

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Indian Defence Service of Engineers celebrates 77th Raising Day

- Officers of the Indian Defence Service of Engineers (IDSE) under Military Engineer Services (MES), Ministry of Defence celebrated their 77th Raising Day by organising a day-long conference in New Delhi on September 17, 2026.
 - Themed '**Ethics, Accountability and Excellence towards achieving the aim of Viksit Bharat @ 2047**'.
 - Engineer in Chief, MES Lt Gen Vikas Rohella highlighted the steps taken in MES to strengthen ethics and accountability, including the introduction of the Electronic Measurement Book. All the stages of public procurement and discretion exercised must be qualified with ethical principles, he said.
- About IDSE
- IDSE (Indian Defence Service of Engineers) is one of the organized Group 'A' Central Services of Union of India under Administrative Control of Ministry of Defence. Members of this service are top notch Civil / Electrical / Mechanical Engineering professionals drawn from IITs/NITs and other reputed engineering colleges all over India. They enter into this service through elite Indian Engineering Services Examination conducted by UPSC every year.
 - The cadre strength of IDSE is around 1000. IDSE officers join as Asst Executive Engineers in JTS grade and reach in the top echelon of the Government in Ministry of Defence and in other ministries in HAG (Addl Secy to Government of India) level.
 - IDSE officers are known for their thorough professionalism and on ground approach. They have vast knowledge in the field of Project Management, Infrastructure Development, Financial Management, Utility services (Water Supply, electric Supply and Sewage Disposal), Structural Engineering, Earthquake Resistant Designs, Contract Management, Arbitration, Water Supply and Electric Supply planning, Design of Ports and Dockyard, Hangers, Runway and Airport infrastructure, Engineering for hilly region, Industrial factory

building, Revenue Collection are some of the core area in which IDSE officers are experts. This is in addition to personnel management, administrative capabilities, and policy making and their holistic approach to find solution to the problems, which make IDSE officers a sought-after cadre in all government departments and ministries and other corporate, public and private sector organisations.

About MES

- The Military Engineer Services (MES) is an inter service organisation under Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India, which provides engineering support mainly to the Armed Forces viz. Army, Navy and Air force. It is one of largest construction and maintenance agencies in India with a total annual budget to the tune of approx Rs 30000 crores.
- It undertakes construction of residences, offices, operational infrastructure, specialised accommodation, roads, runways, hangers, bridges, marine structures like docks and harbours etc across the length and breadth of the country for the associated organisations of the Ministry of Defence. It has Pan India footprint to provide engineering support to various formations of Army, Air Force, Navy and DRDO. For this, the MES has over 600 stations spread across the mainland and the island territories of India.



HAL To Hand Over LCA Tejas Trainers & HTT Aircraft To IAF & Dhruv NG Helicopters To PHL

- The handover marks an important milestone in the country's self-reliance journey as the event would highlight the role being played by HAL and its industry partners in strengthening the domestic aerospace ecosystem.
- It would also demonstrate industry's expanding capability to design, develop, and manufacture advanced platforms for both civil & military applications.
- The Government has accorded high priority to promoting indigenous design, development and manufacturing in the aerospace & defence sectors. The induction of these platforms is another step towards strengthening the indigenous capabilities and reducing dependence on foreign sources.



PNS Hunain Severely Damaged After Collision With INS Kolkata

- Pakistan Navy's PNS Hunain was severely damaged after it collided with the Indian Navy's INS Kolkata in the North Arabian Sea on Tuesday evening, with visuals showing a large dent on the Pakistani vessel.
- The warship was subsequently sent back to harbour for repairs, while Indian sources said the 7,400-tonne INS Kolkata suffered no damage in the collision.
- The damage became more significant in the context of the two vessels' size. PNS Hunain weighs around 2,600 tonnes, making the Indian destroyer, at 7,400 tonnes, nearly three times heavier.

- The Pakistani vessel is a Yarmook-class patrol ship designed for maritime security, surveillance and limited combat operations. Commissioned in 2014, it is approximately 98 metres long.
- INS Kolkata, by comparison, is 164 metres long and has a maximum speed of 30 knots. It is the lead vessel of the indigenously designed and constructed Kolkata-class guided missile destroyers.
- Pakistan's government said the incident occurred while its Navy was conducting its biennial SEASPARK-26 exercise. According to the Pakistani statement, the Indian vessel carried out "aggressive manoeuvres in dangerously close proximity to a Pakistani naval ship, resulting in contact between the two vessels".
- INS Kolkata is equipped with BrahMos anti-ship cruise missiles, Barak 8 surface-to-air missiles and a close-in weapon system. Its anti-submarine capabilities include torpedo launchers, rocket launchers and a bow-mounted sonar system.
- It thus stands as a significant milestone in the continuing endeavour to build a stronger, modern, and future-ready Indian Coast Guard, dedicated to the protection of India's sovereign maritime interests.



US Approves \$24.3 Billion Sale Of 48 F-35 Fighter Jets To Saudi Arabia

- The US Department of State on Thursday (Local Time) approved a possible Foreign Military Sale (FMS) of 48 F-35 Lightning 2 fighter aircraft and related equipment to Saudi Arabia at an estimated cost of USD 24.3 billion.
- The proposed sale includes 48 F-35 aircraft with conventional takeoff and landing capability and 49 Pratt & Whitney F135-PW-100 engines, including 48 installed engines and one spare engine, the State Department said in its statement.
- The package also includes secure communications, precision navigation and cryptographic equipment, electronic warfare database support, aircraft and munitions support equipment, spare parts, training equipment, simulators, software, technical documentation and logistics support, among other items.
- The State Department said the proposed sale "will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major non-NATO ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Gulf region."
- "The proposed sale will improve Saudi Arabia's capability to deter current and future threats by strengthening its homeland defence, and improving interoperability with U.S. forces, and other regional and NATO forces," the statement read.



