

Daily Defence Current Affairs

19 August 2026

Raksha Mantri flags-off NCC's All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek

- Rajnath Singh flagged-off the All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek 'Aparajita - Parang La 2026', a flagship adventure activity of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), during an event in New Delhi on August 18, 2026.
- The trek will traverse the Parang La Pass (5,578 metres, 18,300 feet), connecting the Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh with the Changthang region of Ladakh and is regarded as one of the country's most challenging high-altitude trekking routes.
- The team will be led by three women officers representing the three services. 28 Girl Cadets are participating in the expedition, with an average age of 19 years, the youngest participant being just 16 and a half years old.
- Raksha Mantri termed the participation of young girls in such a challenging high-altitude expedition as a powerful testament to the courage, determination and growing capabilities of the women of the country.
- The expedition team, accompanied by officers, medical staff, instructors and support personnel, will undertake the approximately 250-km trek over 30 days through some of the most remote and challenging terrain in the Himalayas.
- The expedition has been conceptualised to promote Nari Shakti, leadership, self-confidence, teamwork, endurance and national integration among NCC Girl Cadets.



DDP Notifies 6th Positive Indigenisation List of 405

- The Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence has notified the sixth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) comprising 405 strategically important items with an estimated business potential of Rs 3,070 crore.
- The list contains Line Replaceable Units, sub-systems, sub-assemblies, spares, components and raw materials. These include 16 items of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and 389 items of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).
- Air platforms such as Advanced Light Helicopter, Light Utility Helicopter, Su-30MKI, Light Combat Aircraft and AL-31FP Engine
- Armoured platforms including T-72, T-90 and BMP-II
- Warships
- Missile systems such as Konkurs-M, Invar and MRSAM
- Defence electronics including radars, sonars, fire control systems and satellite communication systems
- High Explosive Anti-Tank ammunition and other critical defence equipment
- The DDP launched the SRIJAN Defence Portal in August 2020 as a dedicated platform through which the DPSUs and Service Headquarters (SHQs) offer defence items to the industry, including MSMEs and start-ups, for indigenous development and production.
- More than 15,700 defence items have been successfully indigenised, resulting in an estimated import substitution value of about Rs 9,000 crore over the last five years. In addition, DPSUs have placed procurement orders, including in-house production, worth approximately Rs 10,000 crore on domestic vendors up to March 2026.



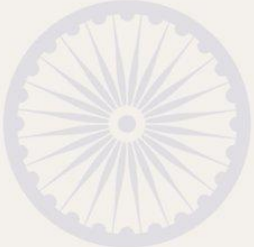
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय

18 AUGUST 2026

**Aatmanirbhar Bharat: DDP
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India, Armenia Sign MoU on Innovation & Shared Production

- India and Armenia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate cooperation in research, development, innovation and shared production within the defence sector.
- The two sides explored new avenues to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, reaffirming their shared commitment to deepening and elevating the India-Armenia defence partnership.
- Highlighting the outcome of the interaction, the ministry noted, "The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the India-Armenia defence partnership, with renewed focus on bilateral defence industrial cooperation and defence research and development."



India To Spend \$16 Billion On Tactical Communication Systems

- India is projected to spend a massive \$16 billion on tactical communication systems between 2025 and 2035, with \$2.3 billion allocated specifically for maritime communication systems.
- This investment reflects India's growing emphasis on secure naval communications amid rising Indo-Pacific tensions and its push for indigenous defence programs.
- India's tactical communication procurement plan for the decade 2025–2035 is one of the largest in its defence modernisation drive. The total expenditure is expected to reach \$16 billion, covering land, air, and maritime domains.
- Of this, maritime communication systems will account for \$2.3 billion, representing about 14.5% of the total. This allocation underscores the importance of naval communications in safeguarding India's maritime interests.
- India has already initiated cooperative projects to strengthen naval communications. The UNICORN pact with Japan, signed in 2026, aims to develop next-generation warship communication systems.
- These systems will be manufactured in India by Bharat Electronics Limited, ensuring local production and supply-chain resilience. The technology builds on Japan's Mogami-class frigates and is expected to be deployed on India's **Project-17B frigates and Project 18 destroyers**.



