

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India–US Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise 2026 Begins in Kochi

- The **Indian Navy and US Navy** are conducting the **Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026** at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, from **10 to 14 August 2026**. The bilateral exercise focuses on strengthening cooperation between the specialist diving and EOD teams of both navies.
- The five-day programme includes **Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), cross-training, equipment demonstrations and scenario-based practical exercises**. These activities will allow personnel from both countries to share operational knowledge and improve their ability to respond to explosive hazards.
- The exercise will also facilitate the exchange of contemporary EOD techniques, emerging technologies and best practices. Participants will gain a better understanding of each other's operational concepts, capabilities and employment methods.
- India and the United States have been conducting joint **Salvage and EOD exercises since 2005**. The 2026 engagement marks the **eighth edition** of this specialised bilateral training exercise.
- **Significance**
- The exercise enhances **interoperability, specialised skills and professional cooperation** between the two navies and contributes to greater maritime security cooperation.



President's Colours To Puducherry Police

- The **Puducherry Police** has received the prestigious **President's Colours**, with Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** presenting the honour. The recognition places the Puducherry Police among the police forces in India that have received this distinguished national honour.
- The President's Colours, also known as **Rashtrapati ka Nishaan**, represent one of India's highest ceremonial honours for a military or police unit in recognition of distinguished and exceptional service to the nation.
- The honour is traditionally associated with the **President of India**, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. It reflects an organisation's commitment to duty, professionalism, discipline and service to the country.
- The PPT also highlights the distinction between the **President's Colours** and the **President's Standard**. Both are prestigious ceremonial recognitions and have been presented to different units of the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Significance**
- The award is an important recognition of the **service, professionalism and contribution of the Puducherry Police** to the nation.



Taiwan Proposes Major Increase in Defence Spending for 2027

- Taiwan's Cabinet is preparing to propose a significant increase in defence expenditure for **2027**, with the proposed budget expected to rise by approximately **16%**. The proposed allocation would cross the **T\$1 trillion** mark for the first time, reflecting Taiwan's efforts to strengthen its military capabilities.
- The move comes amid increasing military and political pressure from **China**, which considers Taiwan part of its territory. Taiwan rejects Beijing's claims and continues to strengthen its defence preparedness.
- The proposed budget is expected to exceed **3% of Taiwan's GDP** and include spending for areas such as the coast guard, veterans and special defence projects. The proposal was scheduled to be unveiled on **20 August 2026**.
- Taiwan's defence planning is also influenced by calls from the **United States** for Taipei to take greater responsibility for its own defence. Meanwhile, China had announced a **7% increase** in its defence expenditure for 2026.
- **Significance**
- The proposed increase highlights the growing importance of defence preparedness in the **Taiwan Strait** and the wider Indo-Pacific security environment.



US Senate Passes Russia Sanctions Bill

- The **United States Senate** has approved a bipartisan bill that could give the US President authority to impose tariffs of up to **100%** on imports from countries that continue purchasing Russian oil and gas. The legislation is aimed at increasing economic pressure on Russia and Iran.
- The bill, titled the **Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026**, was approved by an **86–11 vote**. It proposes allowing the US President to impose significant tariffs on imports from major buyers of Russian crude oil and natural gas.
- The PPT identifies **India and China** among the major buyers of Russian energy. The proposed measures could therefore have wider implications for countries maintaining substantial energy trade with Moscow.
- The legislation also provides for possible exemptions in certain circumstances, including for countries that account for less than **15% of Russia's total natural-gas exports** and are actively reducing their dependence on Russian energy. The US President would also have authority to waive restrictions when considered necessary in the national interest.
- **Significance for India**
- If implemented, such measures could have implications for India's energy imports, trade relations and broader economic engagement with Russia and the United States.



PM Modi Inaugurates Param Pragya Supercomputing Facility

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Param Pragya**, an AI-enabled high-performance computing facility, at the **Sonipat Campus of IIT Delhi** on **8 August 2026**. The inauguration took place during the **57th Convocation Ceremony of IIT Delhi**.
- Param Pragya has been designed to support areas such as **artificial intelligence, data science, advanced computing and interdisciplinary research**. High-performance computing systems allow researchers to process huge volumes of information and perform complex calculations at very high speeds.
- The inauguration was part of a major academic event at IIT Delhi, where more than **3,000 students** graduated. The institute also awarded degrees to **587 doctoral scholars**.
- **Significance**
- Param Pragya can strengthen India's research infrastructure and support advanced work in **AI, scientific computing, data analysis and multidisciplinary innovation**.



HAL Airport Becomes India's First Airport with RNP CAT H Helicopter Approach

- **HAL Airport in Bengaluru, Karnataka**, has become the **first airport in India** to operationalise the **Required Navigation Performance–Category H (RNP CAT H)** satellite-guided helicopter approach procedure on **7 August 2026**.
- The navigation procedure was developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and validated through flight trials conducted by HAL test pilots. It subsequently received approval from the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
- RNP is a **performance-based navigation system** that uses satellite signals and aircraft or helicopter avionics to maintain a predetermined flight path. The **CAT H** classification specifically applies to helicopters and rotary-wing aircraft.
- The new system allows helicopters to follow more accurate and optimised approach paths. It is particularly useful in challenging conditions involving **poor weather, urban obstacles, terrain limitations and heavy air traffic**.
- One of the major advantages is the reduction in helicopter approach time, from around **12 minutes to approximately 4 minutes**. The system also supports the nearly **50 helicopter movements recorded daily** at Bengaluru airport.
- **Significance**
- The introduction of RNP CAT H represents an important advancement in India's **helicopter navigation and aviation safety infrastructure**.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The India–US Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026 is being conducted at:

- A) Visakhapatnam
- B) Kochi
- C) Mumbai
- D) Chennai

Answer: B) Kochi

2. The 2026 India–US EOD Exercise marks which edition of the bilateral exercise?

- A) 5th
- B) 6th
- C) 7th
- D) 8th

Answer: D) 8th

3. Which police force was recently presented with the President's Colours?

- A) Goa Police
- B) Kerala Police
- C) Puducherry Police
- D) Chandigarh Police

Answer: C) Puducherry Police

4. Taiwan's proposed 2027 defence budget is expected to cross which milestone?

- A) T\$500 billion
- B) T\$750 billion
- C) T\$1 trillion
- D) T\$2 trillion

Answer: C) T\$1 trillion

5. By what maximum rate could the proposed US sanctions bill impose tariffs on imports from countries continuing to purchase Russian oil and gas?

- A) 25%
- B) 50%

- C) 75%
- D) 100%

Answer: D) 100%

6. Where was the Param Pragma high-performance computing facility inaugurated?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Kanpur
- C) IIT Madras
- D) IIT Delhi's Sonipat Campus

Answer: D) IIT Delhi's Sonipat Campus

7. HAL Airport became India's first airport to operationalise which helicopter navigation procedure?

- A) GPS CAT-II
- B) ILS CAT-III
- C) RNP CAT H
- D) VOR CAT-H

Answer: C) RNP CAT H

8. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port is located At

- A. Paradip
- B. Cochin
- C. Kolkata
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: D

9. 'Iron Beam' new laser-based air defence system Made By

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

ANSWER: C

10. First Submarine Developed Under P-75 Is

- A. INS Kalvari
- B. INS Khanderi
- C. INS Karanj
- D. INS Vela

ANSWER: A

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