

Daily Current Affairs

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India Hosts First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting

- India is hosting the first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on 13 October 2026. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is chairing the meeting, attended by delegations from all seven BIMSTEC member states.
- Its agenda covers regional cooperation against terrorism, transnational organized crime, narcotics radicalization, trafficking, illicit financial flows and cyber threats.
- The seven participating member states are **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand**. Bangladesh's Home Minister, Salahuddin Ahmed, is not attending; a delegation led by Home Affairs Senior Secretary Manzur Morshed Chowdhury is representing Bangladesh.
- BIMSTEC is the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, a regional organisation promoting cooperation among countries around the Bay of Bengal. It was established on 6 June 1997.
- The meeting's security agenda includes cross-border threats and criminal activities that can involve multiple jurisdictions. Transnational organised crime refers to serious criminal activity conducted across national borders. Illicit financial flows involve the movement of money across borders in ways that are unlawful or improperly recorded.



Indian Navy Set To Commission Samarthak

- The Indian Navy is set to commission Samarthak at Naval Base, Karwar on 16 Oct 2026. Built by M/s **Larsen and Toubro Ltd** under the Government of India's Make in India initiative, Samarthak is the first of four **Multi-Purpose Vessels** being inducted into the Indian Navy.
- The commissioning will mark another significant milestone in India's drive towards defence self-reliance and she will form an important component of the Navy's future and ideal "utility" ship for strategically important operations.
- Designed primarily for maritime surveillance and patrol, Samarthak is also capable of undertaking Low Intensity Maritime Operations, Target Deployment & Trials Platform, Unmanned/ autonomous System Mothership, HADR, conversion to a limited hospital ship and fighting for salvage operations.
- Her integrated combat suite combines indigenous sensors, weapons and electronic systems specifically optimized for operations in the challenging maritime environment.
- The crest of Samarthak, features the formidable Indian elephant emerging from the waves, symbolising strength, intelligence and agility.
- The ship's motto: "विजयार्थम् एकनिष्ठता" — Victory is Our Sole Aim.



DRDO to Lead Thematic Session on ‘Semiconductors & Next-Gen Chips’

- DRDO will spearhead a thematic session on ‘**Semiconductors and Next-Gen Chips**’ during Emerging Science, Technology & Innovation Conclave (ESTIC-2026) scheduled to be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi from October 27 to 29, 2026.
- The conclave is being jointly organised by 12 ministries/departments under the guidance of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.
- It is a significant national initiative aimed at advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 and strengthening Aatmanirbharta through science, technology and innovation.
- The DRDO session will bring together eminent leaders from the industry, academia, indigenous chip-development ecosystem and defence electronics.
- The talks will explore key developments in semiconductor technologies, purpose-built AI system-on-chips, intelligence at the silicon edge and the evolving microprocessor landscape.
- The speakers with diverse expertise will enable a substantive dialogue on semiconductor fabrication, chip design, AI computing, indigenous semiconductor platforms, research and development, and strategic and defence applications.

- The Outreach Stall at ESTIC 2026 will provide a platform to showcase the Ministry's key initiatives, achievements, research programmes, and contributions to science, technology, and innovation.



Raksha Mantri Holds Bilateral Talks With Ministers of Czech Republic Indian Army Launches 'Bharat Rice' for Troop

- Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting with 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade of Czech Republic Mr Karel Havlíček in New Delhi on October 13, 2026.
- During the interaction, both leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of defence industrial cooperation between the two countries.
- While the two sides welcomed the ongoing collaboration and successful establishment of various joint ventures, they agreed to further expand this cooperation, including under the aegis of India-Czech Joint Defence Committee to promote '**Make-in-India**' and '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**'.
- The two leaders also discussed the ongoing issues of peace & security and acknowledged the need for greater cooperation to maintain regional stability. They reiterated that the partnership between India and the Czech Republic is based on historical & cultural ties, and shared values of mutual trust & respect.



