

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2026

- The 18th edition of the India - Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT, an annual platoon-level exercise conducted alternately in India and Mongolia, commenced today at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- The exercise is scheduled from 21 September to 03 October 2026. The last edition of the exercise was conducted at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in May–June 2025.
- The Indian Army and the Mongolian Armed Forces are represented by 45 personnel each. The exercise aims to enhance the joint military capability of both sides to undertake Counter-Insurgency Operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under the United Nations Mandate.
- The joint training will focus on tactical-level operations, exchange of best practices, refinement of operational drills and enhancement of interoperability between the two armies.
- Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2026 will further enhance defence cooperation between India and Mongolia and reinforce the longstanding bonds of friendship and mutual trust between the two friendly nations.



MoD inks Rs 586 Cr Contract To Procure Auxiliary Power Units

- The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Accurate Industrial Controls Private Limited to procure Auxiliary Power Units (APUs) for T-72 and T-90 Tanks at a cost of Rs 586 crore.
- The APU is an alternate source for generation of electric power for fire control system, firing circuit, gun stabilisation system and other ancillaries of the tank.
- The induction of indigenously developed APUs will further strengthen the operational readiness, reliability and sustainability of the Indian Army's Mechanised Formations.
- This procurement is a significant step towards indigenisation of critical sub-systems of Armoured Platforms and demonstrates industry led research and development (Make-II). This also shows the effectiveness of the mechanism in translating indigenous innovation into production and induction.



ISRO's Advanced Radar Centre

- ISRO has announced the establishment of an Advanced Radar Research Centre at Chandrapur near Guwahati under Project NETRA, marking Assam's entry into India's strategic space surveillance network.

- Alongside this, Adani Power Limited's ₹48,000 crore ultra-supercritical thermal power project in Dhubri signals a transformative phase for Assam's industrial and energy sectors.
- The Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma described the radar centre as a landmark milestone. He emphasised that the facility, part of ISRO's Network for Space Object Tracking and Analysis (NETRA), will strengthen India's ability to track satellites, rocket bodies, and orbital debris, thereby protecting vital national space assets.
- The centre will be spread across approximately 67 acres, with the Assam government allocating 200 bighas of land for the project.
- Project NETRA is ISRO's flagship program for Space Situational Awareness. It integrates radar and optical telescope facilities to monitor orbital traffic, assess collision risks, and ensure safer space operations.
- Estimated at ₹48,000 crore, this is among the largest single investments in Assam's industrial sector. The project will generate employment for around 25,000 people during construction and create approximately 5,000 permanent jobs once operational.



Global Campaign For UNSC Seat In 2029–30

- Australia has formally launched its diplomatic campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for the 2029-30 term, with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong emphasising priorities such as climate action, AI regulation, and middle-power diplomacy.

- The election will take place in June 2028, requiring a two-thirds majority of the UN General Assembly. Albanese highlighted that Australia's last term on the UNSC ended in 2014, and the new campaign represents a return to the Council at a time of global uncertainty.
- He underlined that Australia punches above its weight internationally and can influence responses to pressing challenges such as climate change and artificial intelligence. He also noted strong support expected from Pacific island nations and Southeast Asia, citing Australia's close diplomatic ties in the region.
- Foreign Minister Penny Wong reinforced the candidature by describing Australia as an active, ambitious middle power with a practical contribution to make to international peace and security. She emphasised that Australia would defend the UN Charter, protect civilians, and amplify the voices of small and mid-sized states.
- Australia's campaign platform is built on three pillars. First, advancing global regulation of artificial intelligence and digital safety, drawing on domestic legislative achievements such as social media age limits and ethical guardrails for AI deployment.
- Second, prioritising climate resilience, particularly for Pacific island states, by advocating adaptation funding and stronger international commitments. Third, reinforcing multilateralism and rules-based international law to safeguard trade corridors and regional security amid intensifying major-power competition.
- The UNSC comprises ten non-permanent members, with five elected annually. Australia and Finland are the nominees from the Western European and Others Group for the 2029-30 term. Other regional groups including Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean will also nominate candidates.



