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Exercise Malabar 2026

- The Indian Navy's indigenous Guided Missile Stealth Frigate, INS Sahyadri, of the Eastern Fleet, arrived at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on 04 Nov 2026 to participate in the multilateral naval exercise MALABAR 2026.
- The ship was accorded a warm welcome by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), reflecting the enduring strategic partnership and growing maritime cooperation between India and Japan.
- MALABAR 2026 brings together the navies of India, Japan, the United States and Australia, providing an opportunity for participating maritime forces to enhance operational coordination, strengthen interoperability and exchange professional expertise through a series of engagements in harbour and at sea.
- The harbour phase will include professional interactions and coordinated planning, followed by the sea phase involving **INS Sahyadri** and participating units of the **United States, Australia and Japan.**
- INS Sahyadri's participation in MALABAR 2026 underscores the Indian Navy's commitment to fostering maritime partnerships and advancing cooperation with like-minded navies in the region, in consonance with the vision of **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).**



INS Tarkash Concludes Port Call At Port Louis

- INS Tarkash concluded an enriching and emotive port call at Port Louis, Mauritius, on 03 Nov 2026.
- The ship also participated in events commemorating the **192nd Aapravasi Diwas on 02 Nov 2026.**
- The ship's crew undertook cross-training of Mauritius Coast Guard personnel and an outreach activity at Hospice Saint Jean de Dieu.
- Following an engaging stay, the ship participated in a PASSEX with CGS Valiant and undertook joint EEZ surveillance with the Mauritius Coast Guard, supported by a Dornier aircraft.
- INS Tarkash has now proceeded for the next phase of operational deployment.
- The port call reaffirms the longstanding maritime partnership and strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries.



IPRD-2026 Concludes

- The three-day Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2026 (IPRD-2026), the Indian Navy's annual apex-level international strategic dialogue, concluded on 05 Nov 2026 in New Delhi.
- Organised in association with the National Maritime Foundation the conference examined '**Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**' through five professional thematic sessions and senior-level interactions intended to identify practical pathways for regional maritime cooperation.
- The final session of IPRD-2026 was centred on the theme, '**Transformative Maritime Technologies and Dual-Use Implications**'.
- The Valedictory Address by Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary, Government of India, brought the mega three-day conference to a fitting and memorable closure.



Flight-Test of Quasi-Ballistic Missile 'Pralay'

- DRDO conducted the successful flight-test of quasi-ballistic missile 'Pralay' from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha at around 1110 hrs on November 5, 2026.
- All the test objectives were fully met as confirmed by the test data captured by various range instruments deployed by Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.
- Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, along with other DRDO laboratories, has indigenously developed the missile. **Bharat Dynamics Limited**, one of the Development-cum-Production-Partners, has produced the system.
- The flight-test was conducted in the presence of senior officials from DRDO, representatives from the industry and the Defence Forces, as part of user evaluation trials. With this successful test, the induction of the system has become imminent.



BEL Poised For ₹30,000 Crore QRSAM

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is on the verge of securing a major ₹30,000 crore order for the Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system, with the company indicating that final approval could arrive shortly once the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) grants clearance.
- The proposed contract covers the entire QRSAM air defence system rather than only the missiles themselves. The package is understood to include a comprehensive, multi-layered capability designed to strengthen the Indian Army's ability to counter aerial threats such as aircraft, helicopters, drones and precision-guided munitions.
- Management has stated that the project is currently awaiting CCS approval, noting that the government has been progressing through a pipeline of significant national defence procurements. Industry observers view the QRSAM project as one of the most important near-term opportunities for BEL.

- The company has guided for total annual order inflows of ₹55,000 crore, with the QRSAM award expected to contribute a substantial portion of that target. Without the project, anticipated order inflows would be closer to ₹25,000 crore, highlighting the importance of the approval.
- The QRSAM system itself represents a key element of India's broader effort to expand indigenous defence manufacturing and reduce reliance on imported military equipment.



Pinaka Rocket Pipeline Nears 4,000 Units

- India is moving towards a major expansion of its indigenous Pinaka rocket artillery program, with approximately 4,000 rockets currently in the procurement pipeline.
- The planned orders are split broadly between domestic military requirements and exports, with around 2,000 rockets intended for the Indian Army and a further 2,000 earmarked for Armenia.
- The development highlights the growing role of India's domestic defence manufacturing sector and the increasing international demand for indigenous military systems. Pinaka has emerged as India's most successful artillery export and continues to strengthen the country's position in the global defence market.
- According to disclosures made by Apollo Micro Systems management during its earnings call, the Indian Army procurement process has already advanced to the request-for-quotation, bidding and negotiation stages.
- Contracts could potentially be awarded before the end of December 2026, although the timeline remains subject to the completion of procurement procedures.

