

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Andaman & Nicobar Islands May Get Small Nuclear Reactors

- India is exploring the possibility of deploying **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** in the strategically important **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, as electricity demand is expected to rise with the expansion of major infrastructure projects in the region.
- Scientists associated with the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** are assessing potential locations across the Union Territory for such reactors. A team from the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** is undertaking site assessments across all three districts between **September 4 and 8, 2026**, according to the report.
- **Why are nuclear reactors being considered?**
- The proposed reactors are primarily linked to the anticipated growth in the islands' electricity requirements. The **Great Nicobar region**, in particular, is expected to see substantial infrastructure development, which could significantly increase its demand for reliable power.
- Small Modular Reactors could provide a dependable source of electricity for remote island locations while reducing dependence on conventional fuel-based power generation.
- India is also developing indigenous small-reactor technologies as part of its broader nuclear-energy expansion. BARC's nuclear research activities include reactor technology and the development of advanced nuclear systems.
- **What are Small Modular Reactors?**
- **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** are compact nuclear reactors designed to generate electricity on a smaller scale than conventional large nuclear power plants.

- Their modular design can potentially make them suitable for locations where building a large conventional nuclear plant may be difficult. For geographically isolated regions such as islands, a compact and reliable electricity source can have particular advantages.
- However, the proposed Andaman and Nicobar project is presently at the **site-assessment and planning stage**; the reported surveys do not mean that reactors have already been approved or constructed.
- **Strategic Importance of Andaman and Nicobar Islands**
- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands occupy an important position in the **Indian Ocean region**, particularly because of their proximity to the **Strait of Malacca**, one of the world's major maritime chokepoints.
- The islands therefore have significance not only for civilian infrastructure but also for India's maritime-security strategy.
- The **Great Nicobar** area is particularly important because of its location near major sea routes. India is simultaneously pursuing major infrastructure development in the region, including projects aimed at improving connectivity and maritime capabilities.
- The islands also host important military infrastructure, including **INS Baaz**, a naval air station near Campbell Bay on Great Nicobar.
- **China Factor**
- The proposal comes against the backdrop of **China's expanding presence in the Indian Ocean region**.
- The Andaman and Nicobar chain gives India a strategically advantageous position near the western approaches to the Strait of Malacca. Greater infrastructure and energy availability could support India's ability to maintain a sustained presence in this strategically important part of the Indian Ocean.
- The development should therefore be viewed in two interconnected contexts:
- **Energy Security:** Providing reliable electricity for rapidly expanding infrastructure.
- **Strategic Security:** Strengthening India's ability to develop and sustain infrastructure in a geopolitically important maritime region.

- The latest reporting specifically links the nuclear-power exploration with concerns surrounding China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean.
- **Great Nicobar: A Major Infrastructure Focus**
- Great Nicobar has emerged as an important focus of India's infrastructure plans.
- The planned development of the region involves major infrastructure intended to improve connectivity and maritime capabilities. Such projects are expected to increase electricity requirements considerably.
- Consequently, ensuring a **stable and dependable power supply** will be an important component of the region's long-term development.
- Nuclear power is being considered as one possible solution, particularly because SMRs can potentially be deployed in locations requiring relatively compact generating facilities.
- **Role of BARC**
- The **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** is India's premier nuclear research institution and operates under the **Department of Atomic Energy**.
- Its research covers areas including:
 - Nuclear reactor technology
 - Nuclear fuel-cycle technologies
 - Nuclear science
 - Materials science
 - Radiation monitoring
 - Nuclear applications
 - Advanced reactor systems
- BARC's existing research portfolio includes several types of research reactors and work on advanced reactor technologies.
- **Why This Development Matters**
- The proposed deployment of SMRs in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands could have significance beyond electricity generation.

- **1. Energy Independence**
- The islands are geographically separated from mainland India. Local nuclear generation could provide a dependable source of electricity without relying as heavily on fuel transportation.
- **2. Infrastructure Development**
- Reliable power would support the expansion of civilian and strategic infrastructure, particularly in Great Nicobar.
- **3. Strategic Presence**
- Improved infrastructure can strengthen India's ability to maintain a sustained presence in the strategically important eastern Indian Ocean.
- **4. Nuclear Technology**
- The initiative could provide an additional application for India's emerging **Small Modular Reactor technology**.
- **5. Maritime Security**
- The location of the islands near the Strait of Malacca gives them considerable importance for India's maritime-security architecture.



DAC Clears Capital Acquisition Proposals Worth About Rs 1.10 Lakh Crore

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on September 07, 2026 accorded Acceptance of

Necessity (AoN) i.e., in-principle administrative approval to various acquisition proposals of the Defence Forces at an estimated cost of about Rs 1,10,000 crore. For the Indian Army, approval was granted for the procurement of Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Recce Vehicles, High Mobility Vehicles (HMOV), Self-Propelled Mechanical Mine Layers (MML), Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs), Trawl Tanks and Sarvatra Bridge System.

