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MoD inks Contract, Worth Approx. Rs 500 Crore

- The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth **Rs 498.58 crore** with **Cochin Shipyard Limited** for the **Normal Refit and Re-powering of Indian Naval Ship, Betwa**. The contract was inked in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on November 11, 2026.
- Under the contract, INS Betwa, a Brahmaputra-class frigate of the Indian Navy, will undergo a major propulsion system transformation, involving the replacement of its existing steam-based propulsion system with a diesel-engine-based propulsion system.
- The refit will also include the upgradation of its combat capabilities through the installation of a modernised weapon suite, thereby enhancing the ship's operational effectiveness.
- The project is expected to involve more than 50 MSMEs and generate significant employment opportunities across the Indian shipbuilding & ancillary industries.
- This project will provide a major impetus to the Government's vision of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ and ‘Make-in-India’, while reinforcing the country's indigenous naval ship repair and maintenance capabilities.



Exercise 'Sea Vigil-26'

- The fifth edition of the Pan-India Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-26' is being held from 11 to 19 Nov 2026, coordinated by the Indian Navy as the lead agency.
- The exercise will be conducted in two phases: The Coastal Defence and Security Readiness Evaluation (CDSRE) phase from 11 to 17 Nov 2026, followed by the Sea Phase on 18 and 19 Nov 2026.
- Exercise Sea Vigil was conceptualised in 2018 to validate the measures instituted to strengthen maritime security in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
- Sea Vigil-26 will span the entire coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India, and will involve all Coastal States and Union Territories, along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.
- The exercise is significant in terms of its geographical spread, the number of participating agencies and units, and the range of its objectives. Assets of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Coastal Security Police, Customs and other maritime agencies will participate.
- Sea Vigil is also a build-up to the Indian Navy's biennial Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX). Together, Sea Vigil and TROPEX address the

entire spectrum of maritime security challenges, from coastal defence to operations on the high seas.



EXERCISE IMNEX-26

- The 8th edition of the **India–Myanmar Naval Exercise** (IMNEX-26) is being conducted at Visakhapatnam from 10 to 14 Nov 2026. Myanmar Navy Ship UMS King Sin Phyu Shin arrived at Visakhapatnam on 10 Nov 2026 to participate in the exercise alongside **INS Rana and INS Sumedha**.
- IMNEX serves as an important platform for advancing maritime cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. The exercise provides an opportunity for both the Navies to exchange professional expertise, enhance mutual understanding and develop greater operational synergy.
- The **Harbour Phase** includes professional interactions, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), cross-deck visits, sporting engagements and discussions on operational matters.
- The subsequent **Sea Phase** will involve coordinated maritime operations, tactical manoeuvres and exercises aimed at enhancing interoperability between the participating units.
- IMNEX-26 underscores the enduring friendship and maritime partnership between India and Myanmar.
- The exercise is aligned with India's vision of **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)** and reflects the shared

commitment of both Navies to maritime cooperation and a secure and stable regional environment.



Mechanised Forces Symposium 2026

- General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), delivered an address on "**Vision for Future Warfighting in the Indian Subcontinent**" at the Mechanised Forces Symposium 2026, held at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, on 11 November 2026.
- The two-day symposium, organised by the Cavalry Officers' Association in collaboration with the Directorate General of Mechanised Forces, brings together senior serving officers, veterans, defence scientists, industry representatives and strategic thinkers to deliberate on the changing character of warfare.
- The COAS highlighted the Indian Army's ongoing transformation to meet emerging operational challenges. He emphasised that transformation goes beyond modern equipment and organisational restructuring, requiring a culture of innovation, technological adaptation and agility, while keeping the Yoddha at its core.
- Highlighting jointness and integration as critical enabler of future warfighting, the COAS underscored the need for seamless coordination across Services and domains.

- He also reiterated the Indian Army's commitment to Aatmanirbharta through indigenous capability development and stronger partnerships with industry and academia.
- Reflecting on the evolution of the Mechanised Forces, the COAS described their journey as a testament to the Army's spirit of adaptation. He expressed confidence in their continued pivotal role in future warfare.



Philippines Eyes Indian Air Defence Systems to Shield Expanding BrahMos Missile Force

- The Philippines is in active discussions with India over the potential acquisition of advanced ground-based air defence systems, including the Akash surface-to-air missile platform, as Manila seeks to strengthen protection for its growing network of strategic military assets.
- Department of National Defence Secretary Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro Jr. confirmed that negotiations are underway for Indian-made Ground-Based Air

Defence Systems (GBADS), describing the initiative as part of broader efforts to enhance the country's layered defence architecture.

