

# IACE

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## Director General ICG inaugurates Waterjet Production & Testing Facility in Goa



- The Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), **DG Paramesh Sivamani**, inaugurated the **Waterjet Production & Testing Facility** of Marine Jet Power (MJP) India in Goa on **February 13, 2026**.
- The inauguration marks a significant milestone in India's pursuit of **maritime Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance)**.
- Under the **Manufacturing and Transfer of Technology (ToT) framework**, India has become the **third country globally**, after the United States and South Korea, to host such an advanced facility.

### The facility will:

- Strengthen the **domestic supply chain**.
- Enable **indigenous testing** of waterjet propulsion systems.
- Serve as a **regional hub** for South Asia and adjoining regions.
- Generate employment and support the **MSME ecosystem**.
- Enhance **technology absorption** in India.

- The Indian Coast Guard currently operates **over 100 MJP (Marine Jet Power) waterjet propulsion systems** onboard its vessels.
- An additional **42 waterjet systems** are planned for ships currently under construction.
- The new facility will improve **operational sustenance** and **indigenous maintenance capabilities**.
- DG ICG reaffirmed the organisation's strong commitment to **indigenisation**, stating that the achievement resulted from sustained multi-tier engagements initiated since **2023**.
- During the visit, DG ICG also reviewed the progress of **six indigenously built Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs)** at Chowgule & Company Pvt Ltd.
- This project represents India's **first indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle programme**, with approximately **50% indigenous content**.
- The delivery of the **first Air Cushion Vehicle** is scheduled for **May 2026**.

## Indian Army to conduct inaugural International Military Adventure Challenge Cup 2026



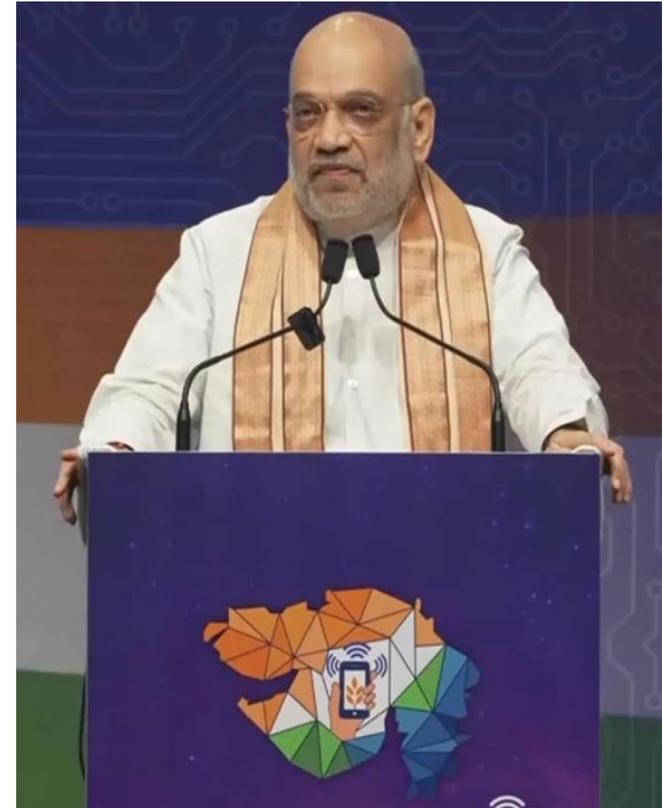
- The Indian Army will host the inaugural International Military Adventure Challenge Cup (IMACC) 2026 from 18–23 February 2026 in the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas.
- IMACC 2026 aims to bring together military teams from India and friendly foreign nations for a week-long series of adventure and endurance competitions.
- The event is designed to test core soldier attributes including physical fitness, mental resilience, teamwork, leadership, and decision-making under pressure in demanding mountain terrain conditions.
- Participating countries include Bhutan, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Saudi Arabia, while Indian representation includes the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

- The competitions will feature terrain-based challenges, endurance events, navigation, obstacle crossing, survival skills, and coordinated team manoeuvres in tough mountain environments.
- IMACC replicates real operational conditions, enhancing operational preparedness and promoting best practices in adventure-based military training.
- International military sports events, under the International Military Sports Council (CISM), foster camaraderie and mutual trust among armed forces globally, following the motto “Friendship through Sport”.
- India has been an active participant in CISM activities and previously hosted the 4th CISM Military World Games in 2007, strengthening its profile in global military sporting events.

