Daily Current Affairs
16 November 2026

13 Base Repair Depot Celebrates Golden Jubilee

- 13 Base Repair Depot, Indian Air Force, celebrated fifty years of distinguished service with a seminar on “Air Defence2040: Sensors, Networks & Sovereign Sustainment” at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- The seminar was presided over by Air Marshal Yalla Umesh, VSM, PhD, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command and witnessed participation from senior military leadership, veterans, DRDO, academia and leading defence industry partners.
- Established in 1976, the Base Repair Depot has been a key pillar of the Indian Air Force’s maintenance ecosystem, undertaking repair, overhaul and life cycle support of critical radar and communication equipment.
- Tracing its legacy to the Radar and Communication Project Office, the Depot has made significant contributions towards ensuring the operational availability and reliability of vital air defence systems over the last five decades.
- The initiative underscores the potential of clean energy solutions to enhance operational resilience, energy autonomy and sustainable deployment of air defence systems, particularly in challenging operational environments.



COAS General Dhiraj Seth Departs Visit To Czech Republic

- COAS proceeded on an official visit to the Czech Republic from 16 to 19 November 2026. The visit aims to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, enhance military-to-military engagement and explore opportunities for collaboration in defence technology and industry.
- During the visit, the COAS will hold discussions with senior military leaders of the Czech Armed Forces, including Lieutenant General Petr Čepelka, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff and the Deputy Chief of Defence at General Staff Headquarters (GSHQ) in Prague.
- The COAS will pay tribute to fallen soldiers during a wreath-laying ceremony at the GSHQ. He will call on senior officials of the Ministry of Defence. These engagements will focus on matters of mutual interest, including military cooperation, training, modernisation and emerging security challenges.
- As part of the programme, General Dhiraj Seth will visit the Defence University in Brno and the NATO Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence to gain insights into specialised training, operational capabilities and future readiness of the Czech Armed Forces.
- The COAS will interact with representatives of Inter-governmental Defence Cooperation Agency the Defence and Security Industry Association and leading defence manufacturers to explore opportunities for cooperation in defence technology and industry.
- The visit reflects the shared commitment of India and the Czech Republic to strengthening bilateral defence relations through sustained military dialogue, professional exchanges and industrial partnerships.



RADM Tanguy Botman, Commander of The Belgian Navy, Visits India

- RAdm Tanguy Botman, Commander of the Belgian Navy, is on an official visit to India on 14 Nov 2026, aimed at strengthening bilateral maritime cooperation and further deepening Navy-to-Navy engagements between the two countries.
- On arrival, he paid homage to the fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial and was thereafter accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at South Block.
- During the visit, RAdm Tanguy Botman held discussions with Adm Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of the Naval Staff, on a range of issues of mutual interest, including maritime security, operational engagements, training, personnel exchanges and collaboration in naval technology.
- India and Belgium share longstanding maritime linkages. The visit marks an important milestone in bilateral Navy-to-Navy relations and is expected to provide further impetus to maritime cooperation through strengthened existing engagements and exploration of new avenues for collaboration.



Chinese Military Aircraft Reportedly Breaches Indian Airspace Over Sikkim

- A Chinese military aircraft reportedly entered Indian airspace over Sikkim on 12 November and remained in the area for approximately 20 to 25 minutes, according to reports citing a source familiar with the incident.
- The reported airspace breach occurred in a strategically significant region overlooking the Siliguri Corridor, often referred to as India's "Chicken's Neck". The narrow land corridor links the country's north-eastern states with the rest of India and is regarded as one of the nation's most sensitive strategic areas.
- According to the report, the Indian Air Force detected the aircraft at around 8 am while it was operating at an altitude of roughly 25,000 feet. The aircraft was reportedly warned several times and instructed to return to Chinese territory. Despite these warnings, it allegedly continued hovering in the area for an extended period.
- Details regarding the aircraft's type, its precise route and the exact time it exited Indian airspace remain unclear. No official confirmation regarding the reported intrusion had been released at the time of reporting.
- The incident has drawn attention because Sikkim borders China's Tibet Autonomous Region and lies close to the Doklam plateau, the site of a major India-China military stand-off in 2017. Security analysts closely monitor activity in the area due to its proximity to several strategically important sectors along the frontier.

- Previous encounters near eastern Ladakh and other sensitive sectors prompted monitoring and response measures from Indian forces, underlining the importance of air surveillance and rapid reaction capabilities in border regions.

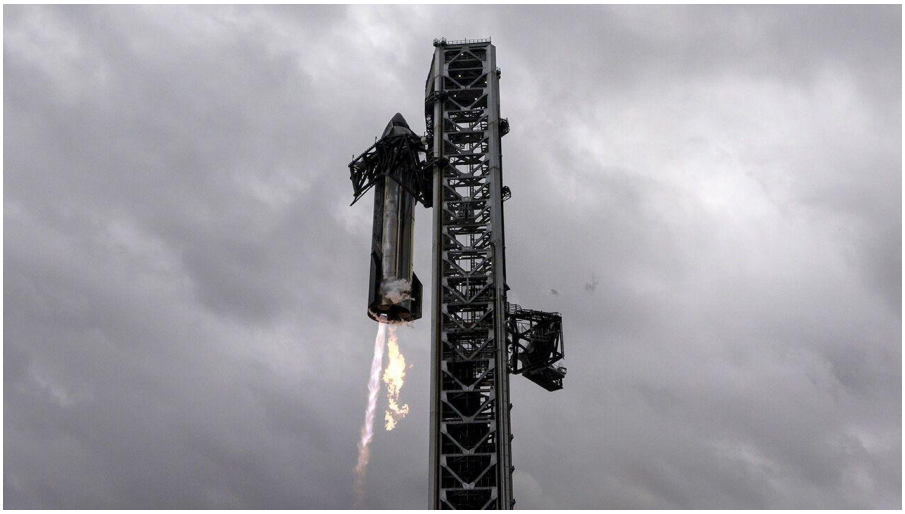


SpaceX Achieves Historic Starship 'Catch'

