



UPSC &amp; STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

# BEL Mountain Radar Contract, Skytrax Airport Rankings 2026 & CMLRE Deep-Sea Repository

5 April 2026 · **GS3**

CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**[bharatnotes.com](http://bharatnotes.com) →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

[epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

# BEL Mountain Radar Contract, Skytrax Airport Rankings 2026 & CMLRE Deep-Sea Repository

5 April 2026 · 5 min read · 1 tag

## ▼ On this Page

### 01 1. BEL Mountain Radar Contract —...

- Why in News
- Key Details
- Why Mountain Radars Matter
- BEL's Role in Aatmanirbhar Bharat

### 02 2. Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026

- Why in News
- Top 10 Airports — 2026
- India's Status
- About Skytrax

### 03 3. CMLRE — National Repository for...

- Why in News
- What it Does
- About CMLRE
- National Deep Sea Mission (NDSM)

### 04 4. Petrochemical Customs Duty Waiver

### 05 UPSC Relevance

### 06 Facts Corner



## 1. BEL MOUNTAIN RADAR CONTRACT — RS 1,950 CRORE

### Why in News

The **Ministry of Defence** signed a contract worth **Rs 1,950 crore** with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** for the procurement of **two Mountain Radars** with associated equipment for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, under the **highest-priority indigenous procurement category (Make-I)** of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

### Key Details

PARAMETER	DETAILS
Contract value	Rs 1,950 crore
Vendor	Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
End user	Indian Air Force (IAF)
Equipment	2 Mountain Radars + associated systems
Category	Make-I (highest indigenous priority)
Purpose	High-altitude surveillance in mountainous terrain

### Why Mountain Radars Matter

Mountain radars provide **low-level radar coverage** in high-altitude, complex terrain — filling gaps where conventional ground radar cannot see due to intervening mountains. They are critical for:

- Detecting low-flying aircraft, UAVs, and cruise missiles in the Himalayan sector
- Air defence corridor management along LAC and LOC
- Complementing AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) in mountainous conditions

### BEL's Role in Aatmanirbhar Bharat

BEL is a **Navratna CPSE** under the Ministry of Defence, specialising in advanced electronics — radars, sonars, electronic warfare systems, communications. BEL manufactured:

- AESA radar for Tejas Mk1A
- Electronic voting machines (EVMs)
- Battlefield Surveillance Radar (BSR)



- Electronic Fuzes, missile systems components

**DAP 2020 categories:** Make-I (Indian design, 50%+ indigenous content, MoD funding) → Make-II (Industry funding) → Buy IDDM (Indigenously Designed, Developed, Manufactured) → Buy Indian → Buy & Make → Buy Global.

## 2. SKYTRAX WORLD AIRPORT AWARDS 2026

### Why in News

The **Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026** were announced in March 2026. **Singapore Changi Airport** retained the top position for the 13th time, followed by **Incheon International Airport** (South Korea) and **Tokyo Haneda Airport** (Japan).

### Top 10 Airports — 2026

RANK	AIRPORT	COUNTRY
1	Singapore Changi	Singapore
2	Incheon International	South Korea
3	Tokyo Haneda	Japan
4	Hong Kong International	China (SAR)
5	Narita International	Japan
6	Doha Hamad International	Qatar
7	Rome Fiumicino	Italy
8	Istanbul Airport	Turkey
9	Munich Airport	Germany
10	Paris Charles de Gaulle	France

### India's Status

**No Indian airport** featured in the global top 20. The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), Delhi, India's busiest — has previously ranked in top 25 lists for specific categories but not in overall rankings. India's airport infrastructure, while rapidly expanding under UDAN and Airports Authority of India (AAI)

modernisation, lags in passenger experience metrics used by Skytrax (cleanliness, lounges, connectivity, retail, process efficiency).

## About Skytrax

Skytrax is a UK-based aviation consultancy that conducts annual passenger surveys across 550+ airports. Its ratings (1–5 stars) and annual awards are considered the “**Oscars of the aviation industry**”.

## 3. CMLRE — NATIONAL REPOSITORY FOR DEEP-SEA FAUNA

### Why in News

The Union **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** designated the **Bhavasagara Referral Centre of CMLRE (Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology)**, Kochi, as India’s **National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna**.