- The manufacturing effort is expected to involve Munitions India Limited, Solar Industries India and Bharat Forge. Apollo Micro Systems is also part of the wider supply chain and has confirmed its participation in the quotation process.
- Armenia has already emerged as a significant overseas customer for Indian defence equipment and was the first foreign nation to acquire the Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher system.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Indian Navy warship arrived at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, to participate in Exercise MALABAR 2026?

A) INS Tarkash
B) INS Sahyadri
C) INS Kolkata
D) INS Chennai

Answer: B) INS Sahyadri

2. Which four countries are participating in Exercise MALABAR 2026?

A) India, Japan, France and Australia
B) India, USA, UK and Japan
C) India, Japan, USA and Australia
D) India, Russia, USA and Australia

Answer: C) India, Japan, USA and Australia

3. INS Tarkash recently concluded its port visit at which location?

A) Colombo, Sri Lanka
B) Port Louis, Mauritius
C) Male, Maldives
D) Victoria, Seychelles

Answer: B) Port Louis, Mauritius

4. What was the central theme of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2026 (IPRD-2026)?

A) Maritime Security and Regional Stability
B) Indo-Pacific: Trade and Connectivity
C) Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific
D) Strategic Autonomy in the Indian Ocean

Answer: C) Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

5. On which date did DRDO successfully conduct the flight test of the quasi-ballistic missile Pralay in November 2026?

A) 2 November
B) 3 November
C) 4 November
D) 5 November

Answer: D) 5 November

6. Which company is one of the Development-cum-Production Partners for the indigenous Pralay missile system?

A) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
B) Bharat Dynamics Limited
C) Bharat Electronics Limited
D) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

Answer: B) Bharat Dynamics Limited

7. The proposed ₹30,000 crore contract for the QRSAM air defence system is awaiting approval from which authority?

A) Defence Acquisition Council
B) Union Cabinet

C) Cabinet Committee on Security
D) Ministry of Finance

Answer: C) Cabinet Committee on Security

8. Approximately how many Pinaka rockets are reportedly in India's procurement pipeline, including the proposed requirement for Armenia?

A) 2,000
B) 3,000
C) 4,000
D) 5,000

Answer: C) 4,000

9. Kamikaze Drones Developed By

A. India
B. Russia
C. Ukraine
D. Iran

ANSWER: B

10. Tapas-BH Stands For

A. Tactical Airborne Platform for Advanced Surveillance- Beyond Horizon
B. Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance- Beyond Horizon
C. Tactical Airborne Prime for Aerial Surveillance- Beyond Horizon
D. None

ANSWER: B

11. Which Indian Navy Ship Participated In IBSAMAR Exercise?

A. INS Utkrosh
B. INS Kochi
C. INS Tarkash
D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

12. Newly Created 'Weapon System Branch' Is Made Up For

A. IAF
B. BSF
C. Indian Army
D. ICG

ANSWER: A

13. M777 Ultra-Light Howitzer Have A Range Of Up To

A. 20 km
B. 25 km
C. 30 km
D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

14. Recently QRSAM Missile Was Tested By

A. Indian Navy & ISRO
B. Indian Army & ISRO
C. Indian Army & DRDO
D. ICG & ISRO

ANSWER: C

15. Bogota Is The Capital Of

A. BAHRAIN
B. BANGLADESH
C. BARBADOS
D. Colombia

ANSWER: D

16. "Lal Salam" Book Written By

A. Smriti Irani
B. JK Rowling
C. Jhumpa Lahiri
D. Amitav Ghosh

ANSWER: A

17. Vajra Prahar Exercise Conducted B/W Bharat And?

A. USA
B. UK
C. Israel
D. Qatar

ANSWER: A

18. VL-SRSAM Developed By

A. ISRO
B. DRDO
C. NASA
D. JAXA

ANSWER: B

19. Hq Of the MOD Is In

A. Mumbai
B. New Delhi
C. Chennai
D. Bengaluru

ANSWER: B

20.__ Is The Largest Air Command of The IAF?

A. Eastern
B. Western
C. Southern
D. Northern

ANSWER: B