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Naval Exercise IMNEX-26

- The 8th edition of the India–Myanmar Naval Exercise (IMNEX-26) concluded at Visakhapatnam on 14 Nov 2026, following the successful completion of its Harbour and Sea Phases.
- The Sea Phase in the Bay of Bengal marked the operational culmination of the exercise, with Indian Naval Ships INS Rana and INS Sumedha operating alongside Myanmar Navy Ship UMS King Sin Phyu Shin.
- The Harbour Phase comprised Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), cross-deck visits, professional interactions and sporting engagements, facilitating the exchange of operational knowledge and experience between personnel of the two navies.
- The Sea Phase involved coordinated maritime manoeuvres and operational drills, providing an opportunity to refine procedures, enhance tactical coordination and strengthen interoperability among participating units.
- The exercise further advances bilateral naval engagement and is aligned with India's vision of **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**) and Neighbourhood First policy.



MoD & MoSJE ink MoU

- The Ministry of Defence, through the Directorate General of Defence Estates has signed a MoU with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to strengthen the welfare of senior citizens residing in Cantonment areas.
- Raksha Mantri described the elderly as not merely family members, but also bearers of experience, traditions and social consciousness, whose experience, wisdom and guidance will be invaluable in the journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- Highlighting their lifelong contribution to building families, society and the nation, he termed it a social and moral responsibility to ensure that they are accorded respect, security and a sense of belonging.
- Rajnath Singh emphasised the need for continuous improvement in the delivery of services to the elderly. He called for social audits of the Centres and Homes to assess the quality of services and identify areas requiring further improvement.
- Under the proposed arrangement, MoSJE will extend financial assistance under AVYAY, including support towards the operation and maintenance of existing Day Care Centres and Senior Citizen Homes being run by Cantonment Boards from their own budgets.
- The MoU envisages establishing new Day Care Centres/Senior Citizen Homes in Cantonments under AVYAY Scheme. DGDE has identified eight Cantonments where new day care centres can be opened.
- The initiative assumes special significance as the Defence Estates Department embarks on its centenary celebrations, marking 100 years of institutional service since its establishment in 1926.



Ten Countries Sign San Francisco Declaration

- India, the United States and eight other countries signed the San Francisco Declaration on the Secure Foundations of Enduring Prosperity on 15 November 2026, marking an important development in international cooperation on artificial intelligence (AI) and critical technology supply-chain security.
- The declaration was signed at the Pax Silica Founders Retreat in San Francisco, convened by US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg.
- The agreement emphasizes that economic security is fundamental to national security. It seeks to protect sensitive technologies, strategic resources and critical infrastructure supporting advanced AI systems.
- The ten original signatories of the San Francisco Declaration are:
- United States, Australia, India, Israel, Japan, South Korea (Republic of Korea)Qatar, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom
- The San Francisco Declaration is a multilateral statement of shared principles intended to strengthen economic and technological security among participating countries.
- It recognizes that emerging AI technologies depend on complex international supply chains involving critical minerals, semiconductor components, advanced manufacturing, electricity, computing infrastructure and communication networks.

- India formally joined Pax Silica on 20 February 2026, becoming its tenth signatory at that stage.
- The India–US declaration was signed by representatives including US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, US Under Secretary Jacob Helberg and India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Secretary S. Krishnan.
- India's participation is relevant because the country has growing interests in semiconductor manufacturing, electronics, critical mineral processing, AI infrastructure and technological research.



India Set to Name Next-gen Jet Maker Within A Month

- India will announce the winner of a competition to develop next generation fighter jets within a month, taking the Advanced Multirole Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program ahead to the next step of prototype manufacturing.
- The high-stakes competition has entered the final stages, with three bidders in the fray after an earlier shortlisting process. The companies - **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** and consortia led by **Larsen and Toubro and Bharat Forge** - have submitted techno commercial proposals that are currently being evaluated.
- Fighter aircraft are commonly classified into generations based on advances in their design, stealth capabilities, sensors, weapons and combat systems.
- Fifth-generation aircraft such as the American F-35 Lightning II combine stealth technology, advanced radar, integrated sensors and sophisticated electronic systems.

- Sixth-generation fighter concepts are expected to go further. Their potential capabilities include artificial intelligence-assisted operations, advanced sensor integration, improved stealth, directed-energy weapons and the ability to coordinate with unmanned combat aircraft.
- These aircraft are increasingly being developed as part of interconnected combat systems rather than as standalone platforms.
- The United States is pursuing its Next Generation Air Dominance programme, centred on the F-47. The United Kingdom, Italy and Japan are collaborating on the Global Combat Air Programme, while European countries have also pursued their own next-generation aviation plans.



Suryastra Rocket Launcher Clears 300 km Trial

- Pune-based private-sector defence manufacturer NIBE Limited successfully completed fresh firing trials of SURYASTRA, India's first indigenous Universal Rocket Launcher System (URLS), at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.
- The live-fire evaluations demonstrated the system's ability to engage targets across four operational distance bands of 30 km, 50 km, 150 km and 300 km, validating the launcher's full-spectrum strike capability.
- SURYASTRA delivered a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of less than five metres during testing, highlighting its ability to conduct highly accurate surface-to-surface precision strikes over both medium and long ranges.

