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BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise

- The inaugural BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise, being conducted from 30 Oct to 03 Nov 2026, marks a significant milestone in advancing maritime cooperation among the member states of BIMSTEC.
- Bringing together **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand**, the exercise reinforces the shared commitment of member states towards regional security, stability and prosperity in the Bay of Bengal.
- Building upon the outcomes of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit under the theme "**BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient and Open**", the exercise provides a practical framework for enhancing maritime cooperation and operational linkages among participating nations.
- It reflects BIMSTEC's collective resolve towards "**Translating Vision to Action**" by advancing cooperation in areas of mutual maritime interest and strengthening regional security mechanisms.
- The exercise also highlights the strategic importance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the role of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), India's first integrated tri-service command.
- The exercise embodies the spirit of "Shared Seas, Shared Security and Shared Prosperity" and demonstrates regional solidarity in pursuit of peace, stability and sustainable development.



Netanyahu Urges Trump to Strike Iran Immediately

- Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has urged US President Donald Trump to launch fresh military strikes against Iran immediately after Tuesday's US midterm elections, amid concerns in Israel over Washington's continued pursuit of a diplomatic solution with Tehran.
- Trump and Netanyahu held a telephone conversation on Saturday (local time) to discuss the progress of US negotiations with Iran and the possibility of resuming military operations. An Israeli source described the conversation as "tough", while a US source characterised it as "direct".
- Trump described the conversation as "very good" and said that the two leaders had discussed Iran, without providing further details.
- Trump is pursuing parallel diplomatic and military strategies, seeking an agreement to restart peace talks while keeping preparations underway for a possible resumption of major combat operations after the elections.
- Meanwhile, US Vice President JD Vance last week sent a letter to Iran's national security chief Mohsen Rezaei regarding the possibility of restarting negotiations, marking the highest-level US outreach to Tehran in several months.
- Qatari mediators also met Iranian officials on Sunday for the third consecutive day in an effort to facilitate an agreement to resume direct negotiations between Washington and Tehran.

- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said no agreement had been reached so far, stressing that progress depended on Washington responding to Tehran's questions.



Ajit Doval Arrives In Hanoi

- National Security Adviser Ajit Doval arrived in Hanoi on Sunday for an official visit to Vietnam, where he is scheduled to engage with the Vietnamese leadership as part of efforts to advance the Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries.
- The Indian Embassy in Vietnam confirmed Doval's arrival and stated that his discussions would be held in line with the upgraded bilateral framework that now guides relations between New Delhi and Hanoi.
- The visit comes months after India and Vietnam agreed to elevate their relationship to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during Vietnamese President To Lam's visit to India in May 2026, marking a significant step in the strengthening of bilateral ties.
- During that visit, Doval called on President To Lam, with both sides discussing measures to deepen the multifaceted comprehensive strategic partnership and expand cooperation across a wide range of sectors.
- The two nations also welcomed the effective implementation of the Joint Vision Statement on **India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030**, which continues to serve as a roadmap for expanding defence cooperation.

- Building on this foundation, both sides agreed to intensify engagement in traditional and emerging areas of defence collaboration.
- These include defence policy dialogue, joint military exercises, staff talks, joint research, co-production of advanced defence technologies, increased naval and air force exchanges, peacekeeping cooperation, information sharing, hydrography, defence exhibitions, capacity building and defence industrial partnerships.

