

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Indian Coast Guard Rescues 170 Persons in Flood-Hit Areas of Western India

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** once again demonstrated its commitment to humanitarian assistance and disaster response by successfully rescuing **170 stranded people** from flood-affected areas of **Daman, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and South Gujarat**. The large-scale rescue mission was carried out in close coordination with the civil administration following incessant rainfall, severe flooding, and extremely challenging weather conditions.
- The rescue operations began during the night of **22–23 July 2026**, when Coast Guard teams responded to multiple emergency calls from flood-hit regions. The first operation involved rescuing **five stranded persons from Khanvel in Silvassa**, followed by the evacuation of **three fishermen** trapped near the flooded riverbank in the **Kadaiya coastal area**.
- As the situation worsened, the Coast Guard expanded its rescue efforts across several locations. Personnel rescued **seven passengers trapped inside a bus near Aero Fibre Pvt. Ltd.**, evacuated **ten people from Dongri**, and conducted a **helicopter rescue of four stranded individuals** from the **Valsad–Pardi region**. Another overnight operation successfully evacuated **eight persons** from the **Reliance Industries area**.
- One of the most notable rescue missions involved the evacuation of **ten people from the Avadh Society area**, including a **nine-month pregnant woman** and a **woman suffering from respiratory distress**. Both were safely transported for immediate medical treatment, highlighting the Coast Guard's swift and humanitarian response.
- Overall, the Indian Coast Guard conducted **11 rescue operations**, saving **170 lives** during the flood emergency. The operation showcased the organisation's professionalism, rapid response capability, and dedication to protecting lives during natural disasters. The successful mission also reflects the importance of coordination between defence forces and civil authorities in disaster management.
- **Key Points**

- **Organisation:** Indian Coast Guard
- **People Rescued:** 170
- **Operations Conducted:** 11
- **Affected Areas:** Daman, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, South Gujarat
- **Operation Period:** 22–23 July 2026
- **Significance:** Demonstrated effective disaster response and humanitarian assistance.



27th Kargil Vijay Diwas

- India observed the **27th Kargil Vijay Diwas** to commemorate the extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and patriotism displayed by the Indian Armed Forces during the **1999 Kargil War**. The occasion serves as a tribute to the soldiers who defended the nation's sovereignty under extremely difficult conditions in the Kargil sector of Jammu and Kashmir.
- On the occasion, **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** addressed the nation and reaffirmed India's unwavering commitment to protecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Referring to **Operation Sindoor**, he stated that the successful operation demonstrated India's capability to respond decisively to any hostile act against the country.
- The defence minister reiterated that India's position regarding Pakistan remains firm and stated that any future dialogue would focus only on **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**, which India considers an integral part of the country under illegal occupation.
- During his address, Rajnath Singh emphasized that every attempt to threaten India's sovereignty would receive a strong and appropriate response from the

Indian Armed Forces. He praised the professionalism, courage, and dedication of the defence forces in safeguarding national security.

- Highlighting the contrast between the developmental priorities of the two countries, he remarked that while **India is advancing in innovation, semiconductor technology, and start-up development**, Pakistan continues to face challenges related to terrorism and infiltration. His remarks underlined India's vision of achieving progress through technology, innovation, and economic growth.
- The observance of Kargil Vijay Diwas continues to inspire citizens by reminding them of the supreme sacrifices made by Indian soldiers and reinforcing the nation's commitment to peace, security, and self-reliance.
- **Key Points**
- **Occasion:** 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas
- **Commemorates:** Victory in the 1999 Kargil War
- **Speaker:** Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh
- **Key Reference:** Operation Sindoor
- **Focus:** National security, sovereignty, and tribute to the Armed Forces.



RCI Issues RFP for PRAHAR Launcher Modification to Support PRALAY Missile Operations

- The **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)**, a premier laboratory of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, has issued a **Request for Proposal (RFP)** for the modification and refurbishment of the existing **8×8 PRAHAR launcher**. The project aims to adapt the launcher for the operational

deployment of the **PRALAY tactical ballistic missile** by integrating an advanced communication system.

