

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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IAF's Sarang Helicopter Team Reaches Egypt For The El Alamein International Airshow

- The Sarang Helicopter Display Team of Indian Air Force has reached Egypt to participate in the 2nd edition of the El Alamein International Airshow, scheduled to be held from 08 to 10 September 2026 at El Alamein International Airport.
- The IAF Sarang team is the world's only five helicopter display team. The team will showcase precision, professionalism and flying skills through a series of meticulously choreographed displays.
- This marks another significant milestone in international engagements by the Indian Air Force reflecting growing defence and diplomatic ties between India and Egypt.
- Flying the indigenously designed and manufactured Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv, the Sarang team is renowned for its demanding formation manoeuvres close-proximity flying and synchronised aerial sequences.
- The Sarang team will display its famous "Dolphin Leap" manoeuvre and also present a new manoeuvre called the Spot Stall Turn.



Rajnath Singh To Undertake Three-day Sri Lanka Visit

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will undertake an official visit to Sri Lanka from September 8 to 10. During the visit, the Defence Minister will hold consultations with the leadership of Sri Lanka on a range of issues and interact with the Indian diaspora in Colombo.
- The statement noted that India and Sri Lanka share deep civilisational ties and a multifaceted partnership, anchored by regional security, defence, economic and trade cooperation and strong people-to-people ties.
- The bilateral relationship received further impetus when India assisted Sri Lanka during the economic crisis and provided assistance, as one of the first responders, in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka in 2025.
- It underscored India's continued commitment and emphasis on 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of MAHASAGAR (**Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**).
- Defence Minister's visit to Sri Lanka will further strengthen the traditionally strong and friendly bilateral relations in mutually beneficial areas including a strong maritime & defence partnership, the statement added.
- Major Joint Exercises
 - Mitra Shakti: A joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Sri Lanka Army focused on counterterrorism, tactical drills, and sub-conventional operations under a UN mandate. The 11th edition took place in November 2025 in Belagavi, Karnataka.
 - SLINEX (Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise): A bilateral maritime exercise designed to enhance naval cooperation, seamanship, and joint operational capabilities. It features harbour and sea phases with advanced tactical drills.
 - DIVEX (Diving Exercise): A specialized bilateral diving engagement focusing on underwater operations, mixed-gas diving, and deep-sea recovery, with recent editions held in Colombo.



DLRL's Develops New Mobile AI-Driven Jammer

- Defence Research and Development Organisation is developing an advanced system to counter cognitive radio networks that employ artificial intelligence to evade detection and jamming.
- With modern military communication systems becoming increasingly resilient to electronic countermeasures, this initiative marks a significant step in electronic warfare capabilities. The system has been named the Smart Communication Jammer System (SCJS).
- It will be a large vehicle-mounted platform capable of detecting, analysing, classifying, direction-finding, monitoring and jamming tactical communication mobile ad hoc networks (MANETs).
- These networks, known as MANETs, are highly adaptive wireless systems that can sense their environment and alter their settings to use the radio spectrum more efficiently.
- Cognitive radios and MANETs can continuously scan for unused or underutilized frequency channels and rapidly switch frequencies. This makes it difficult to monitor or intercept using conventional jamming systems.
- Unlike conventional radios that operate on pre-set channels, cognitive radios use artificial intelligence and machine learning to analyse their operating environment and dynamically switch between spectrum channels, potentially within microseconds, to evade interference.
- However, they also make it more difficult to monitor an adversary's activity. Such networks have significant civilian applications as well. They can reduce

spectrum congestion and improve the efficiency of wireless communications, offering benefits beyond the battlefield.



India's Drone Revolution: National UTM Program

- India is introducing a National Unmanned Aircraft Systems Traffic Management (UTM) program to regulate drone flights below 1,000 feet, ensuring safe and coordinated operations across logistics, agriculture, surveillance, and emergency services.
- This system will integrate with the DGCA's Digital Sky platform, which already manages drone registration, pilot certification, and flight permissions.
- India's drone ecosystem has expanded rapidly in recent years. Over 38,500 drones are registered with Unique Identification Numbers (UINs), and nearly 40,000 DGCA-certified remote pilots are active. The government has also approved 244 training organisations, reflecting the scale of professionalisation in the sector.
- The UTM program is designed to handle this surge by providing real-time monitoring, automated flight approvals, and conflict resolution for drones operating in low-altitude airspace.
- The system will be crucial for managing drones in logistics, where companies are exploring last-mile delivery solutions. In agriculture, drones are already being deployed under schemes like Namo Drone Didi, which has distributed over 1,000 drones to women self-help groups to improve crop productivity and reduce costs.

- The UTM program will complement the Digital Sky platform, which currently provides zone maps, flight permission requests, and pilot certification management. Drones are categorised into Nano, Micro, Small, Medium, and Large, with licensing requirements scaling by weight.
- For example, Nano drones under 250g require no UIN or permit for recreational use, while commercial drones above 2kg require UAOP (Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit) and Remote Pilot Certificates.
- India's adoption of drones in governance has already transformed public service delivery. Under the SVAMITVA scheme, drones have surveyed 3.28 lakh villages, producing 2.76 crore property cards across 31 states.
- This demonstrates the scale at which drones are being integrated into national programs. The UTM initiative will ensure that such large-scale deployments remain safe and efficient.



