

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Joint Military Exercise Maitree-XV

- The Indian Army contingent departed for Thailand to participate in the **15th edition** of the **India-Thailand** Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-XV (2026).
- The exercise will be conducted from 18 to 31 August 2026 at Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand. Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Foreign Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya in September 2025.
- The Indian Army and Royal Thai Army contingents comprise 85 personnel each. The Indian Army contingent is represented primarily by troops from 9 Gorkha Rifles, while the Royal Thai Army contingent comprises personnel from the 3rd Battalion, 25th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division.
- The exercise will involve company-level joint training focused on operations in jungle and semi-urban terrain.
- Aim of Exercise MAITREE is to foster Military Cooperation between India and Thailand. The Exercise will enhance combined capabilities in executing Joint Counter Insurgency/ Terrorist Operations in Jungle and semi-urban Environment under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.
- Instituted in 2006, Exercise MAITREE is an important platform for sharing best practices and strengthening military cooperation between India and Thailand.



MoD inks Contract With General Atomics Aeronautical Systems

- Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) for the leasing of two **MQ-9B Sea Guardian High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE)** Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for the Indian Navy for a period of 30 months.
- The contract is valued at approximately Rs 1,943 crore. It was signed in the presence of Additional Secretary & Director General (Acquisition), Department of Defence, Shri A. Anbarasu, at Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi on August 17, 2026.
- The **MQ-9B Sea Guardian HALE RPAS**, equipped with advanced systems, state-of-the-art sensors and sophisticated payloads, will significantly enhance the Indian Navy's Maritime Domain Awareness capabilities.
- The systems will provide persistent Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance coverage over vast areas of the maritime domain, strengthening India's ability to monitor and respond to developments across the Indian Ocean Region.



IN–USN Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise 2026 Concludes

- The **eighth edition** of the **IN–USN Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)** Exercise 2026, concluded at the **Southern Naval Command**, Kochi, on 14 Aug 2026. The

bilateral engagement witnessed intensive professional interaction, exchange of Best Practices, and demonstrations by teams from both navies.

- The exercise provided a platform for sharing knowledge on various facets of EOD operations. Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs) covered real-time threats from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), render-safe procedures, mine neutralization, and employment of unmanned underwater systems.
- The cross-training phase featured exercises on diverse disciplines of diving that included wreck location and salvage, employment of specialist equipment, and slithering operations.
- The joint training exercise enhanced the professional competence and skill-sets of the diving teams while fostering greater mutual understanding and interoperability.
- The successful completion of the exercise underscores commitment of both the navies to strengthen operational synergy and cooperation in specialised maritime operations.



Indrajaal And Sigma Secure ₹155-Crore Orders

- Hyderabad-based Indrajaal Autonomous Defense Systems and Sigma Advanced Systems have announced new orders worth approximately ₹155 crore for their Indrajaal Ranger anti-drone platform.
- The announcement was made on 17 August 2026, marking a significant step in India's counter-unmanned aerial systems deployment.
- A **₹145 crore order** has been awarded to the **Indrajaal-Sigma consortium** for deployment in India's border-security environment. This contract underscores

the growing importance of mobile anti-drone solutions in safeguarding sensitive frontier regions.

- In addition, a separate order worth approximately ₹10 crore has been placed by Urban Police authorities to introduce the Ranger system for VVIP protection and urban security operations. This dual application highlights the versatility of the platform across both military and civilian security domains.
- The Indrajaal Ranger is India's only ARDTC-approved Anti-Drone Patrol Vehicle. Conceived and developed as a mobile Counter-UAS platform, it is capable of delivering full mission capability while travelling at high speeds.
- The orders reflect India's increasing emphasis on indigenous, autonomous defence technologies to counter evolving aerial threats. With drones being used for surveillance, smuggling, and potential attacks, the Ranger system represents a critical capability for both border forces and urban security agencies.



Lokayan 2026 – Indian Naval Ship Sudarshini Concludes Port Call At Ponta Delgada

- Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini, concluded her port call at Ponta Delgada, Azores, on 16 Aug 2026, as part of Lokayan 2026.
- The port call witnessed professional and cultural engagements with the Portuguese Navy, strengthening maritime cooperation and camaraderie between the two navies. A formal deck reception was hosted onboard the Portuguese Navy's sail training vessel, NRP Sagres. This was followed by a reciprocal evening deck reception onboard INS Sudarshini for local military leadership, diplomats and members of the Indian diaspora.

