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Delivery of ASW SWC, 'ASHANK'

- 'Ashank', one of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, was delivered to Indian Navy on 23 Nov 2026 at Visakhapatnam.
- The ASW SWCs (ex-GRSE) have been designed and constructed in accordance with the Classification Rules of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- Equipped with state-of-the-art lightweight torpedoes, indigenous rocket launchers and advanced sonar systems, Yard 3036 'Ashank' is a potent platform designed to strengthen the Navy's underwater surveillance and Anti-Submarine Warfare capabilities, particularly in coastal water.
- These ships are among the largest Indian Naval warships propelled by waterjets. The ship will further strengthen the Navy's Anti- submarine, coastal surveillance and mine-laying capabilities.
- The delivery of 'Ashank' is yet another milestone in the Indian Navy's pursuit of indigenous shipbuilding, in line with the Government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- With over 80 percent indigenous content, the ship stands as a testament to the growing strength of the domestic defence manufacturing ecosystem and reducing dependency on imports.



INS Sahyadri Concludes Port Visit To Da Nang, Vietnam

- The Indian Navy's indigenous Guided Missile Stealth Frigate, INS Sahyadri, successfully concluded its port visit to Da Nang, Vietnam, from 20-22 Nov 26, as part of its operational deployment to the far east.
- During the visit, the ship undertook professional and cultural engagements aimed at strengthening bilateral naval cooperation and fostering mutual understanding.
- These included interactions with senior leadership of the Vietnam People's Navy, cross-visits by personnel of both navies and cultural exchanges.
- The engagements provided opportunities to strengthen professional ties, mutual trust and camaraderie between the two navies.
- The India-Vietnam maritime partnership reflects the continued engagement between the two navies and their commitment to maritime cooperation.
- INS Sahyadri's visit underscores the Indian Navy's continued efforts to strengthen maritime partnerships and enhance cooperation with friendly foreign navies, in consonance with **India's Act East Policy and vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).**



Active Protection Systems and Countermeasures for Armoured Vehicles

- Armoured vehicle survivability depends on layered protection against increasingly capable anti-tank weapons. Passive and reactive armour strengthen the vehicle itself, while Active Protection Systems detect and counter threats before impact.
- Understanding how these measures work—and how missiles seek to defeat them—is relevant to military technology and defence preparedness.
- The purpose of vehicle protection is to safeguard the crew and internal components from battlefield threats. Traditional designs relied mainly on passive armour, but advanced anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) have increased the demands on protection.
- Some warheads are designed to penetrate armour that would stop less advanced munitions. Modern protection therefore uses several complementary layers. Armour can absorb or disrupt a projectile, reactive systems can respond to impact, and Active Protection Systems (APS) can detect and counter a threat before it reaches the vehicle.
- Passive armour consists of fixed, non-energetic layers that absorb or deflect the energy of incoming threats. Hardened steel, aluminium alloys and composite ceramics are among the materials used.
- Shtora-1 combines infrared jammers, laser-warning receivers and smoke grenade launchers. India’s Vehicle Integrated Radio Jammer and Survivability

System (VIRSS) is a soft-kill example, while South Africa's LEDS-150 integrates laser warning and multi-spectral smoke.



India Tests JWALA MK-1 Counter-Drone System

- India successfully test-fired JWALA MK-1, an indigenous autonomous counter-drone micro-missile system, at the Pokhran test range in Rajasthan on 23 November 2026.
- Developed by Indian defence technology company IG Defence, it is described as India's first autonomous Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (CUAS) micro-missile system.
- JWALA MK-1 has a stated operational range of up to 5 kilometres and is designed to detect, identify and neutralise hostile drones.
- It uses a dual-pulse solid rocket motor and combines micro-missile technology with GRID, an artificial intelligence-powered mission management platform described as its intelligence backbone.
- The system is a hard-kill interceptor, physically destroying incoming drones rather than merely disrupting them. It is intended as a cost-effective response to inexpensive attack drones and to complement conventional air-defence systems.



DRDO Tasks olee.space with Laser Drone Communication System

- On 23 November 2026, the DRDO under India's Ministry of Defence, awarded Pune-based deep-tech company **olee.space** a contract to develop an indigenous laser-link communication system for drones. The project must be completed within 18 months.
- The contract covers ground-based and airborne Free Space Optical Communication (FSOC) terminals with automatic Pointing, Acquisition, and Tracking (PAT) capabilities.
- Olee.space says the laser link is intended to provide high-speed, secure communication without radio-frequency jamming or a trailing fibre-optic cable.
- It cited the use of cables by some drones in the Russia–Ukraine war to avoid radio jamming, while noting that cables can limit range and snag or break. Co-founder James said maintaining a laser link to a moving drone is a difficult communications challenge.
- Founded in Pune in 2023 by James Solomon and Suman Hiremath, olee.space works in photonics, laser communication systems and directed-energy weapons.
- It raised US$3 million in seed funding in August 2025 and delivered a production-grade Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) system to the Indian Armed Forces in May 2026.