UN Medal in South Sudan

- A total of 210 Indian peacekeepers received the United Nations Medal in Juba, South Sudan, on 17 August 2026. The award included six women and seven staff officers serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- India is the second-largest contributor of uniformed personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations. More than 4,200 Indian military and police personnel, including 155 women, were deployed globally in 2026.
- UNMISS was established in 2011 after the independence of South Sudan. Its mandate includes civilian protection, support for humanitarian assistance, and assistance to the peace process in South Sudan.
- India has contributed more than 200,000 personnel to 49 of the 71 United Nations peacekeeping missions created since 1948. More than 160 Indian peacekeepers have died while serving under the United Nations flag.
- A separate group of Indian peacekeepers also received UN medals in the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) on 15 August 2026. UNISFA operates in the Abyei Area, a disputed region between Sudan and South Sudan.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How many Indian peacekeepers received the United Nations Medal in Juba, South Sudan, on 17 August 2026?

- A. 110
- B. 150
- C. 210
- D. 310

Answer: C. 210

2. UNMISS, in which Indian peacekeepers are serving, was established in which year?

- A. 2005
- B. 2008
- C. 2011
- D. 2015

Answer: C. 2011

3. Who flagged off the NCC's 'Aparajita – Parang La 2026' expedition?

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Rajnath Singh
- C) General Dhiraj Seth
- D) Narendra Modi

Answer: B) Rajnath Singh

4. At what altitude is the Parang La Pass located?

- A) 4,578 metres
- B) 5,078 metres
- C) 5,578 metres
- D) 6,078 metres

Answer: C) 5,578 metres

5. How many items are included in the sixth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)?

- A) 305
- B) 405
- C) 505
- D) 605

Answer: B) 405

6. India and which country signed an MoU for cooperation in defence research, development, innovation and shared production?

- A) Armenia
- B) France
- C) Japan
- D) Australia

Answer: A) Armenia

7. What is India's projected expenditure on tactical communication systems during 2025–2035?

- A) \$8 billion
- B) \$12 billion
- C) \$16 billion
- D) \$20 billion

Answer: C) \$16 billion

8. The Karakoram Range covers parts of

- A. Afghanistan, China, Indonesia
- B. Afghanistan, China, India
- C. Afghanistan, China, India, Pakistan, and Tajikistan
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

9. Sarvatra Vijay Is The Motto Of

- A. RAJPUT REGIMENT
- B. DOGRA REGIMENT
- C. SIKH REGIMENT
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

10. "Kartavyam Anvatma" (Duty before death) Is The Motto Of

- A. RAJPUT REGIMENT
- B. DOGRA REGIMENT
- C. SIKH REGIMENT
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

11. Which of the following is NOT a landlocked country?

- A. Laos
- B. Serbia
- C. Ethiopia
- D. Cambodia

ANSWER: D

12. QRFV Stands For

- A. Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle
- B. Query Reaction Fighting Vehicle
- C. Quick Reaction Fighter Vehicle
- D. Quick Reactive Fighting Vehicle

ANSWER: A

13. Which Is The 3rd Highest Rank of The Indian Army?

- A. Major General
- B. Lt Colonel
- C. Major
- D. Captain

ANSWER: A

14. Which Countries Are Divided By The Nine Dash Line?

- A. People's Republic of China and PRC Taiwan
- B. Afghanistan and Pakistan

- C. Afghanistan and Iran
- D. India and Myanmar

ANSWER: A

15. BAGHDAD Is The Capital Of

- A. IRAQ
- B. IRAN
- C. UAE
- D. ITALY

ANSWER: A

16. "Toota Tiger" Book Is Written By

- A. Swami Virupaaksh
- B. Retd. Major Gen G.D Bakshi
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

17. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station is located in_____.

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: B

18. Which Of The Following Ports Is/Are Located In T.N?

- A. Kochi
- B. Chennai
- C. Ennore
- D. Both B&C

ANSWER: D

19. Ex 'EKATHA' conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: D

20. Mil Mi-35 Is A

- A. Attack Helicopter
- B. Fighter Jet
- C. Tank
- D. UAV

ANSWER: A