

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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8th India–Japan Defence Policy Dialogue Strengthens Strategic Cooperation

- India and Japan further deepened their defence partnership during the **8th India–Japan Defence Policy Dialogue** held in **Tokyo on 13 July 2026**. The Indian delegation was led by **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh**, while the Japanese side was represented by **Vice Minister of Defence for International Affairs Kano Koji**.
- The dialogue provided an opportunity for both nations to review the progress achieved in bilateral defence cooperation since the previous meeting. Reaffirming their commitment to the **India–Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership**, both sides emphasized the importance of strengthening security collaboration amid evolving regional and global challenges.
- During the discussions, the two countries exchanged views on the prevailing security environment and addressed several issues of mutual concern. The dialogue covered a wide range of defence engagements, including military exchanges, cooperation between joint headquarters, maritime security initiatives, defence exercises, capacity-building programmes, and collaboration in defence equipment and technology development.
- Particular attention was given to maritime cooperation and the potential for expanding technological collaboration in areas related to defence and security. Both nations also highlighted the importance of institutional interactions and regular high-level engagements to sustain momentum in strategic partnership.
- The meeting concluded with discussions on upcoming ministerial-level engagements, including the anticipated **India–Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** scheduled later this year. The successful conduct of the Defence Policy Dialogue reflects the growing convergence between India and Japan in promoting peace, stability, and a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.



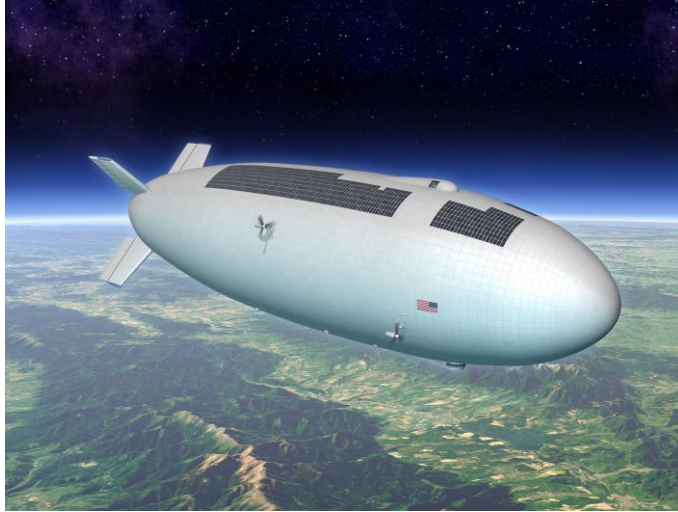
INS Sudarshini Showcases India's Maritime Heritage During Lokayan 2026

- The Indian Naval Sail Training Ship **INS Sudarshini** arrived in **Boston on 12 July 2026**, marking another milestone in its ongoing **Lokayan 2026 transoceanic expedition**. The vessel had earlier participated in the **Sail4th 250 celebrations in New York** and subsequently joined the prestigious **Sail Boston 2026** event.
- The ship participated in the **Grand Parade of Sails**, an internationally recognized maritime event that brings together tall ships from across the world. During its ceremonial entry into Boston Harbor, INS Sudarshini sailed proudly under the Indian Tricolour, passing iconic landmarks such as Castle Island and the Seaport District before docking at Boston Fish Pier.
- India's Consul General in Boston, **Raghuram Sastry**, embarked on the vessel during the parade, symbolizing India's commitment to strengthening cultural and maritime ties with partner nations.
- Joining more than **60 tall ships from over 20 countries**, INS Sudarshini is serving as a maritime ambassador, showcasing India's rich seafaring traditions and naval heritage. The ship's participation reinforces the Indian Navy's focus on maritime diplomacy, international goodwill, and cultural exchange.
- Following successful port visits to Norfolk, Baltimore, and New York, the Boston stop further strengthens the growing maritime partnership between India and the United States while highlighting India's historical connection with the seas.



