

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Exercise SLINEX-26

- The 13th edition of the Sri Lanka-India bilateral maritime exercise, SLINEX-26, is being conducted at Visakhapatnam from 17 to 21 Sep 26. The exercise commenced with the Harbour Phase, which will be followed by the Sea Phase.
- INS Kavaratti, an indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, and INS Jyoti, the Fleet Tanker, will participate from the Indian Navy, while SLNS Sindurala represents the Sri Lanka Navy.
- Conceptualised in 2005, SLINEX has evolved into an important forum for fostering maritime cooperation, interoperability and mutual understanding between the two Navies.
- The Harbour Phase, conducted under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command, commenced with an opening ceremony and reception onboard INS Kavaratti for the visiting crew of SLNS Sindurala.
- Aligned with India's vision of MAHASAGAR, SLINEX-26 reinforces India's commitment to a secure, stable and inclusive maritime environment and further consolidates the enduring maritime partnership between India and Sri Lanka.



SKAT Takes to Meerut Skies For The First Time

- The Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) of the Indian Air Force took to the skies of Meerut for the first time on September 19 and 20, 2026, captivating spectators with a breathtaking display.
- Over 1 lakh people, including students, National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets and National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers turned up over two days to witness the display. Notably, three members of the SKAT team, including two pilots who performed aerobatics, are from Meerut.
- Fresh from the successful conclusion of its 2026 training season, the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team unveiled its latest formation before the people of Meerut.
- Flying the nine distinctive red-and-white Hawk Mk 132 aircraft, licence-manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Adding another striking dimension to the display, the Hawk Mk 132 aircraft have undergone a significant indigenous modification involving the integration of smoke pods capable of producing coloured smoke.
- **About SKAT**
- Established in 1996, SKAT holds the distinction of being the only nine-aircraft aerobatic team in Asia and is among the select few such teams in the world.



Keel Laying of First Next Generation Missile Vessel NGMV

- The Keel Laying Ceremony of the first ship of the Indian Navy's Next Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV) project was held at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, on 18 Sep 2026.
- VAdm Sanjay Sadhu, Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition, was the Chief Guest. Senior officials from the Indian Navy and CSL were also present on the occasion.
- Contract for construction of NGMVs was concluded with CSL in Mar 2023. The NGMVs are planned to be equipped with state-of-the-art weapon and sensors, which would significantly enhance the combat capabilities of the Indian Navy as a **'Future Ready and Combat Ready Force'**.
- The construction of the NGMVs reinforces India's commitment to build a strong and modern Navy, capable of operating in the complex maritime environment of the Indian Ocean Region.



1965 War Hero & Vir Chakra Awardee Alfred Dies

- The Vir Chakra is India's third-highest wartime gallantry award, after the Param Vir Chakra and the Maha Vir Chakra. Alfred Tyrone Cooke received the Vir Chakra on 7 September 1965 for courage and tactical skill during aerial combat.
- The 1965 Indo-Pak War was fought between India and Pakistan in September 1965. During the Kalaikunda air battle, Cooke engaged six Pakistani Sabre jets attacking the airfield and shot down one aircraft while damaging another.

- Cooke served in No. 14 Squadron of the Indian Air Force, which is also known as the "Bulls". He retired from the Indian Air Force in 1968 and later settled in Australia.
- After retirement, Alfred Tyrone Cooke lived in Australia and remained connected with his former squadron. He donated his Vir Chakra medal to No. 14 Squadron in 2016.



IAF Chief Led 'Eagle One' Tejas Formation Flight

- The Indian Embassy in Tokyo on Monday said that IAF Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh led a formation flight in the indigenously produced Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).
- The embassy also said that the Japan Air Self-Defense Force Chief of Staff Masahiro Morita boarded the two-seater Tejas during the Japan-India joint training exercise 'Veer Guardian 26' on Sunday.
- It added, "Chief of Air Staff Singh, as 'Eagle One,' led a formation flight in the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), while Chief of Staff Morita boarded the two-seater Tejas."
- The IAF said, "As part of Exercise Veer Guardian 26, General Takehiro Morita, Chief of Staff, Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) and Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, visited Air Force Station Jodhpur and flew the indigenous Tejas fighter aircraft. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh led the formation flying the Tejas LCA as Eagle One, with the CoS JASDF flying in the twin-seater version."