- The CBRN Recce Vehicles will be capable of detecting, identifying, monitoring and marking of areas contaminated with CBRN agents. The HMOVs will enhance operational capabilities, logistic support and mobility in challenging terrains. The MMLs will achieve the desired operational capability in terms of fast and responsive minelaying in difficult terrains. The ALHs will execute complex missions across all terrains and operational situations for the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. The Trawl Tanks and Bridge System will be utilised to provide composite crossings to fighting formations during operations in varied terrains.
- For the Indian Navy, AoN was accorded for the procurement of Arudhra Radars, Design & Development and subsequent procurement of Marine Gas Turbines (MGT). Arudhra Radar will replace the existing Air Route Surveillance Radars at various Naval Air Stations and MGT, a warship propulsion system, will reduce dependency on foreign vendors.
- For the Indian Air Force, approval was granted to various proposals to enhance the war-fighting capability of fighters, transports and helicopters. Approval was also accorded for procuring Ground-Based Multi-Purpose Jammer (GBMPJ) and installing Defence Forces Secure Access Card (DEFSAC) System. The GBMPJ will provide effective jamming against radars of adversaries and DEFSAC will replace existing paper based Identity Card/Passes/Permits with an interoperable Radio Frequency Identification-based smart cards system.
- Of the total AoNs accorded, approximately 98% of procurements will be made from the Indian Industry.




DAC CLEARS CAPITAL ACQUISITION PROPOSALS ESTIMATING

₹ 1,10,000 CRORE (APPROX.)

INDIAN ARMY

- Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Recce Vehicles (CBRN)
- High Mobility Vehicles (HMV)
- Self-Propelled Mechanical Mine Layers (MML)
- Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH)
- Trawl Tanks
- Sarvatra Bridge System



INDIAN NAVY

- Procurement of Arudhra Radars
- Design, Development & subsequent procurement of Marine Gas Turbines

INDIAN AIR FORCE

- Procurement of Ground Based Multi-Purpose Jammer (GBMPJ)
- Installation of Defence Forces Secure Access Card (DEFSAC) System
- Proposals to enhance the war fighting capability of fighters, transports and helicopters




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Centre Extends Ceasefire With NSCN-K (Niki)

- The Central government and NSCN-K (Niki) extended the ceasefire for another year, officials told PTI on Monday.
- The agreement was signed by NSCN-K (Niki) Ceasefire Supervisory Board (CFSB) supervisor Abel Zingru Thuer, secretary Ameka Achumi and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) joint secretary Niraj Kumar Bansod on Monday.
- According to the agreement, the deal was signed with the aim to bring enduring peace in Nagaland with the involvement of the Naga people.
- The deal stipulated that the ceasefire would be subject to adherence to the ceasefire ground rules mutually agreed upon and signed

- The agreement further stated that the ceasefire would remain in effect as long as both sides complied with the mutually agreed and signed ground rules governing the truce.
- It also provides mutual review and amendment of ground rules with the involvement of both parties.
- The Central government first entered into a ceasefire agreement with NSCN-K (Niki) in 2021 and the latest agreement would extend the ceasefire until September 7, 2027.



Tata Boeing Aerospace Marks 400th Apache Fuselage Delivery

- Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL), a joint venture between Boeing and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), has rolled out its 400th fuselage for the AH-64E Apache attack helicopter from its 52,000-square-metre manufacturing facility in Hyderabad, according to ANI.
- The fuselages, manufactured entirely in India, are integrated into final Apache aircraft supplied to customers around the world, including the US Army, as well as the six Apache helicopters delivered to the Indian Army in 2025. Separately, the Indian Air Force currently operates a fleet of 22 AH-64E Apache helicopters.
- Established in 2016, TBAL employs more than 750 engineers and technicians who rely on advanced robotics, automation and aerospace manufacturing technologies to produce fuselage aerostructures for the Apache programme. According to ANI, this manufacturing capability reflects the growing integration of India's aerospace ecosystem into global defence supply chains.

- In a related development, Tata Advanced Systems Limited signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) last week with the Javelin Joint Venture, a partnership between Raytheon and Lockheed Martin, covering the co-production of the Javelin All Up Round (AUR) missile within India, according to a joint press release issued by the companies.
- TASL was selected as the prime partner for future in-country co-production following an evaluation of multiple firms based on their capability and technical expertise. Under the agreement, both parties intend to explore setting up a dedicated final assembly and integration facility in India, alongside local component manufacturing capabilities, to meet future production demands and support regional stability across the Indo-Pacific.
- The co-production initiative is designed to connect American manufacturing supply chains with Indian assembly operations. Multiyear manufacturing of sub-assembly kits will take place at Lockheed Martin's facility in Troy, Alabama, while guidance electronics units will be produced at Raytheon's facility in Tucson, Arizona. These components will subsequently be shipped to India for final assembly and integration, a process expected to generate high-tech jobs locally while sustaining manufacturing .