IMACC

## Union Home Minister Amit Shah Launches CBDC Based PDS in Gujarat

- Union Minister Amit Shah launched India's first Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based Public Distribution System (PDS) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The initiative was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and the Ministry of Cooperation (MoC).
- Under the CBDC framework, digital coupons generated through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will be credited directly to beneficiaries as programmable digital currency (e₹).
- Beneficiaries can redeem their entitled quantity of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPS) using CBDC coupon or voucher codes.
- The system aims to make ration distribution transparent, modern, user-friendly, and leakage-free through digital technology.
- It will help address challenges related to biometric authentication and e-POS (Point of Sale) operational issues.
- The initiative was launched by the Government of India in collaboration with the RBI and the Government of Gujarat under the PDS in the districts of Ahmedabad, Anand, Valsad and Surat.
- In subsequent phases, the system will be extended to the Union Territories of Puducherry, Chandigarh, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.



## International Childhood Cancer Day 2026 - 15 February

- International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) is observed every year on 15 February across the world.
- The day aims to raise awareness about childhood cancer, support children and adolescents affected by cancer, and advocate for equitable access to quality care globally.
- The 2026 campaign continues the three-year ICCD initiative (2024–2026).
- The initiative is organised by Childhood Cancer International (CCI) in partnership with International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP).
- The three-year campaign is structured as follows:
  - 2024 – Unveiling Challenges
  - 2025 – Inspiring Action
  - 2026 – Demonstrating Impact
- ICCD was established in 2002 by CCI, a global umbrella organisation representing national and grassroots childhood cancer parent groups.
- The first International Childhood Cancer Day was observed on 15 February 2002.
- The Gold Ribbon is the universal symbol of childhood cancer awareness, representing the preciousness of children, the value of every child's life, hope, and strength.



## GalaxEye to partner with ISRO's NewSpace India to sell its satellite imagery solutions

- In February 2026, GalaxEye signed a data reseller partnership agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Following the agreement, GalaxEye became the **first private Indian satellite operator** to formally collaborate with NSIL to resell its Earth Observation data.
- Under the MoU, NSIL will resell GalaxEye's portfolio, including its **'SyncFused OptoSAR' imagery products**, in both domestic and global markets.
- The Earth Observation data will be used in critical sectors such as:
  - Agriculture
  - Disaster management
  - Natural resource and inventory management
  - Infrastructure planning and development
  - Environmental monitoring
- M. Mohan, CMD of NSIL, stated that the agreement will promote GalaxEye's Opto-SAR products and services globally.
- He added that the collaboration reflects the vision of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative to promote Indian space products and services at the international level.
- GalaxEye is an Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), Tamil Nadu-incubated space-tech startup.
- The company specialises in building advanced payloads such as **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)**, a space-based imaging radar system.



## **Barbados PM Mia Mottley Re-elected as PM of Barbados for Third Consecutive Time**

- In February 2026, Mia Amor Mottley was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Barbados for a third consecutive term.
- The re-election followed the victory of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) in the general election held on 11 February 2026.
- The BLP won all 30 seats in the House of Assembly, achieving a complete sweep with no seats for the opposition.
- In terms of vote share, the BLP secured approximately 69.83% of the total votes polled.
- The Democratic Labour Party (DLP) received around 27.31% of the popular vote.
- Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley defeated opposition leader Ralph Thorne, with the opposition failing to win any parliamentary seat.



## **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Appoints First Woman TTE in 145 Years**

- The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) appointed its first woman Train Ticket Examiner (TTE), **Sarita Yolmo**, nearly 145 years after its establishment in 1881.
- Sarita Yolmo shifted from the Railway Press to the Commercial Department before taking up her new role.
- She made history after being assigned **'tour duty'** on the iconic 88-km mountain railway route from New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling.
- The DHR is operated by the Northeast Frontier Railway.
- The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999.
- It is Asia's oldest two-foot narrow-gauge railway system.
- The appointment marks an important step forward in women's representation in Indian Railways.