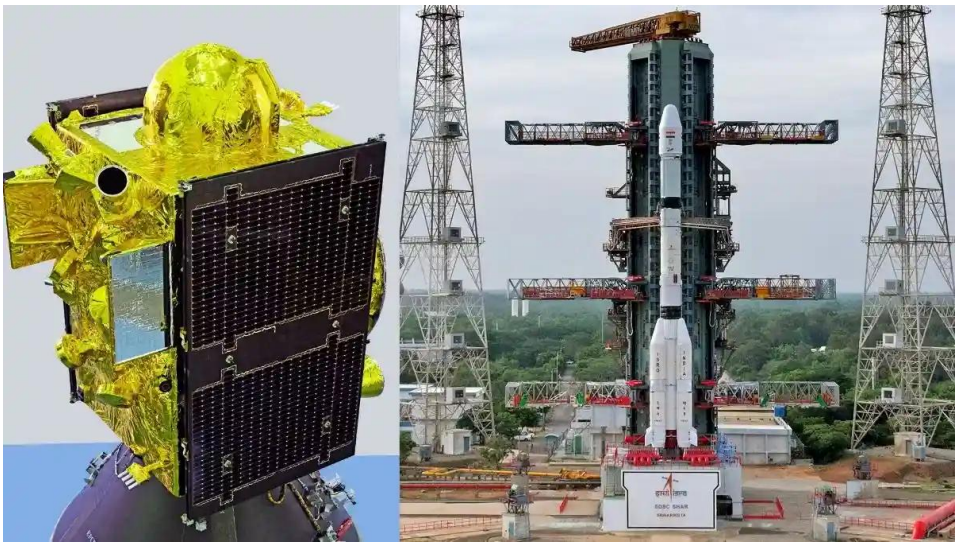




PM Modi Hails ISRO's NVS-03 Success

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the ISRO following the successful launch of the NVS-03 navigation satellite aboard the GSLV-F18 rocket, describing the achievement as another significant milestone in strengthening India's indigenous satellite navigation capabilities.
- The successful mission represents another step forward in India's efforts to maintain an independent Position, Navigation and Timing capability, reducing reliance on foreign satellite navigation networks while providing secure and accurate services across the region.
- The NVS-03 spacecraft has now restored the **Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) network** to its minimum operational configuration of four satellites, ensuring continuity of essential navigation and timing services.
- ISRO Chairman V Narayanan described NavIC as a strategic national asset that provides independent access to Position, Navigation and Timing services. He noted that, beyond strategic applications, the system supports a range of civilian services including the real-time tracking of trains, road vehicles and maritime vessels.

- Narayanan also highlighted the operational efficiency achieved by the space agency, noting that the NVS-03 mission was completed only 56 days after the previous GSLV launch.
- He described the achievement as the shortest turnaround time between two successive GSLV missions, demonstrating ISRO's growing launch readiness and organisational maturity.
- The successful deployment of NVS-03 further strengthens India's steadily expanding space infrastructure and reinforces the country's ambitions to build resilient indigenous capabilities in navigation, communications, space-based services and strategic technologies.



Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia Appointed As The Vice Chief of The Air STAFF

- Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia, AVSM VM is appointed as Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) from 01 November 2026. Presently, he is the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Air Command.
- The Air Officer is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and was commissioned in the Fighter stream of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 11 Jun 88. He is qualified for all variants of the MiG-21, MiG-23, MiG-27, Jaguar and Su-30 MKI. In a career spanning almost four decades, the Air Officer has tenanted various command and staff appointments.
- He has commanded a frontline fighter squadron, the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE) and was Air Officer Commanding of Air Force Station Bareilly. He has undergone the Advanced Command & Staff Course in the UK and the NDC in Bangladesh. He has headed the Directorate of

Air Staff Inspection (DASI) of the IAF, served as the Defence Attache at the Embassy of Japan and South Korea, and was the Senior Air Staff Officer of Eastern Air Command.

- He is an avid reader and holds three post-graduate degrees in Defence and Strategic Studies. In recognition of distinguished service, he was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (VM) in 2008 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) in 2018. He takes over from Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, who will be taking over as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff on 31 October 2026.



Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Assumes Charge As Chief of The Air Staff of The IAF

- Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit PVSM AVSM VM VSM assumed charge as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff on 31 October 2026. He succeeds Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, PVSM AVSM, who superannuated after 42 years of distinguished service to the nation.
- An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit was commissioned into the Fighter Stream of the Indian Air Force on 06 December 1986.
- Over a career span of four decades, the Air Chief has rich experience across diverse domains such as Operations, Flight Testing, Capability Development and Joint Staff assignments. An accomplished Fighter Pilot, Qualified Flying Instructor and Experimental Test Pilot, has over 3,500 hours of flying experience

on a wide range of aircraft, including the Mirage-2000, various MiG variants, Jaguar and several transport aircraft.