- The program is rooted in a technology collaboration agreement signed between NIBE Limited and Israel's ELBIT Systems in July 2025.
- Through this partnership, ELBIT's Precise & Universal Launching System (PULS) architecture was adapted for domestic production, enabling India to manufacture an advanced multi-calibre rocket launcher for both national requirements and potential export opportunities.
- Designed around a modular architecture, SURYASTRA can launch 122 mm, 160 mm and 306 mm rockets from a single platform. This flexibility allows military planners to employ different munitions according to mission requirements without relying on multiple launcher variants.
- Mounted on high-mobility platforms such as the BEML High Mobility Vehicle (HMV), SURYASTRA supports rapid "shoot-and-scoot" tactics, enabling crews to fire and quickly relocate in order to enhance survivability against counter-fire threats.
- The successful Odisha trials build upon a **₹293-crore** Indian Army contract awarded to **NIBE Limited** in January 2026 under the government's emergency procurement program. The order was intended to accelerate the induction of long-range precision rocket artillery and strengthen the Army's deep-strike capabilities.
- SURYASTRA represents a significant advancement in India's indigenous rocket artillery ecosystem, combining long-range reach, high accuracy and multi-calibre flexibility in a single platform.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The 8th edition of the India–Myanmar Naval Exercise IMNEX-26 concluded at which location on 14 November 2026?

A) Mumbai
B) Kochi
C) Visakhapatnam
D) Chennai

Correct Answer: C) Visakhapatnam

2. Which of the following Indian Naval Ships participated in IMNEX-26?

A) INS Vikrant and INS Kolkata
B) INS Rana and INS Sumedha
C) INS Chennai and INS Shivalik
D) INS Delhi and INS Talwar

Correct Answer: B) INS Rana and INS Sumedha

3. The Ministry of Defence signed an MoU with which ministry to improve the welfare of senior citizens in Cantonment areas?

A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
B) Ministry of Rural Development
C) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
D) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Correct Answer: C) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

4. Under which scheme will financial assistance be provided for Senior Citizen Homes and Day Care Centres in Cantonment areas?

A) PM Jan Arogya Yojana
B) Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana
C) PM Awas Yojana
D) National Social Assistance Programme

Correct Answer: B) Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana

5. The San Francisco Declaration on the Secure Foundations of Enduring Prosperity was signed during which event?

A) G20 Summit
B) Pax Silica Founders Retreat
C) BRICS Summit
D) World Economic Forum

Correct Answer: B) Pax Silica Founders Retreat

6. On which date did India formally join Pax Silica?

A) 15 August 2025
B) 26 January 2026
C) 20 February 2026
D) 15 November 2026

Correct Answer: C) 20 February 2026

7. The Advanced Multirole Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme is associated with the development of which of the following?

A) Indigenous aircraft carrier
B) Next-generation fighter aircraft
C) Nuclear-powered submarine
D) Long-range missile defence system

Correct Answer: B) Next-generation fighter aircraft

8. The Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP) is a joint next-generation fighter aircraft initiative involving which three countries?

A) India, France and Germany
B) USA, Australia and Japan
C) UK, Italy and Japan
D) France, Spain and Sweden

Correct Answer: C) UK, Italy and Japan

9. **India Sold Brahmos Missile To**
A. Philippines
B. Vietnam
C. Thailand
D. Japan
ANSWER: A

10. **Agni-V Is A**
A. Destroyer

B. OPV
C. IRBM
D. ICBM
ANSWER: D

11. **Which is Not Correctly Matched:**
A. IAF Day: 8 Oct
B. Indian Navy Day: 4 Dec
C. Indian Army Day: 26 Jan
D. BSF Day: 1 Dec
ANSWER: C

12. **“Sarvatra” (Everywhere) Is The Motto Of**
A. JKRIF
B. RR
C. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
D. Madras Regiment
ANSWER: C

13. **IAF Was Formed On**
A. 8 October 1932
B. 8 October 1922
C. 8 October 1942
D. 8 October 1952
ANSWER: A

14. **SLBM Stands For**
A. Submarine-launched Ballistic Misery
B. Submarine-launched Ballistic Missile
C. Submarine-launched Ballet Missile
D. Solar-launched Ballistic Missile
ANSWER: B

15. **Lima Is The Capital Of**
A. Poland
B. Qatar
C. UAE
D. Peru
ANSWER: D

16. **“The Epic Battle of Longewala" Book Is Written By**

A. Arun Kumar
B. Ashish Ghatak
C. Ramesh Kandula
D. Air Marshal Retd Bharat Kumar

ANSWER: D

17. Joint Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

A. Yama
B. SLINEX
C. Indra
D. Konkan Shakti

ANSWER: D

18. **Where Is The Hq of The South Western Command of The Indian Army?**

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

ANSWER: A

19. **Merkava Mk.4 Is The Tank Of**

A. Germany
B. Israel
C. USA
D. India

ANSWER: B

19. Exercises B/w The India and Egypt Is Called:

A. SLINEX
B. Indra
C. Yudha Abhyas
D. Ex CYCLONE

ANSWER: D

20. Where Is The Hq of The Training Command of The IAF?

A. Bengaluru

B. Vishakhapatnam
C. Shillong
D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A