- The proposed upgrade is a major step in enhancing India's tactical missile capability while making efficient use of existing military infrastructure. Instead of developing an entirely new launcher, the project focuses on modernising the current PRAHAR platform with advanced technologies.
- The refurbishment includes the installation of a comprehensive communication suite consisting of **Satellite Communication (SATCOM)**, **Line-of-Sight (LoS)** communication, and **data and network subsystems**. These systems will enable secure communication between the launcher and the **Battle Command Centre (BCC)** during missile operations.
- The project also includes the establishment of reliable internal communication within the launcher, integration of optical communication links, and testing of communication performance under operational conditions. Specially designed shelters will provide protection against **electromagnetic interference (EMI)** while ensuring uninterrupted communication and power supply.
- By upgrading the PRAHAR launcher for PRALAY missile operations, India is adopting a cost-effective approach to defence modernisation. The initiative will improve battlefield responsiveness, operational flexibility, and survivability while strengthening indigenous missile deployment capabilities.
- **Key Points**
- **Organisation:** Research Centre Imarat (RCI), DRDO
- **Purpose:** Modification of 8×8 PRAHAR launcher
- **Missile Supported:** PRALAY Tactical Ballistic Missile
- **Major Integration:** SATCOM, LoS, Data & Network Systems
- **Objective:** Improve communication and operational capability
- **Significance:** Cost-effective defence modernisation.



India Approves ₹69,725 Crore Package to Strengthen Shipbuilding and Maritime Infrastructure

- The Government of India has approved a comprehensive **₹69,725 crore financial package** to accelerate the development of the country's **shipbuilding and maritime infrastructure sector**. The initiative is designed to strengthen domestic shipbuilding capacity, improve maritime financing, and create a globally competitive maritime industry in line with **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.
- The package follows the announcements made in the **Union Budget 2025–26** and is based on a **four-pillar strategy** aimed at transforming India's shipbuilding ecosystem.
- A major component of the package is the **Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS)**, which has received an allocation of **₹24,736 crore**. The scheme is intended to reduce the cost disadvantages faced by Indian shipyards and improve their competitiveness in the global market.
- To strengthen long-term financing, the government has also established a **Maritime Development Fund (MDF)** with a corpus of **₹25,000 crore**. The fund consists of a **Maritime Investment Fund (MIF)** worth **₹20,000 crore** and an **Interest Incentivisation Fund (IIF)** of **₹5,000 crore**. **SBI Ventures Limited** has been appointed as the Fund Manager for the Maritime Investment Fund.
- Another important component is the **Shipbuilding Development Scheme**, which has been allocated **₹19,989 crore**. The scheme aims to expand India's annual shipbuilding capacity to **4.5 million Gross Tonnage** through the establishment of new shipbuilding clusters and the expansion of existing shipyards.
- Recognising the importance of skilled manpower, the government has also prioritised workforce development. **Eleven shipyards** have signed **MoUs with 34 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** across **eight coastal states** to provide industry-oriented training. A structured **150-hour on-the-job training programme** has already trained **727 candidates**, while specialised **Training of Trainers** programmes have been organised in West Bengal to improve skill development.
- The package represents one of the largest investments in India's maritime sector and is expected to boost employment, attract private investment, strengthen coastal industrialisation, and enhance India's position as a global shipbuilding hub.
- **Key Points**
- **Total Package:** ₹69,725 crore

- **Objective:** Strengthen India's shipbuilding sector
- **SBFAS Allocation:** ₹24,736 crore
- **Maritime Development Fund:** ₹25,000 crore
- **Shipbuilding Development Scheme:** ₹19,989 crore
- **Target:** 4.5 million Gross Tonnage annual shipbuilding capacity
- **Vision:** Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.



Syria Seeks Security Agreement with Israel: A New Diplomatic Initiative

- In a significant diplomatic development, **Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa** has announced that Syria is pursuing a **security agreement with Israel**, describing it as a possible first step toward achieving broader peace between the two neighbouring countries. The proposal reflects Syria's efforts to reduce regional tensions while rebuilding its international relationships after years of conflict.
- **Background**
- Relations between **Syria and Israel** have remained hostile for decades, primarily due to disputes over the **Golan Heights**, a strategically important region captured by Israel during the **1967 Six-Day War** and later annexed in 1981. Syria continues to regard the Golan Heights as its sovereign territory, while Israel maintains control over the area.
- Following the political changes in Syria after the fall of former President **Bashar al-Assad** in late 2024, the new Syrian leadership has focused on restoring

stability, rebuilding the economy, and strengthening diplomatic engagement with regional and international partners.

- **Syria's Proposal**

- In an interview, President Ahmed al-Sharaa stated that Syria is working to establish a **security arrangement** with Israel with the support of several countries. According to him, such an agreement could become the foundation for a more comprehensive peace process while preserving Syria's claim over the Golan Heights. He also emphasized that the Syrian government wishes to avoid military confrontation and prefers diplomatic engagement.
- The Syrian leadership has indicated that international partners are being consulted to encourage balanced dialogue and reduce tensions between the two countries. The proposal is being viewed as part of Syria's broader effort to normalize regional relations and improve its global standing.

- **Regional Context**

- The announcement comes at a time of continued instability along the Syria-Israel border. Since late 2024, Israeli forces have conducted military operations inside Syrian territory, while Syria has sought greater international support for protecting its sovereignty. Around the same period, **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres** visited Damascus and reiterated the importance of respecting Syria's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.
- Apart from security issues, Syria is also focusing on economic recovery, reconstruction, and strengthening relations with neighbouring countries after years of civil conflict. The government believes that improved regional stability would contribute to long-term development and humanitarian recovery.

