

Daily Current Affairs

05 October 2026

INS Sahyadri And Kulish Conclude Participation In AIME 2026

- Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Kulish concluded their participation in the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME 2026), conducted in the Philippines under the theme 'Anchored in Trust, United at Sea'.
- The exercise provided opportunities for professional interaction, operational coordination and maritime training through the Harbour and Sea Phases.
- The Opening Ceremony was followed by the Harbour Phase, comprising a range of engagements including, Key Leaders' Engagements, sporting events, Yoga, Community Interaction and Subject Matter Expert Exchanges.
- During the Sea Phase, INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish participated in coordinated maritime exercises including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Visit-Board-Search-Seizure (VBSS) and Underway Replenishment drills.
- The participation of INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish reaffirmed the Indian Navy's continued commitment to engagement with partner maritime forces, in consonance with India's Act East Policy and the vision of **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)**.



Indian Navy To Commission INS Samarthak And INS Mangrol

- The Indian Navy is preparing to commission two new vessels this month, INS Samarthak and INS Mangrol, in a move aimed at strengthening indigenous weapons testing capabilities and enhancing anti-submarine operations close to India's coastline.
- The induction comes at a time of growing underwater military activity in the Indian Ocean region and follows Pakistan's continued expansion of its submarine arm through the acquisition of eight Chinese-origin Hangor-class submarines.
- Pakistan recently conducted an anti-ship cruise missile firing from PNS Hangor, underlining its long-standing reliance on submarines as a key sea-denial capability against India.
- INS Samarthak, built by Larsen & Toubro, is the Navy's first Multi-Purpose Vessel and the lead ship of a two-vessel class.
- The vessel has been designed primarily as a dedicated trials and evaluation platform, enabling the Navy to test indigenous weapons, sensors and anti-submarine warfare systems without diverting frontline combatants from operational duties.
- INS Mangrol, meanwhile, is the third vessel of the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft series built by Cochin Shipyard Limited. Once

commissioned, it will become the seventh vessel from the planned fleet of 16 shallow-water anti-submarine platforms entering service.



Lockheed Martin Signals Major India Manufacturing Boost

- Lockheed Martin has indicated that it is prepared to significantly expand its manufacturing footprint in India if its proposal is selected for the Indian Air Force's medium transport aircraft acquisition program, a competition valued at approximately ₹87,150 crore.
- The American aerospace giant is competing for India's requirement for 60 medium transport aircraft, for which a formal tender was issued in August.
- Five Indian firms are participating in the contest and are expected to partner with overseas aircraft manufacturers. These include TATA Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), Mahindra Group, Adani Defence & Aerospace, HAL and Reliance Defence.
- Lockheed Martin is pursuing the opportunity alongside TASL, building on an established industrial partnership that already produces components and empennages for the C-130J Super Hercules in India.
- According to Tenney, the long-standing collaboration has created a strong manufacturing base for C-130J components and assemblies, and the company plans to broaden that capability through additional production activities within India.

- That approach could eventually provide the service with a common fleet of 72 C-130J aircraft, simplifying training, maintenance and logistics while enhancing operational flexibility.
- The Indian Air Force's current fleet of 12 C-130Js has accumulated more than 58,000 flying hours and has been employed extensively in demanding operational environments.



IAF Chief Rules Out Separate Drone Force

- Air Chief Marshal AP Singh has ruled out the creation of a separate drone force for the Indian Air Force, saying unmanned systems must remain integrated with the service's wider combat structure.
- Speaking ahead of Air Force Day, Singh said drones did not represent a revolutionary shift for the IAF. Instead, he described their growing employment as an evolutionary development within capabilities that the force has maintained for decades.
- The IAF is expanding the number of drones and loitering munitions in its inventory, while also broadening the range of systems available for operational use.
- However, Singh said the expansion would take place within the existing force structure rather than through an independent drone arm.
- He stressed that drones and loitering munitions must be employed alongside aircraft, conventional weapons and other combat capabilities to generate the intended operational effect.

- According to the IAF chief, separating unmanned systems from the wider weapons mix would undermine coordinated operations. He said one class of weapon could not be operated independently in one area while another was employed separately elsewhere.
- The IAF's approach is therefore centred on integrated operations, in which drones, loitering munitions and manned platforms work together under the same operational framework.
- Singh's remarks indicate that the force views unmanned systems as a growing component of air power, rather than as a standalone capability requiring a separate command structure.



Akash Air Defence System Reaches Turkmenistan

- India's indigenous Akash air defence missile system has entered Turkmenistan, adding an Indian-made surface-to-air weapon to a country that is also fielding Chinese air defence systems. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh confirmed that India has exported Akash to Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, following Armenia as the system's first foreign customer.
- Singh said Armenia had acquired multiple Akash batteries and that India subsequently exported the system to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. He described Akash as one of India's defence export success stories and said production of the missile system had stabilised, while highlighting its ability to deal with high-velocity aerial targets.
- The Turkmenistan export gives the Indian system a place in a Central Asian country's increasingly diverse air-defence inventory. Turkmenistan has also

inducted Chinese-made systems, including the short-range FK-2000, while the FD-2000, KS-1A and FM-90 have been displayed as part of its air-defence formation.

- Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Akash is a short-range surface-to-air missile system designed to protect vulnerable areas and points against aerial threats. The system is configured on mobile platforms and can operate in either group or autonomous mode. It also has built-in electronic counter-countermeasures, or ECCM, intended to improve its resistance to electronic jamming.
- According to Bharat Dynamics Limited, the Akash has an operating range of 4.5 km to 25 km and can engage targets at altitudes ranging from 100 metres to 20 km. The missile is about 5.87 metres long, weighs around 710 kg and uses command guidance. Its listed target set includes helicopters, fighter aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles.
- The weapon system is designed to engage multiple targets simultaneously and is fully automatic, with the overall system built for mobility and rapid deployment. Official Indian government information has also described Akash as capable of providing short-range air-defence cover against aircraft, helicopters and UAVs.
- The Akash export comes as Turkmenistan continues to add newer air-defence equipment from different suppliers. At an Independence Day military parade in Ashgabat on September 27, eight Chinese-made FK-2000 vehicles were displayed for the first time publicly in the country.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which two Indian Naval Ships participated in the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) 2026?

- A) INS Trishul and INS Kolkata
- B) INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish
- C) INS Chennai and INS Shivalik
- D) INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya

Answer: B) INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish

2. What was the theme of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) 2026?

- A) Together for Maritime Security
- B) United for Peace at Sea
- C) Anchored in Trust, United at Sea
- D) Secure Seas, Strong Nations

Answer: C) Anchored in Trust, United at Sea

3. INS Samarthak, built by Larsen & Toubro, is the Indian Navy's first:

- A) Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette
- B) Multi-Purpose Vessel
- C) Guided Missile Destroyer
- D) Offshore Patrol Vessel

Answer: B) Multi-Purpose Vessel

4. INS Mangrol belongs to which class of vessels?

- A) Mahe-class
- B) Shivalik-class
- C) Nilgiri-class
- D) Kamorta-class

Answer: A) Mahe-class

5. Which Indian company is partnering with Lockheed Martin for the C-130J manufacturing activities in India?

- A) HAL
- B) Mahindra Group
- C) Tata Advanced Systems Limited
- D) Reliance Defence

Answer: C) Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)

6. Who ruled out the creation of a separate drone force for the Indian Air Force?

- A) Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari
- B) Air Chief Marshal AP Singh
- C) General Upendra Dwivedi
- D) Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

Answer: B) Air Chief Marshal AP Singh

7. Which country became the latest reported recipient of India's indigenous Akash air defence system?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Armenia
- C) Turkmenistan
- D) Indonesia

Answer: C) Turkmenistan

8. The Akash air defence system has been developed by which organisation?

- A) Bharat Electronics Limited
- B) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- C) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- D) Indian Space Research Organisation

Answer: C) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

9. Which Country Is Not The Member Of QUAD?

- A. USA
- B. India
- C. Japan
- D. Russia

ANSWER: D

10. Dhanush (howitzer) Manufactured By

- A. L & T
- B. Boeing
- C. ISRO
- D. Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited

ANSWER: D

11. Where Is The Hq Of The Eastern Command of The IAF?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam

- C. Shillong
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: C

12. PVSM Stands For

- A. Param Vishisht Seva Medal
- B. Param Vishisht Sainik Medal
- C. Param Vishishthtm Seva Medal
- D. None

ANSWER: A

13. Canberra Is The Capital Of

- A. Armenia
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Australia

ANSWER: D

14. "Broken Wing" Book Is Written By

- A. Sarojini Naidu
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru
- C. Maithili Sharan Gupt
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

15. Israeli 'Non-Line of Sight (NLOS) Is A

- A. Ballistic Missile
- B. ATGM
- C. Helicopter
- D. Tank

ANSWER: B

16. Chairman Of NITI Aayog Is

- A. Rajiv Kumar
- B. Rakesh Asthana
- C. R Hari Kumar
- D. Narendra Modi

ANSWER: D

17. Blaser R93 Tactical Is Rifle Of

- A. Oman
- B. Qatar
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Germany

ANSWER: D

18. Leclerc Is A

- A. Tank
- B. Missile
- C. Gun
- D. Rocket

ANSWER: A

19. Sena Medal Award Is Given To The Soldiers Of

- A. Indian Army
- B. IAF
- C. Indian Navy
- D. ICG

ANSWER: A

20. In The 2026 Global Firepower Military Strength Rankings, Which Position Did Russia Claim?

- A. Fifth
- B. Second
- C. Fourth
- D. Sixth

ANSWER: B