- Widely recognised for his contribution to the modernisation of the Indian Air Force, he was instrumental in finalising the Jaguar and MiG-27 upgrade projects and in the completion of the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) and Final Operational Clearance (FOC) activities of the LCA MK-I Tejas. His operational command assignments include command of a Mirage-2000 Squadron, a Forward Base Support Unit in the Western Sector and Air Force Station Bidar, a premier fighter training base of the IAF.
- The Air Officer has served as Air Defence Commander at Southern Air Command, Senior Air Staff Officer at Southwestern Air Command and Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, steering key capability development and procurement initiatives. He subsequently commanded Central Air Command as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief and later served as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee during Operation Sindoor. Prior to assuming charge as Chief of the Air Staff, he served as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff.
- Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit is an accomplished graduate of the Defence Services Command and Staff College, Bangladesh, and the National Defence College, New Delhi. He is a recipient of the Vayu Sena Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Param Vishisht Seva Medal in recognition of his distinguished service to the nation.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The inaugural BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise 2026 is being conducted from:

A) 25–29 October 2026
B) 30 October–3 November 2026
C) 1–5 November 2026
D) 5–10 November 2026

Correct Answer: B) 30 October

2. How many countries are members of BIMSTEC?

A) 5
B) 6
C) 7
D) 8

Correct Answer: C) 7

3. Who is the Prime Minister of Israel mentioned in the report regarding Iran?

A) Yair Lapid
B) Benjamin Netanyahu

C) Naftali Bennett
D) Isaac Herzog

Correct Answer: B) Benjamin Netanyahu

4. Who is India's National Security Adviser (NSA) who arrived in Hanoi for an official visit to Vietnam?

A) Pankaj Saran
B) Ajit Doval
C) Vikram Misri
D) Shakti Sinha

Correct Answer: B) Ajit Doval

5. Which satellite was successfully launched aboard the GSLV-F18 launch vehicle?

A) NVS-01
B) NVS-02
C) NVS-03
D) EOS-05

Correct Answer: C) NVS-03

6. The Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) system provides which of the following services?

A) Earth observation
B) Position, Navigation and Timing
C) Weather forecasting only
D) Deep-space communication

Correct Answer: B) Position, Navigation and Timing

7. Who was appointed as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff with effect from 1 November 2026?

A) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
B) Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia
C) Air Marshal A. P. Singh
D) Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Correct Answer: B) Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia

8. Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in which year?

A) 1986
B) 1987
C) 1988
D) 1990

Correct Answer: C) 1988

9. Who assumed charge as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force on 31 October 2026?

A) Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh
B) Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
C) Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia
D) Air Chief Marshal R. K. S. Bhadauria

Correct Answer: B) Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

10. Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit has accumulated more than how many hours of flying experience?

A) 2,500 hours
B) 3,000 hours
C) 3,500 hours
D) 4,000 hours

Correct Answer: C) 3,500 hours

11. Wing Commander Rank of IAF Is Equivalent to __ Rank of the Indian Navy.

A. Commander
B. Lieutenant
C. Admiral
D. Captain

ANSWER: A

12. FSSAI Stands For

A. Food Safety and Standards Authority of Iran
B. Food Safety and Stand Authority of India
C. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

13. Ilyushin Il-38 Is A

A. Maritime patrol Aircraft

B. Ship
C. Tank
D. Anti Tank Missile
ANSWER: A

14. The Chief of Naval Staff Is A
A. One Star Admiral
B. Two Star Admiral
C. Three Star Admiral
D. Four Star Admiral
ANSWER: D

15. Ex 'BLUE FLAG' conducted b/w India &
A. Qatar
B. Oman
C. UAE
D. Israel
ANSWER: D

16. President's Bodyguard Motto Is
A. Jai Hind
B. Sarvda Shaktishali
C. Bharat Mata Ki Jai
D. Rashtra Pratham
ANSWER: C

17. Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering Is At
A. Imphal
B. Mhow
C. Secunderabad
D. Vairengte
ANSWER: C

18. 'Translating Myself and Others' Book Written By
A. Jhumpa Lahiri
B. Dr. Prabhleen Singh
C. Chetan Bhagat
D. Nirupama Rao
ANSWER: A

19. Muscat Is the Capital Of

A. Oman
B. Qatar
C. UAE
D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

20. Where Is the Hq of The Southern Western Air Command of the IAF?

A. Gandhinagar
B. Vishakhapatnam
C. Pune
D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A