India Launches Indigenous Stratospheric Airship Project for Advanced Surveillance

- India has launched an ambitious programme to develop **indigenous Stratospheric Airships**, marking a significant step towards enhancing the country's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.
- The initiative aims to create high-altitude airship platforms capable of remaining airborne for extended periods while carrying out continuous monitoring of strategic regions. These systems are designed to function as **Airship-Based High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (AS-HAPS)**.
- Unlike conventional aircraft and satellites, the proposed airships will operate in the stratosphere at altitudes above **20 kilometres**, enabling persistent surveillance over large geographical areas. Their unique capability allows them to bridge the operational gap between drones and satellites while significantly reducing operational costs.
- The Ministry of Defence has invited Indian private-sector companies to participate in the project, reflecting the government's commitment to **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and increased domestic participation in advanced defence technologies.
- The airships are expected to carry a variety of payloads, including electro-optical sensors, infrared systems, radar equipment, and communication technologies. Their applications will include border surveillance, maritime domain awareness, intelligence gathering, disaster management support, and emergency communication services.
- The project is expected to strengthen India's strategic surveillance infrastructure and provide a cost-effective solution for long-duration monitoring missions.



India's Defence Capital Expenditure Projected to Reach ₹2.8 Lakh Crore by FY2030

- India's defence modernization efforts are expected to receive a major boost as defence capital expenditure is projected to reach **₹2.8 lakh crore by FY2030**, according to industry assessments.
- The anticipated growth represents an annual expansion rate of approximately **11 percent**, driven by increased indigenous manufacturing, modernization programmes, and expanding defence exports. Policy initiatives such as the **Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020** and positive indigenisation lists continue to encourage greater domestic participation in defence production.
- One of the most notable developments has been the remarkable rise in India's defence exports. Over the past decade, exports have increased from approximately **₹700 crore in FY2014 to ₹38,400 crore in FY2026**, reflecting growing global confidence in Indian-made defence systems.
- The United States remains the largest export destination, while Europe and Armenia have emerged as important new markets. The government aims to further increase defence exports to **₹50,000 crore by FY2029**.
- Analysts identify drones, counter-drone technologies, missile systems, and advanced surveillance equipment as key growth sectors. A substantial pipeline of future procurement projects is expected to generate significant opportunities for Indian defence manufacturers and strengthen the country's strategic self-reliance.



Tensions Rise as Iran Claims Strikes on US Bases in the Middle East

- Regional tensions in the Middle East intensified after Iran claimed to have carried out missile and drone strikes on several **United States military installations in Jordan, Bahrain, and Kuwait**.
- According to statements attributed to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the attacks were part of a continuing retaliatory campaign amid escalating confrontation between Tehran and Washington. At the same time, the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) reported conducting precision strikes against targets inside Iran.
- The latest developments have increased concerns over stability in the strategically important **Strait of Hormuz**, one of the world's most critical maritime trade routes through which a significant portion of global energy supplies passes.
- Iran has warned against further foreign military involvement in the region and reiterated its intention to defend its strategic interests. The ongoing confrontation has drawn international attention due to its potential implications for global energy markets, maritime security, and regional stability.
- As diplomatic efforts continue, the situation remains closely monitored by governments and international organizations seeking to prevent further escalation and maintain peace in the region.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The 8th India–Japan Defence Policy Dialogue was held in which city?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Osaka
- C) Tokyo
- D) Kyoto

Answer: C) Tokyo

Explanation: The 8th India–Japan Defence Policy Dialogue was held in **Tokyo, Japan** on **13 July 2026**.

2. Who led the Indian delegation at the 8th India–Japan Defence Policy Dialogue?

- A) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- B) Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi
- C) Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh
- D) NSA Ajit Doval

Answer: C) Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh

Explanation: The Indian delegation was headed by **Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh**.

3. INS Sudarshini participated in which international maritime event after arriving in Boston?

- A) Fleet Week 2026
- B) Sail Boston 2026
- C) RIMPAC 2026
- D) Malabar Naval Exercise

Answer: B) Sail Boston 2026

Explanation: INS Sudarshini took part in the **Grand Parade of Sails** during **Sail Boston 2026**.