- SpaceX has successfully completed the first-ever recovery of a Starship spacecraft using the launch tower's mechanical "chopstick arms", marking a major milestone in the pursuit of fully reusable spaceflight and significantly advancing efforts to reduce the cost of access to space.
- The achievement came during the 15th test flight of the world's largest and most powerful rocket system. After completing a 22-hour mission that included 14 orbits of Earth and the deployment of 26 Starlink satellites, Starship re-entered the atmosphere and descended towards Starbase in Texas.
- Emerging from cloudy skies after enduring the intense heat generated during atmospheric re-entry, the spacecraft executed a controlled descent before being precisely captured between the launch tower's giant mechanical arms above Launch Pad 2.
- The successful recovery represents a significant step towards the long-standing goal of developing a fully reusable launch system. Unlike previous booster recoveries, capturing Starship presented a far greater technical challenge because the spacecraft returned from a much higher altitude and at considerably greater speed.
- NASA is also relying on Starship for its Artemis lunar exploration program. Following the successful recovery, NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman

described the feat as "almost magic" and stated that it brought humanity "one step closer to the Moon."

- The successful catch not only validates a key element of SpaceX's reusable rocket strategy but also strengthens confidence that routine recovery, refurbishment and relaunch of both boosters and spacecraft could eventually become a practical reality, potentially transforming the economics of space exploration, satellite deployment and deep-space missions.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. 13 Base Repair Depot (BRD) of the Indian Air Force celebrated its Golden Jubilee in which year was it established?

A) 1972
B) 1974
C) 1976
D) 1980

Correct Answer: C) 1976

2. Who presided over the Golden Jubilee seminar of 13 Base Repair Depot titled "Air Defence 2040: Sensors, Networks & Sovereign Sustainment"?

A) Air Marshal Yalla Umesh
B) Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh

C) Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
D) Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar

Correct Answer: A) Air Marshal Yalla Umesh

3. General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff, undertook an official visit to which country from 16 to 19 November 2026?

A) Poland
B) Czech Republic
C) Germany
D) Belgium

Correct Answer: B) Czech Republic

4. Who is the Commander of the Belgian Navy who visited India on 14 November 2026?

A) Admiral Michel Hofman
B) Rear Admiral Tanguy Botman
C) Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
D) Vice Admiral Jan De Beurme

Correct Answer: B) Rear Admiral Tanguy Botman

5. The reported Chinese military aircraft intrusion into Indian airspace on 12 November 2026 occurred over which Indian state?

A) Arunachal Pradesh
B) Uttarakhand
C) Sikkim
D) Himachal Pradesh

Correct Answer: C) Sikkim

6. SpaceX successfully recovered its Starship spacecraft using which innovative recovery mechanism?

A) Parachute Recovery System
B) Hydraulic Landing Platform
C) Mechanical Chopstick Arms
D) Underwater Recovery System

Correct Answer: C) Mechanical Chopstick Arms

7. NASA plans to use SpaceX's Starship for which major space exploration programme?

A) Voyager Programme
B) Artemis Programme
C) Gemini Programme
D) Apollo-Soyuz Programme

Correct Answer: B) Artemis Programme

8. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port is located At
A. Paradip
B. Cochin
C. Kolkata
D. Mumbai
ANSWER: D

9. 'Iron Beam' new laser-based air defence system Made By
A. USA
B. UK
C. Israel
D. Russia
ANSWER: C

10. First Submarine Developed Under P-75 Is
A. INS Kalvari
B. INS Khanderi
C. INS Karanj
D. INS Vela
ANSWER: A

11. Who Wrote The Book New Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy?
A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
B. Abdul Kalam Azad
C. Amit Chaudhuri
D. Raghuram Rajan
ANSWER: A

12. Mechanical Training Institute (MTI) Of IAF Is In
A. Yelahanka, Bengaluru

B. Jalahalli, Bengaluru
C. Tambaram Chennai
D. None of the above
ANSWER: C

13. Central Statistical Organization Hq Is In
A. New Delhi
B. Vishakhapatnam
C. Pune
D. Mumbai
ANSWER: A

14. Ex SHAKTI, Ex VARUNA, GARUDA India conducted with
A. USA
B. Sweden
C. France
D. None of the above
ANSWER: C

15. Yaounde Is The Capital Of
A. Cameroon
B. Canada
C. UAE
D. Burundi
ANSWER: A

16. “The Oath of the Vayuputras" Book Is Written By
A. Amish Tripathi
B. Issac Newton
C. Mahashweta Devi
D. APJ Abdul Kalam
ANSWER: A

17. SITMEX Ex Is Done Among
A. India, Singapore, and Thailand
B. India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
C. Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand
D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

18. Commander Rank Of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Rank Of IAF Is

A. Wing Commander
B. Squadron Leader
C. Group Captain
D. Flying Officer

ANSWER: A

19. INS Visakhapatnam (D66) Manufactured By

A. GRSE
B. MDL
C. CSL
D. Boeing

ANSWER: B

20. War Cry of the BIHAR REGIMENT

A. Parakramo Vijayate
B. Rhino Charge
C. Jai Bajrangbali
D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: C