- The 14-day exercise began with the arrival of JASDF F-2 fighter aircraft in India on September 8. The participating air warriors undertake advanced operational missions and professional interactions during the exercise.
- The LCA Tejas is a 4.5-generation, all-weather, multi-role fighter aircraft designed to undertake a range of missions, including offensive air support, close combat and ground attack operations. It is also designed for ground and maritime operations.
- The ongoing exercise provides the two air forces an opportunity to conduct advanced fighter training while further strengthening operational understanding and defence cooperation between India and Japan.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. SLINEX-26 is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and which country?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Maldives
- D. Indonesia

Answer: B. Sri Lanka

2. Where is the 13th edition of SLINEX-26 being conducted?

- A. Kochi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Visakhapatnam
- D. Chennai

Answer: C. Visakhapatnam

3. Which Indian Navy ship participating in SLINEX-26 is an indigenous Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette?

- A. INS Jyoti
- B. INS Kavaratti
- C. INS Vikrant
- D. INS Chennai

Answer: B. INS Kavaratti

4. The Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) primarily operates which aircraft for its aerobatic displays?

- A. Tejas
- B. Hawk Mk 132
- C. Su-30MKI
- D. MiG-29

Answer: B. Hawk Mk 132

5. The keel-laying ceremony of the first Next Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV) was held at:

- A. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata
- B. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai
- C. Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi
- D. Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam

Answer: C. Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi

6. Alfred Tyrone Cooke received the Vir Chakra for his role in which war?

- A. 1947–48 India-Pakistan War
- B. 1962 India-China War
- C. 1965 India-Pakistan War
- D. 1971 India-Pakistan War

Answer: C. 1965 India-Pakistan War

7. During Exercise Veer Guardian 26, who led the Tejas formation flight as “Eagle One”?

- A. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh
- B. Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh
- C. General Takehiro Morita
- D. Air Chief Marshal R. K. S. Bhadauria

Answer: A. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh

8. Exercise Veer Guardian 26 is being conducted between the Indian Air Force and which country's air force?

- A. France
- B. Japan
- C. Australia
- D. United Kingdom

Answer: B. Japan

9. SCALP Missile Is Developed By

- A. UK**
- B. France**
- C. Israel**
- D. USA**

ANSWER: B

10. Range of Sagarika Missile Is

- A. 500 km
- B. 600 km
- C. 700 km
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

11. India Purchased Jaguar Fighter Aircraft from

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

ANSWER: C

12. At Which of The Following Places Is The Headquarters Of A Naval Command NOT Located?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Goa
- C. Kochi
- D. Visakhapatnam

ANSWER: B

13. M61 Vulcan Is A

- A. Six- barrelled Gatling gun
- B. Heavy machine gun
- C. Pistol
- D. Rocket

ANSWER: A

14. Hq Of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Is At

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

ANSWER: D

15. Lusaka Is the Capital Of

- A. Zambia
- B. Venezuela
- C. United Kingdom
- D. Uganda

ANSWER: A

16. "My Life, My Mission" Book Is Written By

- A. Baba Ramdev
- B. Venkaiah Naidu
- C. Meenakshi Lekhi
- D. Dr. Bibek Debroy

ANSWER: A

17. Rashtriya Raksha University Is In

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. Mumbai
- C. New Delhi
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

18. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Is A Project Of

- A. Brazil

- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

19. Which Is Not A Member Of SAARC?

- A. Afghanistan
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Bhutan
- D. Madagascar

ANSWER: D

20. THAAD System Designed and Manufactured By

- A. Lockheed Martin
- B. Almaz – Antey
- C. Raytheon
- D. MBDA/ Eurosam

ANSWER: A