China Builds Massive Desert Test Facility To Test Future Fighter Jets

- China is expanding a flight-test facility in its western desert region to speed up development of its next-generation military aircraft, as Beijing and Washington vie for dominance in advanced air power, SCMP reported.
- According to SCMP, satellite imagery of the Lop Nur facility in Xinjiang shows construction of four large hangars, new taxiways, a circular pad believed to

support engine testing or aircraft turnaround, and possible fuel-storage infrastructure. The expansion coincides with China's pursuit of multiple advanced combat-aircraft programmes simultaneously, potentially giving it greater capacity to test sensitive designs and run parallel flight-test programmes away from routine scrutiny.

- J Michael Dahm, a retired US Navy intelligence officer and senior fellow for aerospace and China studies at the Mitchell Institute, told SCMP that construction at the site began around August 2025, coinciding with the first sighting there of the tailless aircraft widely believed to be China's J-36 sixth-generation fighter.
- By February this year, according to Dahm, the facility had added roughly 60,000 square feet (5,570 square metres) of hangar space and more than 300,000 square feet of additional infrastructure, effectively doubling the base's overall size. He said the new construction likely includes testing and evaluation zones, as well as accommodation for personnel.
- Lop Nur's location, in a vast, sparsely populated stretch of Xinjiang, gives China a strategic advantage in conducting experimental flight trials away from major population centres and routine observation. The expanded facility could also ease pressure on China's existing flight-test sites, enabling multiple aircraft programmes to run concurrently and potentially speeding up the overall pace of testing, with its several large hangars capable of housing multiple programmes depending on aircraft.
- This infrastructure expansion comes amid a broader contest between China and the United States to develop a new generation of combat aircraft designed to operate alongside advanced drones, sensors and long-range weapons systems. Beijing has not officially disclosed the mission profiles, specifications or formal designations of the J-36 or the J-XDS/J-50.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved acquisition proposals worth approximately how much on 7 September 2026?

- A) ₹75,000 crore
- B) ₹90,000 crore
- C) ₹1.10 lakh crore
- D) ₹1.50 lakh crore

Answer: C) ₹1.10 lakh crore

2. Approximately what percentage of the total DAC-approved procurements is expected to be sourced from Indian industry?

- A) 75%
- B) 85%
- C) 90%
- D) 98%

Answer: D) 98%

3. The ceasefire between the Central Government and NSCN-IM (Nika) has been extended until:

- A) 7 September 2026
- B) 31 December 2026
- C) 7 September 2027
- D) 15 August 2027

Answer: C) 7 September 2027

4. Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL) delivered its 400th fuselage for which helicopter?

- A) AH-64E Apache
- B) CH-47F Chinook
- C) ALH Dhruv
- D) Light Combat Helicopter

Answer: A) AH-64E Apache

5. Which Indian company has partnered with the Javelin Joint Venture to explore co-production of Javelin missiles in India?

- A) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- B) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- C) Tata Advanced Systems Limited
- D) Bharat Electronics Limited

Answer: C) Tata Advanced Systems Limited

6. China's Lop Nur flight-test facility, reportedly being expanded for next-generation military aircraft, is in which region?

- A) Tibet
- B) Xinjiang
- C) Inner Mongolia
- D) Sichuan

Answer: B) Xinjiang

7. Which organisation is assessing potential sites for Small Modular Reactors in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. BARC
- D. NPCIL

Answer: C. BARC

8. The proposed Small Modular Reactors are primarily being considered to meet the growing power requirements associated with which major project?

- A. Sagarmala Project
- B. Great Nicobar Project
- C. Bharatmala Project
- D. Golden Quadrilateral

Answer: B. Great Nicobar Project

9. Which strategically important Indian naval air station is located at Campbell Bay in Great Nicobar?

- A. INS Rajali
- B. INS Baaz
- C. INS Kadamba
- D. INS Hansa

Answer: B. INS Baaz

10. Marine Engineering Training Establishment of the Indian Navy located at

- A. Noida
- B. Kochi
- C. Pune
- D. Wayanad

ANSWER: C

11. Where Is The Hq Of The Southern Western Command of The Indian Army?

- A. Jaipur
- B. Jabalpur
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

12. Sea Dragon Exercise Hosted By

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

ANSWER: A

13. India Purchased C 130 J from

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

ANSWER: A

14. College of Military Engineering (CME) Is Located At

- A. Pune
- B. Kamptee

- C. Mumbai
- D. Noida

ANSWER: A

15. Which Country Ranked Third Highest In The World Defence Expenditure?

- A. Australia
- B. USA
- C. France
- D. Bharat

ANSWER: D

16. Regimental Center Of PUNJAB REGIMENT Is In

- A. Balasore, Odisha
- B. Chennai, T.N.
- C. Trombay, M.H.
- D. Ramgarh Cantonment, Jharkhand

ANSWER: D

17. India Purchased IAI Searcher UAV from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Israel

ANSWER: D

18. KHARTOUM Is The Capital Of

- A. Spain
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Suriname
- D. Sudan

ANSWER: D

19. HELINA Missile Has A Maximum Range Of

- A. 7 kilometres
- B. 8 kilometres
- C. 9 kilometres
- D. 10 kilometres

ANSWER: A

20. Joint Exercises B/w The India And France Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. GARUDA

ANSWER: D