India To Modify Su-30 Fighter Jets To Integrate Them With RVV BD Air-To-Air Missiles

- In a major capability boost for the Indian Air Force, the Defence Ministry is taking up a proposal to modify the Su-30 MKI aircraft to integrate them with the Russian-origin RVV BD air-to-air missile that can take out enemy targets at 300 kilometres at high speed in the air.
- The proposal is being taken up for consideration by the Defence Ministry just a few days before the arrival of Russian President Vladimir Putin for the BRICS meeting, and many important defence deals are likely to be discussed between the two sides.

- The proposal to modify the Su-30 MKI aircraft to be integrated with RVV BD missiles is expected to be taken up for clearance at the meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council scheduled to be held today, defence sources told ANI.
- The Russian side has many versions of the RVV BD missiles that can hit targets like Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft and other spy planes in the air at hypersonic speeds of around 6 Mach.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation has been focusing on and fast-tracking work on the variants of existing and future variants of the Astra air-to-air missiles, which would be able to hit targets up to 300 plus kms.
- The Su-30 MKI, which is being modified or upgraded to be equipped with the RVV BD missiles are the mainstay of the Indian Air Force, as there are over 260 of them in service.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Sarang Helicopter Display Team of the Indian Air Force is participating in which airshow in September 2026?

- A. Dubai Airshow
- B. El Alamein International Airshow
- C. Paris Airshow
- D. Singapore Airshow

Answer: B. El Alamein International Airshow

2. Which helicopter is operated by the IAF's Sarang Helicopter Display Team?

- A. Apache AH-64E
- B. Chinook
- C. ALH Dhruv

D. LCH Prachand

Answer: C. ALH Dhruv

3. Which new manoeuvre will the Sarang team showcase at the El Alamein International Airshow?

A. Cobra Roll

B. Spot Stall Turn

C. Barrel Roll

D. Loop Turn

Answer: B. Spot Stall Turn

4. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to visit which country from 8 to 10 September 2026?

A. Maldives

B. Sri Lanka

C. Indonesia

D. Egypt

Answer: B. Sri Lanka

5. What does MAHASAGAR stand for?

A. Maritime and Strategic Growth Across Regions

B. Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

C. Mutual Alliance for Strategic Harmony and Global Action Regionally

D. Maritime Advancement for Human Security and Global Assistance

Answer: B. Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

6. What is the name of DRDO's proposed AI-driven mobile jammer system?

A. Tactical Spectrum Jammer System

B. Smart Communication Jammer System

C. Advanced Mobile Defence System

D. Cognitive Radio Defence System

Answer: B. Smart Communication Jammer System

7. The National UTM programme is primarily being developed to manage:

A. Satellite communication

B. Naval traffic

C. Drone traffic

D. Railway traffic

Answer: C. Drone traffic

8. India's National UTM programme is intended to regulate drone operations below approximately:

- A. 500 feet
- B. 750 feet
- C. 1,000 feet
- D. 2,000 feet

Answer: C. 1,000 feet

9. Which air-to-air missile is proposed for integration with India's Su-30MKI aircraft?

- A. Meteor
- B. AIM-120 AMRAAM
- C. RVV-BD
- D. MICA

Answer: C. RVV-BD

10. Which indigenous Indian air-to-air missile family is being developed by DRDO as a long-range capability?

- A. Akash
- B. Astra
- C. Trishul
- D. Nag

Answer: B. Astra

11. AEW&CS Stands For

- A. Airborne Early Warning and Center System
- B. Airborne East Warning and Control System
- C. Airborne Early Warning and Control System
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

12. Air Marshal Rank of IAF Is Equivalent to which rank of Indian Navy?

- A. Commodore
- B. Captain
- C. Commander
- D. Vice Admiral

ANSWER: D

13. 'CORPS' In Indian Army Headed By__

- A. General Officer Commanding (GOC)
- B. General Officer Commanding-in-chief (GOC-in-C)
- C. Major General

D. Brigadier

ANSWER: A

14. Which Is/Are The Combat Arms Of The Indian Army?

A. Infantry

B. The Armoured Corp

C. The Mechanized Infantry

D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

15. Bugatti Car Manufactured By

A. Germany

B. France

C. Mexico

D. USA

ANSWER: B

16. India Purchased Dragunov SVD from

A. USA

B. Sweden

C. France

D. USSR

ANSWER: D

17. Oslo Is The Capital Of

A. Norway

B. Palau

C. Philippines

D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

18. "Mind-Master" Book Is Written By

A. Roopa Pai

B. Neha J Hiranandani

C. M Venkaiah Naidu

D. Viswanathan Anand and Susan Ninan

ANSWER: D

19. Heckler & Koch MP5 Is A

- A. Submachine gun
- B. Machine pistol
- C. Sniper rifle
- D. Anti-material rifle

ANSWER: A

20. Lt Gen. Rank of Indian Army Is To Which Rank Of IAF?

- A. Vice Admiral
- B. Air Commodore
- C. Commodore
- D. Air Marshal

ANSWER: D