

Defence (4)

• DAC clears AoNs worth about Rs 1.10 lakh crore

Body: Defence Acquisition Council under the Raksha Mantri, 7 September 2026 — Acceptance of Necessity worth about Rs 1.10 lakh crore, about 98% from Indian industry.
Detail: Army — CBRN reconnaissance vehicles, high-mobility vehicles, mechanical mine layers, ALH Dhruv (with the IAF), trawl tanks, Sarvatra bridges. Navy — Arudhra radars for Naval Air Stations; marine gas turbines. Common — Ground-Based Multi-Purpose Jammer.
Detail: AoN is only in-principle approval of need — the first step under DAP 2020 (in force 1 October 2020). The contract follows RFP, trials, CNC and CFA sanction; CCS approval above Rs 3,000 crore.
Lineage: DAC was created in 2001 on the recommendation of the post-Kargil Group of Ministers. The Raksha Mantri chairs; the DG (Acquisition) is Member Secretary.
Detail: Makers — Sarvatra, R&DE(E) Pune (5 x 15 m = 75 m, MLC 60); Dhruv, HAL; Arudhra, LRDE Bengaluru; LM2500, HAL Bengaluru under GE licence.
Exam hook: AoN is not a contract — the commonest wrong statement. DAP 2020 governs capital procurement; DPM governs revenue.

• President's Colour to the Goa Police

Body: President's Colour conferred on the Goa Police at Panaji, 7 September 2026, presented by the Union Home Minister.
Detail: It is the highest honour for a unit, awarded by the President as Supreme Commander under Article 53(2); also called the Nishaan.
Lineage: Firsts — Indian Navy, 27 May 1951 (from Dr Rajendra Prasad); Uttar Pradesh Police, 23 November 1952, the first State force; Delhi Police 1954.
Detail: Recent police recipients — Gujarat 2019, Himachal 2021, Assam and Tamil Nadu 2022, Haryana 2023, Chhattisgarh 2024, Sikkim May 2026 (15th State), Goa September 2026.
Detail: Goa — liberated 19 December 1961 (Operation Vijay); Statehood 30 May 1987 as India's 25th State; Konkani entered the Eighth Schedule by the 71st Amendment, 1992.
Exam hook: Article 53(2) for the Supreme Commander; Navy 1951 as the first-ever recipient and UP Police 1952 as the first State force.

• Veer Guardian 2026 — first Indian edition of the India-Japan air exercise

Body: Veer Guardian 2026, IAF-JASDF, Air Force Station Jodhpur, 9-22 September 2026 — the first edition held in India.
Detail: IAF flew Tejas, Su-30MKI and Rafale; the JASDF brought the F-2A.
Lineage: First edition at Hyakuri Air Base, Japan, 12-26 January 2023.
Detail: The F-2 is a Mitsubishi-Lockheed Martin, F-16-derived fighter, in service from 2000 — the first operational fighter with an AESA radar.
Detail: The India-Japan exercise family — Malabar (Quad navies), JIMEX (navies, 2012), Dharma Guardian (armies, 2018), Shinyuu Maitri (air transport), Sahyog Kaijin (coast guards), Veer Guardian (fighters, 2023).
Detail: Framework — Special Strategic and Global Partnership, 2014; 2+2 dialogue since November 2019; ACSA signed 10 September 2020, making Japan India's sixth logistics-pact partner. Japan's Article 9 constitution; Self-Defense Forces from 1954.
Exam hook: Veer Guardian = air forces; Dharma Guardian = armies. The 'Guardian' pair is the designed confusion.

