Ladakh's sensitive frontiers, has consistently pioneered high-altitude operational innovations. By hosting this competition, it has reinforced the strategic importance of drones in surveillance, rapid response and tactical superiority in contested zones.



Bangladesh Replaces India And Hands Over Mongla Port Project To China

- Bangladesh's decision to replace India with China in the Mongla Port project marks a major strategic setback for New Delhi, as the Bay of Bengal increasingly becomes a contested arena in the India-China rivalry.
- Mongla's proximity to India's border and its role in regional trade corridors make it a critical node in South Asia's maritime geopolitics.
- Bangladesh has formally signed an agreement with **China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation** to develop the **Mongla Port Economic Zone**.
- This project was originally reserved for India under a 2015 bilateral initiative, but delays and failure to begin construction led Dhaka to delist the Indian plan in 2025. China quickly stepped in, securing the deal during **PM Tarique Rahman's first state visit to Beijing**.



IRGC Shuts Strait of Hormuz

- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps announced that the Strait of Hormuz has been closed "until further notice." The statement that the strategic waterway would remain shut until the United States ends what Tehran described as its "**interference**" in **West Asia**.
- The IRGC explained that the decision was taken in light of the prevailing security situation, which it attributed to unlawful intervention by foreign powers. It emphasised that no vessel would be permitted to transit the strait until Washington halts its activities in the region.
- The IRGC Navy issued a warning against any military action under the pretext of the closure, stressing that such moves would provoke a strong response. It cautioned that if the enemy exploited the situation to commit further aggression, Iranian forces would retaliate by targeting additional bases belonging to adversaries in the region.
- The closure of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints, has once again raised concerns about global energy security. The waterway handles a significant portion of international oil and gas shipments, and its disruption carries far-reaching economic implications.



Russia's Su-57E Offer To India

- The delays in the delivery of GE's F404-IN20 engines for the TEJAS MK-1A program have already slowed down India's indigenous fighter production. With only the seventh engine delivered after nearly five years since the 2021 contract, the situation has exposed India's vulnerability in relying on American propulsion systems.

- The larger crisis, however, lies in the indirect denial of GE's F414 engine, which India had selected for its next-generation fighter triad — TEJAS MK-2, TEDBF, and AMCA.
- These projects were designed to replace ageing fleets and maintain the Indian Air Force's combat strength. Yet, without a guaranteed domestic production line under licence, India's planners committed a strategic misstep that now threatens timelines and force modernisation.
- This vacuum is creating an opening for Russia. The Su-57E stealth fighter, particularly the twin-seat variant, is being positioned as an interim solution to bridge India's fifth-generation capability gap.
- With Pakistan expected to induct the Chinese J-35 stealth fighter by 2027 and China already fielding both the J-20 and J-35 while developing a sixth-generation aircraft, India faces mounting pressure to secure a credible counter.
- Russia's offer includes co-development and co-production within India, leveraging HAL's existing Su-30MKI facilities. This would allow integration of Indian radar, avionics, weapons, and missile systems into the Su-57E, creating a potent strike and air superiority platform.
- For the Indian Air Force, the Su-57E could serve as a generational successor to the Su-30MKI fleet, enhancing lethality and survivability.
- For Russia, struggling financially after spending an estimated \$2.5 trillion on the Ukraine war since 2022, the deal would provide a crucial multi-billion dollar lifeline.
- Immediate Capability: Provides India with an interim fifth-generation fighter to counter China and Pakistan.
- Co-Development Model: Ensures localisation, integration of Indian systems, and technology transfer.
- HAL Infrastructure: Utilises existing facilities, reducing costs and timelines.
- Strategic Autonomy: Strengthens India's independence in defence procurement.
- Russian Lifeline: Provides Russia with crucial financial support, ensuring sustained partnership.
- Export Endorsement: Boosts Su-57's credibility in the global market through Indian adoption.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Indian Navy project aims to construct four next-generation guided-missile destroyers at an estimated cost of around ₹50,000 crore?

- A. Project-17B
- B. Project-18A
- C. Project-15C
- D. Project-75(I)

ANSWER: C

2. Indian Army's Inter Formation Drone Proficiency Competition held in July 2026 was organised by which Corps?

- A. White Knight Corps
- B. Fire & Fury Corps
- C. Trishakti Corps
- D. Gajraj Corps

ANSWER: B

3. Bangladesh has entrusted the development of the Mongla Port Economic Zone to which country's company?

- A. Japan
- B. South Korea
- C. China
- D. Singapore

ANSWER: C

4. Russia has proposed which fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft to India as a potential interim capability?

- A. MiG-35
- B. Su-35S
- C. Su-57E
- D. MiG-29K

ANSWER: C

5. Which country signed 14 strategic agreements with India, including deals to procure BrahMos and Astra missile systems?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Thailand
- C. Vietnam
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: D

6. Where will South Asia's largest private sector integrated missile manufacturing plant be established by Adani Defence and Aerospace

- A. Guna
- B. Jabalpur
- C. Shivpuri
- D. Pithampur

ANSWER: C

7. Which INS training ship represented India at the United States International Naval Review 250 and Sail4th 250 celebrations in New York?

- A. INS Tarangini
- B. INS Vikrant
- C. INS Sudarshini
- D. INS Shardul

ANSWER: C

8. What is the name of India's humanitarian relief mission launched to assist Venezuela after the devastating earthquake?

- A. Operation Maitri
- B. Operation Sahayata

- C. Operation Karuna
- D. Operation Amistad

ANSWER: D

9. Elizabeth II was Queen Of The

- A. USA
- B. UK
- C. Israel
- D. China

ANSWER: B

10. Ex HARIMAU SHAKTI Conducted b/w India &

- A. Malaysia
- B. Maldives
- C. Mongolia
- D. Myanmar

ANSWER: A

11.INS Darshak Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Hydrographic Survey Ship

ANSWER: D

12.Pangong Tso lake Is Located In

- A. Kashmir
- B. Ladakh
- C. Odisha
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: B

13. INS Khukri Is A Type Of

- A. Frigate
- B. Submarine
- C. Destroyer
- D. Missile Corvette

ANSWER: D

14. Pangong Tso lake Is Located In

- A. Kashmir
- B. Ladakh
- C. Odisha
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: B

15. Priyadarshini Is A Fast Patrol Vessel Of

- A. ICG
- B. IAF
- C. Indian Navy
- D. BSF

ANSWER: A

16. Which Port Is Located In the Western Coast of India?

- A. Kandla
- B. Kolkata
- C. Mangalore
- D. Visakhapatnam

ANSWER: A

17. AAI Stands For

- A. Airport Author of India
- B. Air Authority of India
- C. Airport Authority of India
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

18. India Purchased Boeing 737 from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

19. Indian Army Flag Consist Colours of ____ Colours.

- A. Gold, Red And Black
- B. Gold, Red And Blue
- C. Gold, Rose Black And Black

D. Green, Red And Black

ANSWER: A

20. Operation Talwar Was Conducted In

A. 1978

B. 1988

C. 1998

D. 1999

ANSWER: D