IAF Exercise Tarang Shakti

- The Indian Air Force will host the second edition of Exercise Tarang Shakti at Jodhpur in Rajasthan, bringing together air forces from multiple countries for joint aerial operations, tactical training and interoperability drills. The exercise is expected to be held from September 26 to October 12.
- In a post on X, the Indian Air Force said, "Exercise Tarang Shakti is back," describing the 2026 edition as India's premier multinational air exercise and saying global air forces will come together for joint tactical manoeuvres.
- According to officials, foreign nations will join the drills with a wide range of aerial assets. The United States is set to deploy two to three F-35 fifth-generation combat aircraft, France will participate with its Rafale fighters, and the United Arab Emirates will deploy its F-16 fighter jets. Additionally, several participating countries will contribute support assets, including transport aircraft.
- The mega air exercise comes immediately on the heels of the bilateral Indo-Japan air combat exercise, "Veer Guardian," which was also hosted at the Jodhpur airbase. The Indian Air Force will field its major frontline operational platforms for the drills, including Rafale and Sukhoi-30 fighter jets.
- Defence officials added that IAF support platforms, including early warning airborne and control (AEW&C) aircraft, transport planes, and air-to-air refuelling tankers, will also take part in the exercise.
- Announcing the 2026 edition of the exercise, the media coordination centre of the Indian Air Force wrote in a post on X that the exercise will feature global Air Forces together for high-octane joint tactical manoeuvres.
- "Exercise Tarang Shakti is back. Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 returns as India's premier multinational air exercise, bringing global Air Forces together for high-octane joint tactical manoeuvres. Stay tuned as elite aviators take to the skies!" the post read.



Lockheed Martin Bags \$1.2 Billion US Army Deal

- Lockheed Martin said on Monday it had secured a contract worth up to \$1.2 billion from the US Army to produce the Increment 2 variant of the Precision Strike Missile (PrSM).
- PrSM is the Army's next-generation long-range precision strike weapon, designed to replace the Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMS.
- Lockheed Martin said the award follows a second successful flight test of the missile's Increment 2 variant, which demonstrated its ability to engage moving maritime targets.
- The contract comes as Lockheed ramps up production of the Precision Strike Missile amid rising demand for long-range strike weapons.
- In March, the defense giant signed a seven-year agreement with the US Department of War to increase annual production capacity to 550 missiles, building on a \$4.94 billion Army contract awarded last year and following the weapon's first combat use during Operation Epic Fury.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2026 is being conducted between India and which country?

- A. Japan
- B. Mongolia
- C. Vietnam
- D. Kazakhstan

Answer: B. Mongolia

2. Which edition of Exercise Nomadic Elephant is being conducted in 2026?

- A. 16th
- B. 17th
- C. 18th
- D. 19th

Answer: C. 18th

3. Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2026 is being held at which location?

- A. Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- B. Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
- C. Leh, Ladakh
- D. Gangtok, Sikkim

Answer: B. Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand

4. The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹586 crore contract for Auxiliary Power Units for which tanks?

- A. Arjun and Bhishma
- B. T-55 and T-62
- C. T-72 and T-90
- D. K-9 Vajra and T-90

Answer: C. T-72 and T-90

5. Which company will supply the Auxiliary Power Units under the ₹586 crore contract?

- A. Bharat Electronics Limited
- B. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

- C. Accurate Industrial Controls Private Limited
- D. Larsen & Toubro

Answer: C. Accurate Industrial Controls Private Limited

6. Project NETRA is associated with which organisation?

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

Answer: B. ISRO

7. What is the primary purpose of Project NETRA?

- A. Deep-sea exploration
- B. Space Situational Awareness
- C. Development of fighter aircraft
- D. Weather forecasting

Answer: B. Space Situational Awareness

8. Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 is scheduled to be hosted by the Indian Air Force at:

- A. Jodhpur
- B. Pune
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Chennai

Answer: A. Jodhpur

9. Which aircraft is the United States expected to deploy for Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026?

- A. F-16
- B. F-22 Raptor
- C. F-35
- D. B-2 Spirit

Answer: C. F-35

10. The Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) is intended to replace which US Army missile system?

- A. Patriot
- B. ATACMS

- C. Hellfire
- D. Stinger

Answer: B. ATACMS

11. 'Ex KOMODO' Hosted By

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: D

12. Operational Range of Rudram-1 Is

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

ANSWER: B

13. Army Air Defence College Is In

- A. Gopalpur, Odisha
- B. Pune, M.H.
- C. Chennai, T.N.
- D. None

ANSWER: A

14. "Sarvatra Izzat-o-Iqbal" Is The Motto Of

- A. Dogra Scouts
- B. Sikkim Scouts
- C. Regiment Of Artillery
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

15. Prahaar Missile Manufactured By

- A. MDL
- B. BDL
- C. CSL
- D. DRDO

ANSWER: B

16. Thales Group Is A Company of ____

- A. UK
- B. USA
- C. Germany
- D. France

ANSWER: D

17. Which Of The Following Is Not The Command Location Of The Indian Army?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Lucknow
- C. Pune
- D. Jaipur

ANSWER: A

18. Which Is The 2 Star Rank In The Indian Army?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Major General
- C. Lt Gen
- D. Colonel

ANSWER: B

19. Bratislava Is The Capital

- A. Oman
- B. Serbia
- C. UAE
- D. Slovakia

ANSWER: D

20. "Courts of India" Book Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. CJI Ranjan Gogoi (Former)
- C. Roopa Pai
- D. Peter Baker

ANSWER: B