Barak PDMS: upgrading naval air defence

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▼ In this article

- Why in the news
- What the contract covers
- An upgrade is not the same as a new acquisition
- Key facts for the examination
- Prelims practice questions
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Sources

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Why in the news

The Ministry of Defence has signed a **Rs 1,976.40 crore** contract with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for the upgradation and obsolescence management of the Barak Point Defence Missile System (PDMS) onboard Indian Navy ships. It was signed in New Delhi on 18 November 2026 in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

What the contract covers

Scope: The system will receive a comprehensive hardware and software upgrade. Hardware means its physical equipment; software means the programs that operate it.

Purpose: The Ministry says the work will improve the naval platforms' anti-air defence capability. The release does not provide a numerical engagement range.

Procedure: The procurement route named in the release is **Other Capital Procurement Procedure**. It should not be relabelled as a different acquisition category.

An upgrade is not the same as a new acquisition

The news concerns a system already onboard naval ships. It should not be described as the purchase of new warships or a stated number of new missiles for that amount. The release gives no ship count, missile count or completion deadline.

In ordinary terms, obsolescence management means dealing with ageing technology and equipment. For this contract, the Ministry specifically identifies a comprehensive hardware and software upgrade. The available information does not establish which individual components will be replaced.

Key facts for the examination

Point	Verified information
System	Barak Point Defence Missile System
User	Indian Navy ships
Contracting parties	Ministry of Defence and Israel Aerospace Industries
Overall cost	Rs 1,976.40 crore
Contract date	18 November 2026
Place	New Delhi
Announced work	Hardware/software upgradation and obsolescence management

Remember: A range figure associated with another Barak version should not be applied to this contract merely because the name is similar. The official confirmation here concerns the PDMS upgrade.

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Prelims practice questions

Question 1. Consider the following statements about the Barak PDMS upgrade contract:

Statement 1: It concerns a system onboard Indian Navy ships.
Statement 2: It includes both hardware and software upgradation.
Statement 3: Its overall cost is Rs 1,976.40 crore.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

▼ Answer and explanation

Correct answer: (d)

Statement 1 is correct: The release identifies the PDMS onboard Indian Navy ships.
Statement 2 is correct: Comprehensive hardware and software upgradation is included.
Statement 3 is correct: The announced overall cost is Rs 1,976.40 crore.

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Question 2. Which organisation is the Ministry of Defence's counterparty in the Barak PDMS upgrade contract signed on 18 November 2026?

(a) Israel Aerospace Industries

(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

(c) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

(d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers

▼ Answer and explanation

Correct answer: (a)

The contract was signed between the Ministry of Defence and Israel Aerospace Industries. The other options are not the counterparties to this specific contract.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was IAI established, and what was its original work?

According to the company's history, it was established in 1953 as Bedek Aviation Company, or the Governmental Institute for Aviation. Its initial focus was aircraft maintenance and overhaul.

Which year does IAI's history give for a Barak system test?

The company's chronology records a test of the Barak naval-vessel defence system under 1991. This is not a claim about the date of its induction into the Indian Navy.

Sources

- PIB: Ministry of Defence, 18 November 2026
- Israel Aerospace Industries: history

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