- **Significance**

- If meaningful dialogue progresses, the proposed security arrangement could reduce border tensions, improve regional confidence, and encourage greater diplomatic cooperation in the Middle East. However, longstanding disputes—particularly over the Golan Heights—remain major challenges, and any future agreement would require sustained negotiations and mutual confidence-building measures.
- The development is being closely watched because it signals a possible shift in Syria's diplomatic approach, placing greater emphasis on dialogue, regional stability, and international engagement rather than military confrontation.

- **Key Points for Exams**

- **Country:** Syria
- **President:** Ahmed al-Sharaa
- **Proposal:** Security agreement with Israel

- **Objective:** Promote regional stability and pave the way for broader peace
- **Major Dispute:** Golan Heights
- **Approach:** Diplomatic dialogue while maintaining Syria's territorial claim
- **Recent Development:** UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for respect for Syria's sovereignty during his visit to Damascus.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Operation Lancer was launched by the Andaman and Nicobar Command to rescue which distressed merchant vessel?

- A) MV Ocean Star
- B) MV Pratap
- C) MV Pyra
- D) MV Vikram

Answer: C) MV Pyra

2. During the Senior World Fencing Championships 2026, Taniksha Khatri and Prachi Lohan created history in which fencing discipline?

- A) Sabre
- B) Foil
- C) Team Foil
- D) Épée

Answer: D) Épée

3. Under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, the BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction was hosted by:

- A) Ministry of External Affairs
- B) NITI Aayog
- C) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- D) DRDO

Answer: C) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

4. The indigenous Bhargavastra system is primarily developed to counter:

- A) Ballistic Missiles
- B) Submarines
- C) Fighter Aircraft
- D) Drone and Swarm Drone Threats

Answer: D) Drone and Swarm Drone Threats

5. India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval recently visited which country to strengthen strategic cooperation?

- A) United Arab Emirates
- B) Qatar
- C) Oman
- D) Saudi Arabia

Answer: D) Saudi Arabia

6. During the flood relief operations in western India, the Indian Coast Guard rescued a total of:

- A) 120 people
- B) 150 people
- C) 170 people
- D) 200 people

Answer: C) 170 people

7. 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorates India's victory in which conflict?

- A) Indo-China War (1962)
- B) Indo-Pak War (1971)
- C) Operation Vijay (1961)
- D) Kargil War (1999)

Answer: D) Kargil War (1999)

8. The Research Centre Imarat (RCI) issued an RFP to modify the PRAHAR launcher for deployment of which missile?

- A) BrahMos
- B) Agni-V
- C) Akash-NG
- D) PRALAY

Answer: D) PRALAY

9. The Government of India has approved a ₹69,725 crore package mainly to strengthen the country's:

- A) Railway Infrastructure
- B) Civil Aviation Sector
- C) Defence Manufacturing Sector
- D) Shipbuilding and Maritime Sector

Answer: D) Shipbuilding and Maritime Sector

10. Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa recently proposed pursuing a security agreement with which country?

- A) Jordan
- B) Lebanon
- C) Turkey
- D) Israel

Answer: D) Israel

11. Who Wrote the Book New Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy?

- A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- B. Abdul Kalam Azad
- C. Amit Chaudhuri
- D. Raghuram Rajan

ANSWER: A

12. Mechanical Training Institute (MTI) Of IAF Is In

- A. Yelahanka, Bengaluru
- B. Jalahalli, Bengaluru
- C. Tambaram Chennai
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

13. Central Statistical Organization Hq Is In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Vishakhapatnam

- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

14. Ex SHAKTI, Ex VARUNA, GARUDA India conducted with

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

ANSWER: C

15. Yaounde Is The Capital Of

- A. Cameroon
- B. Canada
- C. UAE
- D. Burundi

ANSWER: A

16. "The Oath of the Vayuputras" Book Written By

- A. Amish Tripathi
- B. Issac Newton
- C. Mahashweta Devi
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

17. SITMEX Ex Is Done Among

- A. India, Singapore, and Thailand
- B. India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- C. Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

18. Commander Rank Of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Rank Of IAF Is

- A. Wing Commander
- B. Squadron Leader
- C. Group Captain
- D. Flying Officer

ANSWER: A

19. War Cry of the BIHAR REGIMENT

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Rhino Charge
- C. Jai Bajrangbali
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: C

20. __Is India's 3rd Highest Military Decoration Award.

- A. PVC
- B. MVC
- C. Veer Chakra
- D. Kirti Chakra

ANSWER: C