

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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DRDO Inks First High-value Deep Tech Project Agreement

- Under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme, DRDO has signed the first high-value deep tech project agreement with the Industry (Start-up) Zero mK India Private Limited towards collaborative effort for indigenous development of a 20 mK Dilution Refrigerator for Quantum Applications.
- The signing of the agreement took place between Director, TDF and Zero mK India Private Limited, Alwar, Rajasthan in New Delhi.
- It is the first high value agreement under the Rs 500 crore corpus which was earlier approved by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh for deep-tech and cutting-edge projects.
- Dilution refrigerators are specialised cryogenic systems capable of achieving extremely low temperatures in the millikelvin range. Such ultra-low-temperature environment is essential for the operation and testing of several quantum computing platforms and associated quantum technologies.
- The indigenous development of 20 mK-class dilution refrigerator aligns with the National Quantum Mission and strengthens India's capabilities in quantum technology, advanced cryogenics and strategic technologies, contributing towards a self-reliant, quantum-ready ecosystem.
- This will contribute towards reducing dependence on imported cryogenic infrastructure and strengthening the domestic quantum technology ecosystem.



Culmination of 65th Edition of Subroto Cup

- The 65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2026 concluded at the Dr. BR Ambedkar Stadium, where Minerva Public School CISCE, Mohali, defeated MIC EMHSS (Maqdoomiya Islamic Cultural English Medium Higher Secondary School), Kerala, by a score of 3–2 to claim the Junior Boys (U-17) championship title.
- MIC EMHSS mounted a late offensive, narrowing the deficit with a goal in the 65th minute. Despite sustained pressure from the Kerala team in the closing stages of the match, the MPS Mohali defence held firm to secure the 3–2 victory at the final whistle.
- The winners received **Rs 5,00,000 (Five Lakh)** while the runner up received **Rs 3,00,000 (Three Lakh)** as prize money.



Chowgule Shipbuilding Delivers Second Indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle ICG

- India's maritime manufacturing sector has achieved a significant milestone with the handover of the second indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle, designated as ICG H-562, to the Indian Coast Guard.
- The vessel was constructed by the shipbuilding division of Chowgule and Company, based out of Goa, and follows the delivery of the first hovercraft in the series, ICG H-561, which was handed over just three months prior in June 2026.
- Both hovercraft were constructed, tested, and delivered strictly within the contractual timelines stipulated by the authorities, demonstrating exceptional efficiency in domestic vessel production.
- During extensive trial runs, the vessels exceeded their contracted maximum speed of 45 knots, showcasing superior operational performance and engineering standards for the coastal security force.
- The project originates from a commercial contract awarded by the Ministry of Defence under the Buy (Indian) category for six 8,000TD Air Cushion Vehicles, valued at approximately ₹38,744 Lakhs (\$40 million).
- The delivery of ICG H-562 showcases the strategic importance of indigenous innovation, technical collaboration, and local manufacturing prowess in safeguarding national waters and advancing a robust maritime ecosystem.



GRSE Clears ₹2,896 Crore Investment For New Raichak Shipyard

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), one of India's leading warship and commercial vessel builders, has approved a capital budgetary outlay of ₹2,896 crore for the construction of a major greenfield shipyard at Raichak in West Bengal.
- The investment, equivalent to nearly ₹29,000 lakh, represents one of the most significant infrastructure expansion decisions undertaken by the company in recent years.
- The approval was granted by the company's Board of Directors during its 423rd Board meeting held on 21 September 2026. The decision marks an important milestone in GRSE's long-term strategy to increase shipbuilding capacity and strengthen its position in both military and civilian maritime sectors.
- Industry observers note that greater commercial shipbuilding capacity could enable GRSE to diversify revenue streams and reduce dependence on government contracts over the long term.
- The approved investment of ₹2,896 crore exceeds earlier estimates associated with the company's expansion plans, highlighting the scale and ambition of the proposed facility.



INS Sudarshini Reaches Alexandria, Egypt During Lokayan 26

- The Indian Navy's sail training vessel INS Sudarshini reached the historic Egyptian port city of Alexandria on 23 September 2026 as part of its ongoing

Lokayan 26 transoceanic expedition. This marks the ship's second visit to Alexandria during the current deployment.

