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India-Japan Joint Press Statement

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Japanese Defence Minister Mr. Shinjiro Koizumi held a bilateral meeting in New Delhi on 20 August 2026.
- The two Ministers welcomed the steady strengthening of defence cooperation, including cooperation among the respective Ministries and the Services of the two countries that share strategic perspectives, under the "Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership", which constitutes one of the pillars for peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.
- Recalling the Japan-India Joint Statement issued by the leaders of the two countries in July 2026, the two Ministers affirmed their commitment, under their leadership, to further deepen defence cooperation to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- They accordingly affirmed their commitment to strengthening Maritime Security Cooperation and signed the Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation between the Ministry of Defense of Japan and Ministry of Defence of India.
- It includes the strengthening of cooperation between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navy, including information sharing in the field of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), as well as enhanced cooperation in areas such as Search and Rescue (SAR) and HADR.
- The two Ministers affirmed that they would strengthen coordination between both sides for the protection of Sea Lines of Communications through mutual visits by naval ships and units, joint exercises, personnel and SME exchanges and logistical support including use of ports, maintenance and repair facilities.
- The two Ministers welcomed the steady expansion and deepening of bilateral exercises conducted by Japan and India, including the Japan-India Army exercise '**Dharma Guardian' and the Japan-India Maritime Exercise "JAIMEX**".
- They particularly welcomed the steady progress in coordination for the Japan-India Air Force exercise "**Veer Guardian 26**", scheduled to be held this year,

under which Japan Air Self-Defence Force fighter aircraft will, for the first time, visit India and participate in the exercise.

BRICS 8th Ocean and Polar Science and Technology Working Group Meeting

- Ministry of Earth Sciences organized the 8th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Ocean Polar Science and Technology (OPST) at Goa, hosted by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) from 12–14 August 2026 during India's BRICS Presidency.
- This working group meeting acted as a platform for deliberations and discussions on scientific cooperation, exchange of knowledge, capacity building and development of collaborative research activities among BRICS member countries in the field of Ocean and Polar research.
- The deliberations were focused on the issues and opportunities of BRICS countries like challenges of the costal zones with special emphasis on protection of coastal cities; strengthening the Global Ocean Observing System through collaborative contribution for the development of robust and resilient ocean information services; development of joint polar research and inclusive participation in the Antarctic Expedition; enhanced opportunities for capacity building in particular for young researchers.
- During the meeting the delegations of BRICS countries jointly agreed for collaborative initiative in building up coastal resilience, carrying out joint polar

ocean biodiversity study, setting milestones for International Polar Year – 5 and promoting capacity building of young researchers.

Armenia Set To Acquire Over 50 Indian Pralay Missiles

- Armenia is now set to clear the acquisition of more than fifty Pralay tactical surface-to-surface missiles from India, with advanced cost negotiations underway. This marks one of India's most significant missile export breakthroughs and represents a major expansion of bilateral defence ties into the strategic strike domain.
- Armenia's defence ministry is engaged in detailed negotiations with India over the Pralay missile system, developed by the DRDO.
- The Pralay is a solid-fuelled, cannisterised, road-mobile missile designed for rapid deployment and precision strikes.
- Its domestic variant has a range of 150–500 kilometres, but the export version is capped at around 290 kilometres to comply with Missile Technology Control Regime thresholds.
- Despite this limitation, the missile retains high accuracy with a circular error probable of less than ten metres, speeds exceeding Mach 6, and advanced manoeuvrability to evade modern air defence systems.
- The missile can carry warheads between 350 and 1,000 kilograms, including high explosive fragmentation, penetration-cum-blast, and runway denial submunitions. This versatility allows it to target command centres, radar installations, and airfields.
- The negotiations are significant for India's defence export ambitions. Armenia has already procured frontline Indian systems such as Pinaka multi-barrel rocket

launchers, Akash surface-to-air missiles, Swathi weapon locating radars, and anti-drone platforms, with contracts exceeding 1.5 billion dollars.

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Australia Agrees To Supply Uranium To Bharat

- Australia has agreed to sell uranium to India, ending a long stalemate that had persisted for more than a decade. The move marks a significant shift in Canberra's non-proliferation stance and comes at a time when India's power demand is rising rapidly.
- India, with a population of 1.4 billion and a rapidly expanding middle class, has set an ambitious target of installing 100 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity by 2047.
- This would be sufficient to power nearly 60 million homes annually. Although India has doubled its nuclear power capacity in the past decade, nuclear energy still accounts for only 3 percent of its electricity generation.
- India is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which recognises only five nuclear weapon states. New Delhi has long argued that the treaty is discriminatory, as it permanently excludes countries that tested nuclear devices after January 1967. Following its nuclear tests in 1998, India faced international sanctions and bans on uranium trade.
- India is currently Australia's fifth-largest trading partner, with two-way trade in goods and services valued at 54.4 billion Australian dollars ($37.7 billion) in the 2024-25 financial year.
- PM Modi's visit to Australia is part of a wider tour that included Indonesia, where he signed agreements on agriculture and defence, including the BrahMos missile system. He will travel to New Zealand next, marking his first official visit to the country since the signing of a free trade agreement in April.