Indian Navy's Bid For Badangi Airstrip Land Gains Momentum

- The Indian Navy has formally advanced its proposal to acquire nearly ₹1,700 acres of land at the Badangi Airstrip in Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh.
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- The site, located near Bobbili, is earmarked for the creation of a major naval armament depot, a training facility, and an emergency alternate airbase. This initiative is designed to supplement the existing Naval Armament Depot in Visakhapatnam, which has reached its storage limits.
- The land requirement has grown significantly from the original 221-acre footprint established during the Second World War. Earlier estimates had suggested a need for 1,000 to 1,200 acres, but the latest evaluations have expanded this to approximately 1,700 acres.
- The Badangi Airstrip carries historical weight, having been constructed by the Royal Air Force during the Second World War. At its peak, it was one of British India's largest bases, equipped with underground bunkers and a substantial armament depot.
- However, it was abandoned after 1946, leaving behind infrastructure that has remained dormant for decades.
- The revival of Badangi has been under consideration for over 15 years, but the push has gained renewed urgency in late 2026. The driver behind this effort is the inadequacy of the Visakhapatnam Naval Armament Depot, which cannot accommodate the growing storage requirements of the Navy. The new facility at Badangi would provide the necessary depth and resilience, while also serving as a training ground and an alternate landing base in emergencies.
- Strategically, the location offers proximity to Visakhapatnam, India's Eastern Naval Command headquarters, and provides a fall-back option in case of operational contingencies.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Indian Defence Service of Engineers (IDSE) celebrated its which Raising Day in 2026?

- A. 75th
- B. 76th
- C. 77th
- D. 78th

Answer: C. 77th

2. What was the theme of the 77th IDSE Raising Day conference?

- A. Technology and Innovation for Defence
- B. Ethics, Accountability and Excellence towards achieving the aim of Viksit Bharat @ 2047
- C. Self-Reliance in Defence Production
- D. Engineering Excellence for National Security

Answer: B. Ethics, Accountability and Excellence towards achieving the aim of Viksit Bharat @ 2047

3. IDSE officers enter the service primarily through which examination?

- A. UPSC Civil Services Examination
- B. UPSC Combined Defence Services Examination
- C. UPSC Engineering Services Examination
- D. SSC Engineering Examination

Answer: C. UPSC Engineering Services Examination

4. The Military Engineer Services (MES) primarily provides engineering support to which of the following?

- A. Army, Navy and Air Force
- B. Army and Coast Guard only
- C. Navy and Coast Guard only
- D. Air Force and BSF only

Answer: A. Army, Navy and Air Force

5. Which company is associated with the handover of LCA Tejas trainers, HTT aircraft and Dhruv NG helicopters?

- A. BEL
- B. HAL
- C. DRDO
- D. BDL

Answer: B. HAL

6. INS Kolkata belongs to which class of Indian Navy warships?

- A. Delhi-class
- B. Visakhapatnam-class
- C. Kolkata-class
- D. Shivalik-class

Answer: C. Kolkata-class

7. PNS Hunain belongs to which class of patrol vessels?

- A. Yarmook-class
- B. Hangor-class
- C. Babur-class
- D. Tariq-class

Answer: A. Yarmook-class

8. The United States approved a possible sale of how many F-35 fighter aircraft to Saudi Arabia?

- A. 24
- B. 36
- C. 48
- D. 60

Answer: C. 48

9. The proposed F-35 sale to Saudi Arabia has an estimated value of approximately:

- A. US\$12.5 billion

- B. US\$18.6 billion
- C. US\$24.3 billion
- D. US\$30.8 billion

Answer: C. US\$24.3 billion

10. Badangi Airstrip, being considered for Indian Navy infrastructure development, is located in which state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Karnataka

Answer: B. Andhra Pradesh

11. Range of Shaurya Missile Is

- A. 700 to 1,900 km
- B. 500 – 15,00 km
- C. 1,500 – 2,000 km
- D. 2,500 – 3,200 km

ANSWER: A

12. Rashtriya Rifles Motto Is

- A. Courage and Valor
- B. Always Brave
- C. Service Before Self
- D. Lethal

ANSWER: A

13. War Cry of ASSAM REGIMENT

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Rhino Charge
- C. Jai Bajrangbali
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: B

14. Amogha Is A

- A. Anti-tank guided missile
- B. Surface-to-surface tactical ballistic missile
- C. Quick reaction surface to air missile
- D. Multiple rocket launcher

ANSWER: A

15. Department of Military Affairs Headed By

- A. CDS
- B. NSA
- C. COAS
- D. Defence Minister

ANSWER: A

16. Cairo Is The Capital Of

- A. Egypt
- B. El Salvador
- C. UAE
- D. Eritrea

ANSWER: A

17. "Ignited Minds" Book Is Written By

- A. Bimal Jalal
- B. Vinit Karnik
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Dr APJ Kalam

ANSWER: D

18. Controller General of Defence Accounts Heads The

- A. MoD Accounts
- B. Make In India Accounts
- C. Parliament Accounts
- D. Defence Accounts Department

ANSWER: D

19. Army Sports Institute Is In

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

ANSWER: A

20. SITMEX Ex Is Done Among

- A. India, Singapore, and Thailand
- B. India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- C. Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A