- 10-Month Transoceanic Expedition
- Lokayan 26 began from Kochi on 20 January 2026. During the 10-month voyage, INS Sudarshini is scheduled to cover nearly 22,000 nautical miles, visiting 18 ports across 13 countries.
- The three-masted barque has sailed through the Arabian Sea, Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea, while also transiting the Suez Canal. During its deployment, the ship participated in the Escale à Sète maritime festival in France.
- Historic Atlantic Crossing
- One of the major milestones of Lokayan 26 was INS Sudarshini's first-ever Atlantic crossing. The vessel reached Antigua on 27 May 2026 following a 19-day voyage from Cape Verde.
- During this passage, the ship crossed the 10,000-nautical-mile mark since beginning its journey from Kochi.
- INS Sudarshini subsequently sailed towards the Azores and Portugal. Its arrival at Lisbon on 22 August 2026 represented its 15th port visit within seven months.
- Training and Seamanship
- The expedition is providing naval trainees with extensive practical experience in long-distance ocean navigation and traditional seamanship.
- The Mediterranean leg of the journey has further enhanced their skills in open-sea manoeuvring, sail handling and traditional sailing techniques.
- Such training enables personnel to gain hands-on exposure to the challenges associated with extended deployments at sea.
- Maritime Cooperation with Egypt
- Upon reaching Alexandria, INS Sudarshini was received by Rear Admiral Mohamed Abdel Aziz, Commander of Alexandria Naval Base, along with representatives of the Embassy of India.
- The Alexandria port call includes courtesy calls, cross-deck visits and professional interactions with the Egyptian Navy. These activities are intended to facilitate professional exchanges and further strengthen maritime relations between India and Egypt.
- Lokayan 26 and India's Maritime Outreach
- Lokayan 26 reflects the Indian Navy's focus on professional training, maritime outreach and strengthening relationships with partner countries.
- Throughout the expedition, INS Sudarshini has acted as a floating ambassador of India's maritime heritage, carrying the message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and India's maritime vision of MAHASAGAR.

- MAHASAGAR stands for Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.
- According to Vivek Lohia, Managing Director of Jupiter Wagons, this project will not only increase the country's own defense production capacity, but will also create local business and employment opportunities.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. DRDO signed its first high-value deep-tech project agreement under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) with which company?

- A. Bharat Dynamics Limited
- B. Zero mK India Pvt. Ltd.
- C. Tata Advanced Systems
- D. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Answer: B. Zero mK India Pvt. Ltd.

2. The indigenous dilution refrigerator being developed under the DRDO-TDF project is designed to achieve temperatures of:

- A. 2 Kelvin
- B. 200 millikelvin
- C. 20 millikelvin
- D. 0.2 Kelvin

Answer: C. 20 millikelvin

3. Which school won the Junior Boys U-17 title in the 65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2026?

- A. Army Public School, Pune
- B. Minerva Public School, CISCE Mohali
- C. MIC EMHSS, Kerala
- D. Sainik School, Lucknow

Answer: B. Minerva Public School, CISCE Mohali

4. The Indian Coast Guard's second indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV), delivered by Chowgule and Company, was designated:

- A. ICG H-561
- B. ICG H-562
- C. ICG H-563
- D. ICG H-564

Answer: B. ICG H-562

5. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) approved an investment of approximately how much for its greenfield Raichak shipyard in West Bengal?

- A. ₹1,896 crore
- B. ₹2,296 crore
- C. ₹2,896 crore
- D. ₹3,896 crore

Answer: C. ₹2,896 crore

6. What was the theme of World Maritime Day 2026–27?

- A. Green Shipping for a Sustainable Future
- B. From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence
- C. Maritime Safety for Global Growth
- D. Sustainable Oceans for Future Generations

Answer: B. From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence

7. Bhikaji Cama unfurled an early Indian national flag at the International Socialist Congress held in Stuttgart in which year?

- A. 1905
- B. 1906
- C. 1907
- D. 1908

Answer: C. 1907

8. Who was announced as the recipient of the National Lata Mangeskar Award 2026?

- A. Shantanu Moitra
- B. A. R. Rahman
- C. Vishal Bhardwaj
- D. Amit Trivedi

Answer: A. Shantanu Moitra

9. Who was re-elected President of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA) for 2026–27?

- A. Jayant Mammen Mathew
- B. Rajat Sharma
- C. Arnab Goswami
- D. Sudhir Chaudhary

Answer: B. Rajat Sharma

10. Who founded the Soorya Festival in 1977 and was a former ISRO scientist?

- A. T. N. Seshan
- B. Soorya Krishnamoorthy
- C. G. Madhavan Nair
- D. K. Radhakrishnan

Answer: B. Soorya Krishnamoorthy

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

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

ANSWER: A

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

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

ANSWER: D

13. Regimental Center Of PUNJAB REGIMENT Is In

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

ANSWER: D

14. India Purchased IAI Searcher UAV from

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

ANSWER: D

15. KHARTOUM Is The Capital Of

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

ANSWER: D

16. "A Promised Land" Book Is Written By

- A. Barack Obama
- B. Meena Iyer
- C. Amish Tripathi
- D. PS Sreedharan Pillai

ANSWER: A

17. HELINA Missile Has A Maximum Range Of

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

ANSWER: A

18. "We Protect" Is The Motto Of

- A. ICG

- B. IAF
- C. Indian Army
- D. BSF

ANSWER: A

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

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

ANSWER: D

20. India Purchased MiG-21 from

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

ANSWER: D