India’s Defence And Aviation Market To Reach $60 Billion By 2033

- India’s defence and aviation market is projected to reach $60 billion by 2033, with defence growth driven domestically through indigenisation programs while aviation remains import-dependent due to limited local manufacturing options.
- The defence sector has already demonstrated strong momentum. India’s defence budget allocation in FY2024 stood at ₹6.21 lakh crore, marking a 4.3 percent increase from the previous year and accounting for 13.04 percent of the Union Budget.
- The government has set a target of ₹500 billion in exports by FY2029, reflecting the growing competitiveness of indigenous platforms. Proven combat performance and easing export controls have further boosted India’s credibility in global defence markets.
- Acceptance of Necessity approvals surged nearly tenfold between FY2021 and FY2026, implying ₹6.5–7 trillion in new orders during FY2027–29. Domestic procurement has already risen from 54 percent in FY2019 to over 70 percent, positioning Indian companies to benefit from geopolitical tensions and expanding export opportunities.

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REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who held the India-Japan bilateral defence meeting in New Delhi on 20 August 2026?

A) Rajnath Singh and Shigeru Ishiba
B) Rajnath Singh and Shinjiro Koizumi
C) Amit Shah and Shinjiro Koizumi
D) Rajesh Kumar Singh and Shinjiro Koizumi

Answer: B) Rajnath Singh and Shinjiro Koizumi

2. Which agreement was signed by India and Japan to strengthen maritime security cooperation?

A) Agreement on Naval Logistics Cooperation
B) Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation
C) Indo-Pacific Defence Cooperation Treaty
D) Maritime Technology Sharing Agreement

Answer: B) Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation

3. The 8th BRICS Working Group Meeting on Ocean, Polar Science and Technology was held in which Indian state?

A) Kerala
B) Tamil Nadu
C) Goa
D) Odisha

Answer: C) Goa

4. Which Indian missile is reportedly being considered for acquisition by Armenia?

A) Akash
B) BrahMos
C) Pralay
D) Astra

Answer: C) Pralay

5. Australia has agreed to supply which strategic resource to India?

A) Lithium
B) Uranium
C) Cobalt
D) Rare-earth elements

Answer: B) Uranium

6. India's defence and aviation market is projected to reach approximately what value by 2033?

A) $40 billion
B) $50 billion
C) $60 billion
D) $75 billion

Answer: C) $60 billion

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC):
1. RIMPAC 2026 is the 30th edition of the exercise, held under the theme "Partners: Integrated and Prepared."
2. It is the world's largest international naval exercise hosted by the U.S. Pacific Fleet and has been conducted since 1971.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2

(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

8. Consider the following statements regarding India–France defence cooperation:
1. France is India's second-largest arms supplier.

2. India and France conduct the exercises Shakti, Varuna and Garuda.
Which of the statements is/are correct?

A) (A) Only 1 (B) Only 2

(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

9. Consider the following statements regarding Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth:
1. He become the first officer from the Armoured Corps to serve as Chief of the Army Staff in nearly three decades.
2. He is the third Army Chief to emerge from the 2nd Lancers regiment.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) Only 1 (B) Only 2

(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

8. Consider the following statements regarding Exercise Pitch Black 2026:
1. It is a bilateral naval exercise conducted exclusively between India and Australia.
2. The exercise is hosted by Australia and focuses on enhancing interoperability among participating air forces.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) Only 1 (B) Only 2

(C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

9. War Cry Of MECHANISED INFANTRY REGIMENT Is
A. Bol Bajrang Bali Ki jai
B. Raja Ramachandra ki jai
C. Bolo Bharat Mata ki jai
D. None of the above
ANSWER: C

10. CRPF Motto Is
A. Service Before Self
B. Service and Loyalty
C. We Protect
D. Touch the sky with glory
ANSWER: B

11. ICGS Saksham Is A

A. Destroyer
B. Aircraft Carrier
C. OPV
D. Refueling Ship

ANSWER: C

12.“Nuclearization of Asia" Book Written By

A. Rene Naba
B. VR Chaudhari
C. Gen Parvez Musharraf
D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

13. Indian Coast Guard Formed On

A. August 18, 1978
B. September 18, 1978
C. March 18, 1976
D. April 18, 1976

ANSWER: A

14. 'MBT Bhishma’ Is The Name Of :

A. Fighter aircraft
B. Tank
C. Armoured vehicles
D. Infantry regiments

ANSWER: B

15. Barak Is A

A. Surface-to-air Missile
B. Surface-to-Surface Missile
C. Air-to-air Missile
D. Surface-to-Sea Missile

ANSWER: A

16. INS Valsura Located At

A. Jamnagar, Gujrat
B. Mumbai, M.H

C. Kochi, Kerala
D. A & NC
ANSWER: A

17. Exercise Maitree Conducted B/w India &
A. Thailand
B. Nepal
C. Bangladesh
D. Bhutan
ANSWER: A

18. Officers Training Academy Is At
A. Chennai
B. Bhopal
C. Gaya
D. Both A & C
ANSWER: D

19. DF-41 ICBM Is A Missile Of
A. India
B. Russia
C. China
D. North Korea
ANSWER: C

20. The IAI Heron UAV Developed By
A. USA
B. South Korea
C. Israel
D. China
ANSWER: C