₹1,976-crore deal to upgrade the Navy's Barak missile systems

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News

The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹1,976.40-crore contract with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in New Delhi on 18 November 2026 for the upgrade and obsolescence management of the Barak Point Defence Missile System fitted on Indian Navy ships. It was signed under the Other Capital Procurement Procedure in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. The Ministry said comprehensive hardware and software upgrades will add features and improve the anti-air capability of naval platforms, including engagement range. The Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 'Upgradation of BARAK-1 Point Defence Missile System' had been accorded on 5 August 2025 by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Barak-1 is a vertically launched short-range surface-to-air missile that protects a warship against anti-ship missiles, hostile aircraft and other aerial threats; developed by Israel's IAI and Rafael, it is reported to be fitted on ships including Delhi-class destroyers and Brahmaputra-class frigates.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Signed	18 November 2026, New Delhi
Value	₹1,976.40 crore (about US$220 million – reported)
Company	Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)

Point	Details
Scope	Upgrade + obsolescence management; hardware & software
Procedure	Other Capital Procurement Procedure
AoN	DAC, 5 Aug 2025 – 'Upgradation of Barak-1'
Type	Vertical-launch short-range SAM (developed by IAI and Rafael)
Ships	Delhi-class destroyers, Brahmaputra-class frigates (reported)

Background

- Defence concept: a 'point-defence' system is a short-range system that protects only the ship carrying it from incoming threats; longer-range systems that protect a wide sea area or a group of ships are called 'area defence'. Modern warships use layered defence – long-, medium- and short-range missiles plus close-in weapon systems.
- The Barak family: after Barak-1, India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and IAI jointly developed the medium/long-range 'Barak-8' (MRSAM / LRSAM in India). Kolkata-class (Project 15A) destroyers, including INS Chennai commissioned at Mumbai on 21 November 2016, carry Barak-8 missiles along with BrahMos.
- Procurement process: the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the Defence Minister, grants Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisitions; contract negotiation and signing follow. The DAC meeting of 5 August 2025 cleared proposals worth about ₹67,000 crore, the Barak-1 upgrade among them.

Tamil Nadu link: No direct Tamil Nadu link. Closest: INS Chennai (D65), named after the State capital, is a Kolkata-class destroyer armed with Barak-8 missiles; built by Mazagon Dock (Mumbai), it was commissioned on 21 November 2016 – it completes 10 years on 21 November 2026.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Signed: 18 November 2026, New Delhi; Value: ₹1,976.40 crore (about US$220 million – reported); Company: Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI); Scope: Upgrade + obsolescence management; hardware & software.

What is the background to this news?

Defence concept: a 'point-defence' system is a short-range system that protects only the ship carrying it from incoming threats; longer-range systems that protect a wide sea area or a group of ships are called 'area defence'.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. With which company did the Defence Ministry sign a contract on 18 Nov 2026 to upgrade the Navy's Barak point-defence system?

A) Rafael

B) Elbit Systems

C) Israel Aerospace (IAI)

D) Bharat Dynamics

Answer: C – Explanation: Israel Aerospace Industries – ₹1,976.40 crore; hardware and software upgrade. Rafael co-developed Barak-1, but the contract is with IAI.

2. Which Indian organisation co-developed the medium-range surface-to-air missile (MRSAM / Barak-8) with Israel?

A) HAL

B) DRDO

C) BEL

D) ISRO

Answer: B – Explanation: DRDO – jointly with Israel Aerospace Industries. The older Barak-1 is short-range; Barak-8 is medium/long-range.

3. In naval warfare, what is the main job of a 'point-defence' missile system?

A) Guard a wide sea area

B) Strike land targets

C) Hunt submarines

D) Protect its own ship

Answer: D – Explanation: A short-range system that shields the carrying ship from incoming missiles and aircraft. Guarding a wide area is 'area defence'.

4. Who chairs the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), which gave Acceptance of Necessity for the Barak-1 upgrade in Aug 2025?

A) Prime Minister

B) Defence Secretary

C) Defence Minister

D) Chief of Defence Staff

Answer: C – Explanation: The Defence Minister (Rajnath Singh) – the 5 Aug 2025 meeting cleared proposals worth about ₹67,000 crore.

5. INS Chennai, named after Tamil Nadu's capital and armed with Barak-8 missiles, belongs to which class of destroyers?

A) Kolkata class

B) Delhi class

C) Rajput class

D) Visakhapatnam class

Answer: A – Explanation: Kolkata class (Project 15A) – built by Mazagon Dock, Mumbai; commissioned 21 Nov 2016; carries BrahMos and Barak-8.

Sources: News On AIR; Business Today; Deccan Chronicle; Ynetnews; PIB release of 5 Aug 2025 (copy); Business Standard (PTI); DT Next. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.