- The ship also celebrated India's 80th Independence Day at Ponta Delgada on 15 Aug 2026. The ship was dressed overall, and a Colours ceremony was held to mark the occasion with pride and patriotism.
- INS Sudarshini has now set sail for Lisbon. On 21 Aug 2026, INS Sudarshini and NRP Sagres are scheduled to undertake a joint Passing Exercise (PASSEX) at sea, featuring coordinated sail manoeuvres and communication drills, further strengthening interoperability and maritime cooperation between the two navies.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The 15th edition of Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026 is being conducted between India and which country?

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

Answer: B) Thailand

2. Where is Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026 being conducted?

- A) Umroi, Meghalaya
- B) New Delhi, India

- C) Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani
- D) Bangkok, Thailand

Answer: C) Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani

3. The Indian Navy has leased two MQ-9B Sea Guardian HALE RPAS from which company?

- A) Boeing
- B) Airbus Defence
- C) General Atomics Aeronautical Systems
- D) Lockheed Martin

Answer: C) General Atomics Aeronautical Systems

4. The India–US Navy EOD Exercise 2026 is primarily related to:

- A) Anti-submarine warfare
- B) Explosive Ordnance Disposal
- C) Naval aviation
- D) Cyber warfare

Answer: B) Explosive Ordnance Disposal

5. The Indrajaal Ranger platform is designed primarily for:

- A) Anti-submarine warfare
- B) Air-to-air combat
- C) Counter-drone operations
- D) Ballistic missile interception

Answer: C) Counter-drone operations

6. INS Sudarshini conducted its port call at Ponta Delgada as part of which initiative?

- A) Mission SAGAR
- B) Lokayan 2026
- C) Operation Samudra Setu
- D) Varuna 2026

Answer: B) Lokayan 2026

7. The ALH MK III Helicopters Have Been Indigenously Manufactured By__.

- A. Boeing
- B. HAL
- C. DRDO
- D. Dassault Aviation

ANSWER: B

8. **INS Satpura Is A**

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Guided Missile Stealth Frigate

ANSWER: D

9. **HEAT Stands For ____.**

- A. Highly Explosive Anti-Tank
- B. Highest Explosive Anti-Tank
- C. High Explosive Anti-Tank
- D. High Explore Anti-Tank

ANSWER: C

10. **Current Chairman DRDO Is__.**

- A. Dr. Samir Kamath
- B. Dr. Rakesh
- C. Dr. Rajiv Kumar
- D. Rajesh Kumar Singh

ANSWER: D

11. **The Hawker Siddeley HS 748 Is A**

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Transport Aircraft

ANSWER: D

12. **Juba Is The Capital Of**

- A. South Sudan
- B. Spain
- C. Sweden
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

13. **"Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India" Book Is Written By**

- A. Urjit Patel

- B. Stephen King
- C. J.K Rowling
- D. Amish Tripathi

ANSWER: D

14. Duty, Honour, Courage Is The Motto Of

- A. Maratha Light Infantry
- B. The Grenadiers
- C. Rajput Regiment
- D. Jat Regiment

ANSWER: A

15. Prahaar Missile Manufactured By

- A. MDL
- B. BDL
- C. CSL
- D. DRDO

ANSWER: B

16. Regimental Centre of GARHWAL RIFLES Is In

- A. Happy Valley, Shillong, Meghalaya
- B. Ranikhet, Uttarakhand
- C. Lansdowne, Uttarakhand
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

17. INS Jalashwa Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Amphibious transport dock

ANSWER: D

18. Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

- A. Desert Eagle
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Indradhanush

ANSWER: D

19. How Many Countries Are In SAARC?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 8
- D. 6

ANSWER: C

20. Current General of Indian Army of Indian Armed Forces Is

- A. Gen Anil Chauhan
- B. Gen Bipin Rawat
- C. Gen M M Narravane
- D. General Dhiraj Seth

ANSWER: A