

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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HAL and Safran Sign Aravalli Helicopter Engine Contract

- HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines signed a final contract in Bengaluru on 26 August 2026 to develop and produce a new high-power turboshaft engine for 13-tonne helicopters. The agreement was signed through **SAFHAL Helicopter Engines Pvt. Ltd. (SAFHAL)**, a joint venture between HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines.
- The new engine has been named Aravalli after the Indian mountain range. It is designed for the 3,500 to 4,000 shaft horsepower power class, which places it in the high-power segment of helicopter propulsion systems. The contract covers design, development, manufacture, supply, and lifecycle support of the engine.
- The Aravalli engine has been selected for HAL's planned Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH) and its naval variant, the Deck-Based Multi-Role Helicopter (DBMRH). The IMRH is a 13-tonne class helicopter programme, and the DBMRH is intended for shipborne operations in the Indian Navy.
- HAL has stated that the programme may support civil aviation uses such as offshore transport, utility missions, and VVIP transport. The programme also includes plans to develop domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul capabilities for the engine family.



7th High-Level Meeting between ICG and Vietnam Coast Guard

- The 7th High-Level Meeting (HLM) between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG) was held in Chennai on August 25, 2026 under the framework of the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding on Coast Guard Cooperation.
- The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in key areas including Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), Maritime Law Enforcement, Marine Pollution Response and capacity building.
- Both sides reviewed ongoing bilateral engagements, including professional exchanges and ship visits, and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation and interoperability.
- The two Coast Guards emphasised the importance of regular institutional interactions, training programmes, professional exchanges, sharing of best practices and ship visits to further strengthen mutual trust, coordination and operational cooperation.
- The HLM reaffirmed the shared commitment of India and Vietnam to work together in the spirit of friendship and cooperation towards promoting maritime safety, security and environmental sustainability in the region.
- As part of the ongoing bilateral engagement, the India-Vietnam Coast Guard **Joint Exercise, SAHYOG-HOPTAC**, is scheduled to be conducted at sea on 27 August 2026.



Tribute To Goa Liberation Satyagrahis

- Rajnath Singh, on August 26, 2026, inaugurated the newly re-developed Hutatma Smruti Smarak at Patradevi, a historic site associated with the state's liberation struggle from Portuguese rule.
- Commending the professionalism, courage, and discipline with which the Indian Defence Forces successfully executed the liberation of Goa during **Operation Vijay in 1961**.
- Reflecting on India's remarkable transformation since 1961, Raksha Mantri said: "Our defence forces are today protecting national interests with state-of-the-art equipment such as warships, fighter aircraft, advanced radar systems, network-centric warfare capabilities, and long-range air power.
- Operation Vijay in 1961 was a swift 36-to-40-hour military action by the Indian Armed Forces that liberated Goa, Daman, Diu, and Anjediva from over 450 years of Portuguese colonial rule. [1, 2, 3]
- Key Details of the Operation
- Dates: Launched on December 18, 1961, and concluded with the Portuguese surrender on December 19, 1961.
- Forces Involved: A joint tri-service operation consisting of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force (around 45,000 troops).
- Objective: To end Portuguese refusal to negotiate sovereignty over remaining colonial enclaves in India.
- Outcome: A decisive victory for India that fully integrated the territories into the Indian Union. December 19 is celebrated annually as Goa Liberation Day.



Flash Flood in Nepal

- The Central Government in close watch on the situation arising out of the flash flood in Nepal. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah spoke with the Chief Ministers of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh regarding the disaster in Nepal.
- As per the Advisory of the Central Water Commission (CWC) and media reports, a sudden rise in river water level in the Trishuli river at Furke Khola in Nepal, around 160 km from the Indian border, due to suspected Flash flood/GLOF activity near the Nepal–China border. The impact of flood is likely to travel downstream in the Gandak river, in India.
- State government of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have taken measures such as required evacuation and other support to local Indian communities near the India–Nepal border. Both states have been advised to remain alert and maintain close monitoring of the situation.
- Nearly 160 people were killed and over 750, including 133 Indian nationals, remain missing after a massive flash flood originating in Tibet swept through central Nepal on Wednesday, devastating several towns and villages, washing away critical bridges, and crippling a dozen hydropower projects.