### What it Does

The repository will:

- Preserve **DNA data, biological samples, and voucher specimens** collected from India’s deep-sea expeditions
- Provide **taxonomic identification services** for newly discovered deep-sea species
- Serve as the **reference library** for India’s deep-sea biodiversity under the National Deep Sea Mission

### About CMLRE

- Full name: **Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology**
- Location: **Kochi, Kerala**
- Parent body: **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**
- Mandate: Research on marine fisheries, biodiversity, marine ecosystem health

### National Deep Sea Mission (NDSM)

Launched in **2021** with a budget of **Rs 4,077 crore** (over 5 years), NDSM has five verticals:

- 1 Deep-sea mining (polymetallic nodules)
- 2 Ocean climate change advisory services
- 3 Technological innovations for deep-sea exploration
- 4 Deep ocean survey and exploration



## 5 Advanced marine station for ocean biology

The CMLRE repository supports **Vertical 4** — deep ocean survey — by archiving specimens from the **Samudrayaan mission** (India’s manned deep-sea submersible programme, which aims to take scientists to 6,000 m depth in ‘Matsya 6000’).

## 4. PETROCHEMICAL CUSTOMS DUTY WAIVER

The government announced a **temporary waiver of basic customs duty** on approximately **40 petrochemical products** until **June 30, 2026**. Key points:

- **Purpose:** Reduce input costs for downstream plastics and polymer industries; stabilise supply chains disrupted by global tariff uncertainty
- **Fiscal impact:** ~Rs 1,800 crore revenue loss over three months
- **Context:** India’s petrochemical sector is heavily dependent on imported feedstocks like naphtha, ethylene, and propylene for polymer production
- **Policy tension:** The waiver runs counter to the broader Aatmanirbhar Bharat push to reduce import dependence, but is justified as a short-term stabilisation measure

## UPSC RELEVANCE

### GS Paper 3 — Economy, Environment, Science & Technology

- BEL + DAP 2020 — Make-I category, Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence
- Aviation sector — UDAN scheme, AAI, airport infrastructure
- National Deep Sea Mission — five verticals, Matsya 6000
- Petrochemical industry — import dependence, customs duty as policy tool

### Prelims Fast Facts:

- BEL contract value: **Rs 1,950 crore** (Mountain Radar, IAF)
- BEL status: **Navratna CPSE**
- Skytrax #1 airport 2026: **Singapore Changi** (13th time)
- CMLRE location: **Kochi**; parent: **Ministry of Earth Sciences**
- NDSM budget: **Rs 4,077 crore**; deep submersible: **Matsya 6000** (6,000 m)
- Petrochemical duty waiver: ~40 products, until **June 30, 2026**



## FACTS CORNER

- **Singapore Changi Airport** won the top Skytrax award every year from 2013 to 2020, lost it in 2021 (COVID year — Doha Hamad won), and reclaimed it in 2022 and has retained since
- **BEL** is headquartered in **Bengaluru** and has 9 manufacturing units across India, including Ghaziabad (radar systems), Pune (defence electronics), and Hyderabad (communication systems)
- India's **deepest ocean zone** — the **Swatch of No Ground** in the Bay of Bengal (depth ~2,900 m) — is a key area for CMLRE's deep-sea fauna research
- The **polymetallic nodules** that India's deep-sea mission aims to mine (at 5,000-6,000 m depth in the Central Indian Ocean) contain manganese, nickel, copper, and cobalt — **critical minerals** for EV batteries and clean energy technology
- India's customs duty waivers on petrochemicals are notified through **Customs (Tariff) Amendment Rules** under the Customs Act, 1962 — Parliament does not need to approve short-term duty waivers below a threshold

← **PREVIOUS ARTICLE**

National Panchayat Awards 2025 — Three Tripura Panchayats...

**NEXT ARTICLE** →

Current Affairs Today — April 4, 2026





CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

## Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari](#) →<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/04/05/bel-mountain-radar-skytrax-cmlre/>

### ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

## BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing](https://bharatnotes.com) → [bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)

### 📌 OPPORTUNITY

## Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

**Ideal for:** Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · [ujiyari.com](https://ujiyari.com) · [bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)