4. The Lokayan 2026 expedition is being undertaken by which Indian Naval ship?

- A) INS Vikrant
- B) INS Vikramaditya
- C) INS Sudarshini
- D) INS Shardul

Answer: C) INS Sudarshini

Explanation: **INS Sudarshini**, the Indian Naval Sail Training Ship, is conducting the **Lokayan 2026** transoceanic expedition.

5. India's newly launched Stratospheric Airship Project is primarily intended for:

- A) Passenger transportation
- B) Weather forecasting only
- C) Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions
- D) Space tourism

Answer: C) Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions

Explanation: The indigenous stratospheric airships are designed for **long-endurance ISR operations**.

6. The proposed Stratospheric Airships will operate at approximately what altitude?

- A) 5 km
- B) 10 km
- C) Above 20 km
- D) 50 km

Answer: C) Above 20 km

Explanation: These Airship-Based High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (AS-HAPS) will operate in the **stratosphere above 20 kilometres**.

7. According to projections, India's defence capital expenditure is expected to reach approximately how much by FY2030?

- A) ₹1.5 lakh crore
- B) ₹2.0 lakh crore
- C) ₹2.8 lakh crore
- D) ₹4.5 lakh crore

Answer: C) ₹2.8 lakh crore

Explanation: Defence capital expenditure is projected to increase to **₹2.8 lakh crore by FY2030**.

8. Which of the following has been identified as a major driver of India's future defence growth?

- A) Textile exports
- B) Drones and Counter-Drone Systems
- C) Civil aviation
- D) Tourism

Answer: B) Drones and Counter-Drone Systems

Explanation: Reports highlight **drones, counter-drone systems, and indigenous defence procurement** as major growth drivers.

9. Which strategically important waterway has become the focal point of rising tensions between Iran and the United States?

- A) Suez Canal
- B) Panama Canal
- C) Strait of Hormuz
- D) Bosphorus Strait

Answer: C) Strait of Hormuz

Explanation: The confrontation has intensified around the **Strait of Hormuz**, a vital global energy trade route.

10. The indigenous Stratospheric Airship Project reflects India's commitment to which national initiative?

- A) Digital India
- B) Skill India

- C) Atmanirbhar Bharat
- D) Make in India Startup Mission

Answer: C) Atmanirbhar Bharat

Explanation: The Ministry of Defence has encouraged participation of Indian private defence companies under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative to strengthen indigenous defence capabilities.

11. How Many States In India Have A Coastline?

- A. Seven
- B. Eight
- C. Nine
- D. Ten

ANSWER: C

12. OPEC Hq Is In

- A. Budapest, Hungary
- B. New York, USA
- C. Luanda, Angola
- D. Vienna, Austria

ANSWER: D

13. AUKUS Stands For

- A. Azerbaijan, the United Kingdom, & the United States
- B. Australia, the United Kingdom, & the United States
- C. Australia, the United Kingdom, & Uganda
- D. Argentina, the United Kingdom, & the United States

ANSWER: B

14. RIYADH Is The Capital Of

- A. SAUDI ARABIA
- B. SENEGAL
- C. SERBIA
- D. SEYCHELLES

ANSWER: A

15. "2001 Space Odyssey" Book Is Written By

- A. C. Clarke
- B. Abhijit Chavda

- C. Hew Strachan
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

16. DRDO Lakshya Is A

- A. Fighter Jet
- B. Ship
- C. Tank
- D. UAV

ANSWER: D

17. Captain Rank of Indian Navy Equivalent to Which rank of IAF?

- A. Flying Officer
- B. Flight Lieutenant
- C. Group Captain
- D. None

ANSWER: C

18. Predator B (MQ-9 Reaper) Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: C

19. International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Hq Is At

- A. London, United Kingdom
- B. Vienna, Austria
- C. Paris, France
- D. Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER: A

20. "If you win, you need not have to explain...If you lose, you should not be there to explain!" Said By__

- A. Winston Churchill
- B. Adolf Hitler
- C. Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Bhagat Singh

ANSWER: A