Indian Navy & ICG Planning To Acquire 76 Naval Utility Helicopters

- The Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard are planning to procure 76 utility helicopters under a proposed Rs 15,000 crore programme aimed at replacing their ageing Cheetah and Chetak choppers. The plan envisages manufacturing the helicopters in India through partnerships between domestic companies and foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), defence sources told ANI.
- Under the proposed procurement, the Navy would acquire 51 helicopters, while the Coast Guard would get the remaining 25. The project is expected to be discussed at a high-level Defence Ministry meeting shortly and is likely to be pursued under the Buy and Make (Indian) category of the Defence Acquisition Procedure, the sources said.
- The two forces are looking to induct helicopters in the 5-tonne-plus category as they have faced operational issues with their existing fleet of twin-engine choppers.
- The proposed acquisition is part of a wider effort by India's three defence services to replace their ageing helicopter fleets. The Indian Army and the Indian Air Force are separately looking to procure 400 light utility helicopters.
- Of these, 200 helicopters are planned to be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), while the other 200 would be produced by private sector companies in partnership with foreign OEMs.

- The Defence Acquisition Council recently cleared the programme for the 200 helicopters to be manufactured by private companies. A tender for the project is expected to be issued soon.
- The Indian Navy had previously proposed acquiring 111 naval light utility helicopters, but the programme made little progress.
- Separately, the Navy is planning to procure 60 Utility Helicopters Marine (UH Marine) from HAL, which is developing the helicopters indigenously.
- The combined requirement for light helicopters across the defence forces stands at around 500, the sources said.
- Light utility helicopters play an important role in reconnaissance and surveillance missions across India's borders and challenging terrain. They are used in areas ranging from the Siachen region in the north to Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast, as well as other operational locations.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which shipbuilder constructed the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) 'ASHANK'?

A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers
C) Cochin Shipyard Limited
D) Goa Shipyard Limited

Correct Answer: B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers

2. What is the approximate indigenous content of the ASW Shallow Water Craft 'ASHANK'?

A) 50%
B) 60%
C) 70%
D) More than 80%

Correct Answer: D) More than 80%

3. INS Sahyadri recently concluded its port visit to which country?

A) Indonesia
B) Vietnam
C) Singapore
D) Philippines

Correct Answer: B) Vietnam

4. What is the full form of MAHASAGAR, associated with India's maritime vision?

A) Maritime Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions
B) Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions
C) Maritime Alliance for Strategic Growth and Regional Relations
D) Mutual Alliance for Homeland Security and Global Advancement

Correct Answer: B) Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions

5. Which of the following is an example of a Russian Active Protection System that combines infrared jammers, laser-warning receivers and smoke grenade launchers?

A) LEDS-150
B) VIRSS
C) Shtora-1
D) GRID

Correct Answer: C) Shtora-1

6. JWALA MK-1, recently tested in India, is primarily associated with which defence technology?

A) Anti-tank missile system
B) Autonomous counter-drone micro-missile system

C) Long-range ballistic missile
D) Naval air-defence system

Correct Answer: B) Autonomous counter-drone micro-missile system

7. What is the name of the AI-powered mission management platform integrated into JWALA MK-1?

A) AKASH
B) NETRA
C) GRID
D) TRINETRA

Correct Answer: C) GRID

8. DRDO awarded a contract to which Pune-based company for developing an indigenous laser-link communication system for drones?

A) ideaForge
B) olee.space
C) IG Defence
D) Tonbo Imaging

Correct Answer: B) olee.space

9. What is the full form of FSOC in the context of the DRDO–olee.space project?

A) Free Space Optical Communication
B) Frequency Signal Optical Control
C) Fast Secure Optical Connection
D) Free Satellite Optical Communication

Correct Answer: A) Free Space Optical Communication

10. Under the proposed ₹15,000 crore Naval Utility Helicopter programme, how many helicopters are planned for the Indian Navy?

A) 25
B) 40
C) 51
D) 60

Correct Answer: C) 51

11. C-130J Super Hercules Is A

A. Destroyer
B. OPV
C. Submarine
D. Transport Aircraft

ANSWER: D

12. "Secure Application for Internet (SAI)" Has Been Developed By

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

ANSWER: B

13. Joint Exercises B/w The India and Nepal Is Called:

A. Surya Kiran
B. SLINEX
C. Indra
D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A

14. Hq Of Mazagaon Dockyard Limited Is In

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

ANSWER: B

15. "Battle Ready for 21st Century" Book Is Written By

A. Shashi Tharoor
B. Geetanjali Shree's
C. Richa Mishra
D. Lt Gen AK Singh and Brig. Narendra Kumar

ANSWER: D

16. Where Is the Hq of The Eastern Command of The Indian Navy?

A. Kochi
B. Vishakhapatnam

C. Pune
D. Mumbai
ANSWER: B

17. Joint Exercises B/w The India and USA Is Called:
A. Surya Kiran
B. Vajra Prahar
C. Yudha Abhyas
D. Both B & C
ANSWER: D

18. In IAF Flights are sub-divisions of squadrons, commanded by a__.
A. Squadron Leader
B. Flying Officer
C. Air Marshal
D. None of the above
ANSWER: A

19. DRDO Lakshya Is A
A. Fighter Jet
B. Ship
C. Tank
D. UAV
ANSWER: D

20. Exercise Samudra Shakti Conducted B/w Indonesia &
A. India
B. Nepal
C. Bangladesh
D. Bhutan
ANSWER: A