DRDO Successfully Tests Military Combat Parachute System

- India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested its indigenously developed Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS) at Nyoma-Mudh Drop Zone in Ladakh, one of the world's highest altitude drop zones, with test jumpers executing a jump from 22,000 feet in -15°C conditions and landing safely at 13,700 feet.
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- This trial confirms the system's reliability and tactical employability in extreme high-altitude environments, reinforcing India's self-reliance in critical defence technologies.
- The Military Combat Parachute System was designed and developed by the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra, in collaboration with the Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bangalore. India defence updates
- The latest trial involved ADRDE test jumpers Wing Commander Rahul Jha, Chief Test Jumper, Master Warrant Officer R J Singh, VM(G), and Master Warrant Officer Vivek Tiwari. They executed the jump from 22,000 feet above mean sea level, deploying the parachute at 20,000 feet and landing safely at 13,700 feet. The jump was carried out in extreme cold conditions of -15°C , testing the limits of both personnel and equipment.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The newly named 'Aravalli' helicopter engine is being developed by HAL in collaboration with which company?

- A. Boeing
- B. Safran Helicopter Engines
- C. Rolls-Royce
- D. Airbus

Answer: B. Safran Helicopter Engines

2. The Aravalli engine is planned for which power category?

- A. 1,000–1,500 shaft horsepower
- B. 2,000–2,500 shaft horsepower

C. 3,500–4,000 shaft horsepower

D. 5,000–6,000 shaft horsepower

Answer: C. 3,500–4,000 shaft horsepower

3. The 7th High-Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard and Vietnam Coast Guard was held in:

A. Kochi

B. Mumbai

C. Chennai

D. Visakhapatnam

Answer: C. Chennai

4. Which joint exercise between the Indian Coast Guard and Vietnam Coast Guard is scheduled as part of their bilateral engagement?

A. VARUNA

B. SAHYOG-HOPTAC

C. KONKAN

D. MILAN

Answer: B. SAHYOG-HOPTAC

5. Which military operation led to the liberation of Goa from Portuguese rule in 1961?

A. Operation Cactus

B. Operation Meghdoot

C. Operation Vijay

D. Operation Trident

Answer: C. Operation Vijay

6. The Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS) was developed primarily by which DRDO laboratory?

A. DRDL, Hyderabad

B. ADRDE, Agra

C. LRDE, Bengaluru

D. GTRE, Bengaluru

Answer: B. ADRDE, Agra

7. The successful high-altitude trial of the Military Combat Parachute System was conducted at:

A. Pokhran, Rajasthan

B. Nyoma-Mudh, Ladakh

C. Leh, Ladakh

D. Siachen, Ladakh

Answer: B. Nyoma-Mudh, Ladakh

8. FGM-148 Javelin Is Made By

- A. Boeing
- B. Lockheed Martin
- C. Raytheon
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

9. Infantry School Of Indian Army Is At

- A.** Mhow
- B.** Bhopal
- C.** Gwalior
- D.** Jammu

ANSWER: A

10. HAL HPT-32 Deepak Is A

- A. Trainer Aircraft
- B. Fighter Aircraft
- C. Helicopter
- D. None

ANSWER: A

11. Range of Meteor BVRAAM Missile Is

- A. 150 km
- B. 250 km
- C. 350 km
- D. 450 km

ANSWER: A

12. Shishumar Is A

- A. Air to Air missile
- B. Sniper Rifle
- C. Anti-tank Guided missile
- D. Submarine

ANSWER: D

13. INS Kesari Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV

- C. Submarine
- D. Landing Ship Tank

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. Hwasong-17 Is An ICBM Missile of Which Country?

- A. South Korea
- B. North Korea
- C. China
- D. USA

ANSWER: B

16. 'Swift and Sure' Is The Motto Of

- A. Army Aviation Corps
- B. Sikh Regiment
- C. Rajput Regiment
- D. Gorkha

ANSWER: A

17. "Bolo Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ki jai" Is The War Cry Of

- A. Maratha Light Infantry Regiment
- B. Grenadiers
- C. Punjab Regiment
- D. Parachute Regiment

ANSWER: A

18. Range of RS-28 Sarmat Missile Is

- A. 12000 km
- B. 14000 km
- C. 16000 km
- D. 18000 km

ANSWER: D

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

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

ANSWER: D

20. India Purchased Jaguar Fighter Aircraft from

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

ANSWER: C