450 Nagastra-1R Loitering Munitions Delivered To Indian Army

- Indian Army has significantly strengthened its short-range precision-strike capability after receiving 450 Nagastra 1R loitering munitions from **Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL)**, marking the largest single-batch delivery of such systems to the service.
- Developed in India, the Nagastra-1R is a loitering munition designed for precision attacks against enemy targets. Unlike conventional kamikaze drones, it can abort a mission mid-flight and be safely recovered if engagement is no longer required.
- The acquisition was made under the Army's emergency procurement route following extensive technical assessments and live operational trials. Four companies participated in the evaluation process, but SDAL was the only manufacturer to meet all required operational criteria.
- The induction comes as loitering munitions assume a growing role in modern warfare, providing commanders with a rapid-response precision-strike option while reducing risk to frontline personnel. Their importance has been underscored by recent operational experiences, including Operation Sindoor.
- The Nagastra-1R has been tailored specifically to meet the Indian Army's short-range operational requirements. A key feature is its ability to conduct kamikaze-style attacks while retaining an abort-and-recovery capability, improving flexibility and reducing unnecessary losses of equipment.

- The delivery of 450 Nagastra-1R systems represents a significant milestone for India's defence-industrial base and further strengthens the Army's ability to conduct precise, intelligence-led strikes at short range while maintaining operational flexibility and cost efficiency.



Jio Unveils Ambitious 1,600-Satellite Vision To Expand Connectivity

- Reliance Jio has outlined an ambitious space-based connectivity roadmap, unveiling its proposed 'Sovereign Satellite Connectivity' initiative at India Mobile Congress 2026 in New Delhi.
- The plan centres on a constellation of around 1,600 Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites supported by 23 ground stations across India, designed to complement the company's existing mobile and fibre networks rather than replace them.
- Jio aims to extend connectivity to locations where conventional telecom infrastructure remains difficult or uneconomical to deploy. Key target areas include remote villages, islands, border outposts and maritime regions.
- The proposed network is intended to provide coverage across land and sea, with Jio outlining a long-term goal of reaching more than 6,00,000 villages through a hybrid satellite-and-terrestrial communications system.
- The company has also highlighted potential use cases beyond consumer connectivity, including enterprise services, remote industrial sites, aviation, maritime operations, government applications, defence communications and disaster response.

- Reports indicate Jio is targeting an initial test flight in 2027 before moving towards a broader deployment programme, subject to regulatory approvals, infrastructure development and execution timelines.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. BIMSTEC was established on which date?

- A) 15 August 1947
- B) 6 June 1997
- C) 26 January 2000
- D) 10 December 1995

Answer: B) 6 June 1997

2. Who chaired the first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting hosted by India in October 2026?

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Rajnath Singh
- C) Amit Shah
- D) S. Jaishankar

Answer: C) Amit Shah

3. Samarthak, scheduled for commissioning on 16 October 2026, belongs to which category of Indian Navy vessels?

- A) Aircraft Carrier
- B) Multi-Purpose Vessel

- C) Nuclear Submarine
- D) Guided-Missile Destroyer

Answer: B) Multi-Purpose Vessel

4. Which company built the Indian Navy's Multi-Purpose Vessel Samarthak?

- A) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- B) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- C) Larsen & Toubro
- D) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

Answer: C) Larsen & Toubro

Q5. Which organisation will lead the thematic session on “Semiconductors and Next-Gen Chips” at ESTIC-2026?

- A) ISRO
- B) DRDO
- C) BARC
- D) CSIR

Answer: B) DRDO

6. Where will the Emerging Science, Technology & Innovation Conclave (ESTIC-2026) be held?

- A) Pragati Maidan, Mumbai
- B) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- C) Vigyan Bhawan, Bengaluru
- D) Hyderabad International Convention Centre

Answer: B) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Q7. Who represented the Czech Republic in the bilateral defence industrial cooperation meeting with Rajnath Singh on 13 October 2026?

- A) Petr Pavel
- B) Andrej Babiš
- C) Karel Havlíček
- D) Jan Lipavský

Answer: C) Karel Havlíček

8. How many Nagastra-1R loitering munitions were delivered to the Indian Army, according to the supplied article?

- A) 150
- B) 250
- C) 350
- D) 450

Answer: D) 450

9. Which company supplied the Nagastra-1R loitering munitions to the Indian Army?

- A) Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited
- B) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- C) Bharat Electronics Limited
- D) Bharat Dynamics Limited

Answer: A) Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited

10. Reliance Jio's proposed Sovereign Satellite Connectivity initiative envisages approximately how many Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites?

- A) 500
- B) 800
- C) 1,200
- D) 1,600

Answer: D) 1,600