• INS Mysore at Lumut — Samudra Laksamana and the Malacca choke point

Body: INS Mysore at Lumut, Malaysia, from 9 September 2026 for the 4th edition of Exercise Samudra Laksamana with the Royal Malaysian Navy; harbour phase plus sea phase. Follows the 12th India-Malaysia Sub-Committee Meeting, 1 July 2026.
Detail: 'Laksamana' means admiral in Malay; the exercise began in 2019.
Detail: INS Mysore (D60) — Delhi class (Project 15), India's first indigenously designed destroyers; Mazagon Dock, Mumbai; commissioned 2 June 1999; about 6,700 tonnes. Class: Delhi, Mysore, Mumbai; ancestors of the Kolkata (15A) and Visakhapatnam (15B) classes.
Detail: Naval commands — Western (Mumbai), Eastern (Visakhapatnam), Southern (Kochi, training), and the Andaman and Nicobar Command (Port Blair, 2001), India's only tri-service command.
Detail: The Strait of Malacca runs about 800 km between the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra, under 3 km navigable at its narrowest, carrying about a quarter of world traded goods. Lumut is the Royal Malaysian Navy's main base.
Exam hook: Samudra Laksamana = Malaysia, Samudra Shakti = Indonesia; Harimau Shakti is the India-Malaysia army exercise.

Sci/Tech (7)

• India endorses the 6G Call to Action

Body: India endorsed the Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security, announced 9 September 2026; declared on the margins of the G20 Innovation Ministerial, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1-2 September 2026, under the US G20 Presidency. DoT coordinates.
Detail: Principles — open, interoperable, secure, resilient, resource-efficient, innovation-led. Timeline — 1 month for points of contact, 3 months to map the landscape, 6 months for a supply-chain strategy, 12 months to meet in person in 2027.
Detail: Generation names — 4G = IMT-Advanced; 5G = IMT-2020 (launched in India 1 October 2022); 6G = IMT-2030, ITU framework December 2023, deployment around 2030.
Lineage: Bharat 6G Vision, March 2023 (with the 6G test bed and the ITU Area Office, New Delhi); Bharat 6G Alliance, 3 July 2023; indigenous 4G/5G stack from C-DOT; TSDSI, 2013. Target: 10% of global 6G patents.
Detail: Bodies — ITU, a UN agency founded 1865, headquartered in Geneva; 3GPP writes the technical standards.
Exam hook: the IMT naming ladder (IMT-Advanced / IMT-2020 / IMT-2030) and ITU's 1865 founding — the oldest international organisation in the UN system.

• ORV Sagar Manthan launched at Kolkata

Body: Ocean Research Vessel Sagar Manthan launched 9 September 2026 at the Rishi Bankim Shipyard, Kolkata; built by GRSE for NCPOR under the Ministry of Earth Sciences; delivery due 2028.
Detail: About Rs 840 crore; all-weather, Southern Ocean capable; 30-year design life; dynamic positioning, multibeam bathymetry, multichannel seismic, sub-bottom profiling, ROV and AUV handling, CTD.
Dual class — Indian Register of Shipping and American Bureau of Shipping.
Detail: Milestones — contract July 2024; first steel 29 November 2024; keel laid 8 April 2026; launched 9 September 2026.
Detail: Mission — Indian Ocean mid-oceanic ridges, multi-metal hydrothermal sulphides, environmental baselines.
Lineage: Predecessor ORV Sagar Kanya — built in Germany, delivered 1983. Also Sagar Nidhi (Italy, 2007, NIOT) and Sagar Sampada.
Detail: NCPOR is at Vasco da Gama, Goa, established 25 May 1998 (as NCAOR); Antarctic stations Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012).
Exam hook: NCPOR (polar and ocean research, MoES) vs NIOT (Chennai, ocean technology) — the two are routinely swapped.

• First International Space Summit — orbital congestion and the law

Body: First International Space Summit, Paris, 10 September 2026, convened by the French President; the Indian PM addressed it by video.

Law: Outer Space Treaty, in force 10 October 1967 — space is the province of all mankind, no national appropriation, no weapons of mass destruction in orbit, peaceful use, and state responsibility for private actors.

Detail: The rest of the corpus — Rescue Agreement 1968, Liability Convention 1972, Registration Convention 1975, Moon Agreement 1979. COPUOS, 1959; UNOOSA at Vienna. Debris guidelines are voluntary — IADC 2002, UN 2008.