- the proposed acquisition is intended to safeguard critical assets, including the Philippines' existing and future BrahMos supersonic cruise missile batteries. He stated that discussions cover Indian GBADS capabilities, including systems such as Akash, which could provide a protective shield against a range of aerial threats.
- The move comes as the Philippines considers expanding its BrahMos inventory. Manila is examining the procurement of additional missile units and up to five more BrahMos batteries in a deal estimated to be worth between $700 million and $800 million.
- The planned expansion reflects the increasing importance the Philippines places on coastal defence and deterrence amid evolving security challenges in the region. The BrahMos system, jointly developed by India and Russia, is regarded as one of the world's fastest operational supersonic cruise missiles and is designed to engage both maritime and land-based targets.
- The two sides are also exploring potential collaboration involving Indian-made Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS), which could further enhance the Philippine military's long-range strike capabilities.
- The discussions underscore the deepening defence relationship between India and the Philippines, with both nations increasingly pursuing greater cooperation across missile systems, air defence, defence manufacturing, space capabilities and broader security initiatives.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth Rs 498.58 crore with which company for the refit and re-powering of INS Betwa?
A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
B) Cochin Shipyard Limited
C) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
D) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
Correct Answer: B) Cochin Shipyard Limited

2. INS Betwa belongs to which class of frigates of the Indian Navy?
A) Shivalik-class
B) Talwar-class
C) Brahmaputra-class
D) Nilgiri-class
Correct Answer: C) Brahmaputra-class

3. The fifth edition of Exercise Sea Vigil-26 is being conducted under the coordination of which organisation as the lead agency?
A) Indian Coast Guard
B) Indian Navy
C) Ministry of Home Affairs
D) National Security Guard
Correct Answer: B) Indian Navy

4. Exercise Sea Vigil was conceptualised in which year to strengthen India's coastal security following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks?
A) 2016
B) 2017
C) 2018
D) 2020
Correct Answer: C) 2018

5. The 8th edition of the India–Myanmar Naval Exercise IMNEX-26 is being conducted at which location?

A) Kochi
B) Chennai
C) Mumbai
D) Visakhapatnam
Correct Answer: D) Visakhapatnam

6. Who delivered the address titled "Vision for Future Warfighting in the Indian Subcontinent" at the Mechanised Forces Symposium 2026?
A) General Upendra Dwivedi
B) General Dhiraj Seth
C) Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi
D) Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh
Correct Answer: B) General Dhiraj Seth

7. Which Indian surface-to-air missile system is being considered by the Philippines as part of its Ground-Based Air Defence Systems (GBADS) procurement discussions with India?
A) Prithvi
B) Agni
C) Akash
D) Nag
Correct Answer: C) Akash

8. The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system has been jointly developed by which two countries?
A) India and France
B) India and Israel
C) India and Russia
D) India and the United States
Correct Answer: C) India and Russia

9. **Which Regiment of the Indian Army Is Called As 'The Gods of War'?**
A. Mechanised Infantry
B. Gorkha Regiment
C. Regiment Of Artillery
D. Rajput Regiment

ANSWER: C

10. **Department Executive of The Department of Military Affairs Is**
A. Defence Minister
B. NSA
C. CDS
D. Prime Minister
ANSWER: C

11. **Rapid Action Force Hq Is In**
A. Mumbai
B. Lucknow
C. Surat
D. New Delhi
ANSWER: D

12. Baku Is In Which Continent
A. Africa
B. Asia
C. Australia
D. North America
ANSWER: B

13. **ISRO Hq Is In**
A. Mumbai
B. Kochi
C. Chennai
D. Bangalore
ANSWER: D

14. India Purchased Bofors Gun from
A. USA
B. Sweden
C. France
D. None of the above
ANSWER: B

15. **"Naam Namak Nishaan" Is The Motto Of**
A. THE GRENADIERS

B. Rajputana Rifles
C. Gorkha
D. None
ANSWER: A

16. **The SAMHO Is An**
A. Anti-tank Guided Missile
B. Sniper Rifle
C. Ballistic missile
D. Communication satellite
ANSWER: A

17. Joint Exercises B/w The India And USA Is Called:
A. Yama
B. SLINEX
C. Indra
D. Tiger Triumph
ANSWER: D

18. **AH-64 Apache Is A**
A. Transport Helicopter
B. Attack Helicopter
C. Light Utility Helicopter
D. None of the above
ANSWER: B

19. **Dhanush (howitzer) Manufactured By**
A. L & T
B. Boeing
C. ISRO
D. Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited
ANSWER: D

20. **INS Arihant Is A**
A. Destroyer
B. OPV
C. Ballistic missile submarine
D. Tank
ANSWER: C