Detail: Objects in low Earth orbit travel at about 7.8 km/s; the Kessler syndrome is the collision-cascade risk. India's answer is Project NETRA with IS40M, Bengaluru.

Detail: India's record — Chandrayaan-3 landed 23 August 2023 near the lunar south pole.

Exam hook: the four treaty years (1968/1972/1975/1979) and the fact that the Moon Agreement has few major signatories; debris rules are guidelines, not binding law.

• Biosimilars — a new Indian Pharmacopoeia reference standard

Body: Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission national conference on 'Quality and Safety of Biosimilars', 10-11 September 2026, at C-CAMP, Bengaluru.

Detail: The output — an Indian Pharmacopoeia Reference Substance (IPRS) for Enoxaparin Sodium for bioassays.

Detail: The core concept — biologics are made in living cells and cannot be copied exactly, so a copy is a similar biologic or biosimilar, never a 'generic'. Generics are chemically identical; biosimilars are highly similar.

Detail: Key terms — critical quality attributes, comparability assessment, immunogenicity, pharmacovigilance, and bioassay (a test of biological activity, not chemical identity).

Detail: Enoxaparin Sodium is a low-molecular-weight heparin, an anticoagulant acting through antithrombin, mainly on factor Xa.

Exam hook: the generic/biosimilar distinction is the whole question; IPC sits under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and publishes the Indian Pharmacopoeia.

• A Badri calf from a Sahiwal mother — OPU-IVF embryo transfer

Body: A Badri female calf born 11 September 2026 through OPU-IVF, from a Badri embryo transferred into a Sahiwal recipient cow.

Detail: Work by ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, with G.B. Pant University, Pantnagar; funded by the Uttarakhand Biotechnology Council. Programme initiated 2023.

Detail: OPU = Ovum Pick-Up — ultrasound-guided aspiration of oocytes from a live donor's ovarian follicles; repeatable, and gentler than superovulation-based MOET.

Detail: The chain — ovum pick-up - in vitro maturation - in vitro fertilisation - embryo culture - oestrus synchronisation of recipients - embryo transfer.

Detail: The core contrast — artificial insemination multiplies a superior bull; OPU-IVF with embryo transfer multiplies a superior cow. Badri is Uttarakhand's indigenous hill cattle breed.

Exam hook: that AI multiplies male genetics while embryo transfer multiplies female genetics — the conceptual point examiners test.

• Steel slag roads — a Guinness record at Raigarh

Body: Guinness World Record for the 'World's Longest Road Built with Processed Steel Slag Aggregates' — a 1.85 km road at Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, conferred 12 September 2026.

Detail: Built by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi with Jindal Steel Limited; brand launched as 'Steel Grit'. Next: a 40 km road in Odisha.

Detail: Claims — about 40% lower construction cost, four times the strength, major maintenance only after about 15 years, in suitable applications.

Detail: Two slags, kept apart — blast furnace slag is an iron-making by-product, ground to GGBS for Portland Slag Cement; steel slag is a steelmaking by-product and contains free lime, which must be weathered or processed before use.

Detail: CSIR-CRRI is one of the 37 CSIR laboratories; DSIR is the parent department.

Exam hook: the blast-furnace vs steel slag distinction, and that free lime is the reason raw steel slag cannot simply be used as aggregate.

• Moth bean varieties survive a 35-day dry spell

Body: ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur — four varieties, CAZRI Moth-4, 5, 6 and 7, withstood a 35-day dry spell in Kharif 2026 in arid western Rajasthan.

Detail: Moth bean (*Vigna aconitifolia*) is grown on nearly 10 lakh hectares in western Rajasthan; productivity about 350 kg per hectare. Regional rainfall 150-250 mm, with normal dry spells of 20-30 days.

Detail: The season's water balance — crop period 10 July to 2 September, pan evaporation about 317 mm; last significant rain 2 August (86 mm); dry spell 3 August to 7 September.

Detail: Soil moisture — surface (0-10 cm) fell from 15-16% to 5-6%, while subsurface (10-40 cm) fell only from about 23% to 16% and kept supplying the crop. That subsurface reserve is the mechanism.

Detail: CAZRI, Jodhpur, established 1959, is the national institute for arid-zone research.

Exam hook: moth bean as a drought-escaping arid pulse; CAZRI's location and mandate; the difference between drought escape (short duration) and drought tolerance.

Infra (1)

• One year of the Bairabi-Sairang line to Aizawl

Body: The 51.38 km Bairabi-Sairang railway line completed one year on 13 September 2026; inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 13 September 2025. It brought the railway to Aizawl, Mizoram.

Detail: First year — over 15 lakh passengers, more than 1,100 trips, Rs 54 crore in ticket sales; every train above 100% capacity. Sairang station handled over 5.54 lakh passenger movements.

Detail: Engineering — 153 bridges (55 major, 88 minor, 10 ROB/RUB) and 45 tunnels totalling almost 16 km. Six bridges above 70 m; the tallest about 114 m, roughly 42 m taller than the Qutub Minar (about 72 m).

Detail: Four new stations — Hortoki, Kawnpui, Mualkhang, Sairang. Bairabi was the earlier railhead.

Detail: Services — Sairang-Anand Vihar Rajdhani (occupancy over 145%), Sairang-Kolkata tri-weekly, Sairang-Guwahati daily, and Sairang-Silchar linking the Barak Valley.

Exam hook: Aizawl as a State capital newly connected by rail — the running theme of North-East capital connectivity (Itanagar, Agartala, Aizawl).

Culture/Sport (2)

• 503-member contingent for the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games

Body: Send-off in New Delhi, 8 September 2026 — 503 members, 300+ first-timers; IOA President P.T. Usha present.

Detail: 20th Asian Games, Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 19 September-4 October 2026 — 43 sports, 71 disciplines, 469 events; 11,000+ athletes, 45 NOCs. Japan's third Asian Games after Tokyo 1958 and Hiroshima 1994.

Lineage: First Asian Games, New Delhi, March 1951 (11 nations); India hosted again in 1982 (mascot Appu, colour television). Hangzhou 2022 was held in 2023 — India took 107 medals (28-38-41), ranking 4th. India's best rank was 3rd, at Jakarta 1962.

Detail: Bodies — IOA, 1927 (founded with Dorabji Tata); P.T. Usha, first woman president, December 2022; OCA 1982, headquartered in Kuwait; SAI 1984; TOPS 2014; Khelo India 2018.

Detail: Recent law and policy — National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and Khelo Bharat Niti, 2025.

Exam hook: 1951 New Delhi as the first edition and 1982 as India's second hosting; the Hangzhou 2022/2023 date mismatch is a favourite.

- **Lothal — the National Maritime Heritage Complex nears Phase 1A**

Body: 2nd Governing Council meeting of the NMHC Society, 11 September 2026, chaired by the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Detail: Phase 1A at about 82% physical completion; revised target 31 October 2026; 1,492 artefacts ready for installation; ASI excavation about 70% complete.

Detail: 13 countries have signed MoUs — Portugal, UAE, Vietnam, Thailand, the Netherlands, Denmark, Oman, Israel, Germany, Republic of Korea, Italy, New Zealand and Singapore.

Detail: Planned — a 5D Dome Theatre, Coastal States Pavilion, a Lighthouse Museum with DGLL (potentially the world's tallest), and a Maritime Research Institute with the Indian Maritime University.

Detail: Lothal lies in the Bhal region of Gujarat, on the Bhogavo, a Harappan port site famous for its dockyard — the earliest known in the world.

Exam hook: Lothal's dockyard and its Gujarat location; do not confuse it with Dholavira (Kutch, a UNESCO World Heritage Site) or Surkotada.



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