



## Defence News

### I. Indigenous Development & Capabilities (DRDO & Make in India)

#### DRDO Approval for Indigenous AWACS (Netra MK-2):

- The Centre has officially sanctioned a major **₹20,000 crore project** for the development of indigenous Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS), named **Netra MK-2**.
- Spearheaded by DRDO, this initiative aims to significantly advance the Indian Air Force's (IAF) surveillance and command capabilities.
- **Platforms:** Six Airbus A321 aircraft, previously acquired from Air India, will be used as platforms for these new AWACS, marking the first time an Airbus platform is adapted for such complex military use in India.
- **Features:** Will include state-of-the-art AESA (Active Electronically Scanned Array) radars with 360-degree coverage, advanced electronic intelligence (ELINT) and communication intelligence (COMINT) functions, and fully indigenous mission control suites.
- **Timeline:** The project timeline is approximately three years, with the first operational aircraft projected around 2026-27.
- **Significance:** This is a major stride towards self-reliance ("Atmanirbhar Bharat") in high-end aerospace system development, leveraging domestic innovation and industrial partnerships.

#### Successful High-Altitude Trial of Akash Prime Air Defence System:

- India has successfully conducted high-altitude trials of the indigenously developed **Akash Prime air defence system in the Ladakh sector**, at an elevation exceeding 15,000 feet.

- **Upgraded Version:** Akash Prime is an upgraded variant of the Akash Weapon System, equipped with an indigenous active Radio Frequency (RF) seeker for enhanced precision regardless of weather and terrain.
- **Performance:** The system scored two direct hits on fast-moving aerial targets, demonstrating its capability in rarified high-altitude atmosphere.
- **Deployment:** This latest version is expected to form the third and fourth regiments of the Akash air defense systems in the Indian Army.
- **Context:** It was initially used during 'Operation Sindoor' to counter aerial threats from Pakistan, with good results.

#### India's NEW Hypersonic Missile (ET-LDHCM):

- India's **Extended Trajectory-Long Duration Hypersonic Cruise Missile (ET-LDHCM)**, developed under DRDO's classified **Project Vishnu**, has been detailed.
- **Capabilities:** It is the first indigenous weapon able to maintain Mach 8 flight for over 1,000 km, carry a 2,000 kg nuclear or conventional payload, and maneuver throughout its path, designed to overwhelm current regional air defense systems.
- **Significance:** This vaults India into a restricted club of nations with advanced hypersonic missile technology.

#### Development of Ultra Long-Range Strike Aircraft (ULRA) Stealth Bomber:

- A plan is underway to field the world's first **12,000 km-class indigenous strategic bomber**, the **Ultra Long-Range Strike Aircraft (ULRA)**.
- **Vision:** Envisioned as a stealthy, swing-wing platform, capable of delivering nuclear or conventional payloads anywhere globally without aerial refueling.







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- **Inspiration:** Described as a hybrid drawing lessons from Russia's Tu-160 "Blackjack" and America's B-21 Raider.
- **Weaponry:** The headline weapon is the BrahMos-NG (a reduced-diameter, 290–450 km supersonic cruise missile), with the bomb bay also sized for Agni-1P short-range ballistic missiles, laser-guided bombs, and anti-radiation missiles.
- **Strategic Impact:** If realized, this would mark a profound shift in India's defense strategy, granting global nuclear strike reach, reinforcing second-strike nuclear capability, and providing significant strategic leverage beyond its immediate neighborhood.

**DRDO Internship Program:** The application window for DRDO's paid internship program for final year Science and Engineering students at DRDL, Hyderabad, closed on July 14, 2025.

## II. Defence Acquisitions & Modernization

### DAC Clears ₹1.05 Lakh Crore Capital Acquisition Proposals (July 3, 2025):

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for **10 capital acquisition proposals** amounting to approximately ₹1.05 lakh crore.
- **Indigenous Sourcing:** All these procurements are through indigenous sourcing from Indian companies, emphasizing the "Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)" category.
- **Key Procurements:** Include Armoured Recovery Vehicles, Electronic Warfare Systems, Integrated Common Inventory Management System for the Tri-Services, Surface-to-Air Missiles, Moored Mines, Mine Counter Measure Vessels, Super Rapid Gun Mount, and Submersible Autonomous Vessels.

- **Impact:** These acquisitions aim to enhance mobility, air defense, supply chain management, and overall operational preparedness of the Armed Forces.

### Proposal for Joint Production of Javelin ATGM with US:

- India has proposed **joint production of the Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) system with the United States.**
- **Significance:** This is part of India's significant steps to modernize its military capabilities and strengthen defense industrial cooperation with key partners.

## III. International Defence Cooperation & Exercises

### India-US Defence Framework & Cooperation:

- Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar discussed the close cooperation between the two countries on July 1, 2025.
- **10-Year Framework:** The US and India are set to sign a **new 10-year Defence Framework** by the end of 2025.
- **Procurements:** Discussions included potential new procurements and coproduction arrangements for Javelin ATGMs and Stryker armored vehicles, as well as procurement of six additional P-8I maritime patrol aircraft.
- **Interoperability:** Emphasis on strengthening interoperability and expanding shared defense industrial cooperation and coproduction efforts.

### Exercise SHAKTI-VIII (India-France Joint Military Exercise):

- The 8th edition of the biennial India-French Joint Military Exercise **SHAKTI** was conducted at Camp





Larzac, La Cavalerie, France, from **June 18 to July 1, 2025.**

- **Objective:** To enhance joint military capability in multi-domain operations, with a focus on a sub-conventional scenario (e.g., counter-terrorism) in semi-urban terrain.
- **Participants:** Indian Army contingent (90 personnel, primarily Jammu and Kashmir Rifles) and French contingent (90 personnel from the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade).
- **Significance:** Underscores deepening strategic partnership and defense cooperation, facilitating interoperability, shared best practices, and training on new generation equipment.

#### India-Brazil Defence & Security Cooperation

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State Visit to Brazil, leaders welcomed growing defense cooperation, including participation in joint military exercises and exchange of high-level defense delegations.

- **Agreements:** Satisfaction was expressed with the signing of the **Agreement on the Exchange and Mutual Protection of Classified Information**, enabling deeper cooperation in strategic areas.
- **Counter-Terrorism:** Both leaders condemned terrorism and signed the **Brazil-India Agreement on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime.**

#### Armenia Broadens Defence Procurement (Ongoing/Recent):

- Armenia has pivoted away from Russia and is actively procuring modern defense equipment from countries including **France and India.**
- **Indian Systems:** Recent Armenian purchases from India include systems like Larsen & Toubro's Pinaka multiple rocket launcher, with sales reaching approximately USD 600 million.

- **Geopolitical Angle:** This diversification is driven by deteriorating relations with Moscow and aims to counter Turkish influence (which supports Azerbaijan). India's sales provide an opportunity to expand its defense exports.

#### IV. Border Security

##### BSF Seizes Heroin along India-Pakistan Border:

- On July 17, 2025, BSF troops recovered **8.6 kg of suspected heroin** along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab's Ferozepur sector, near the village of Bhanewala.
- **Context:** This is part of BSF's relentless efforts to counter cross-border narcotics smuggling, which has seen increased drone activity (294 drones recovered in 2024 vs. 107 in 2023).

##### BSF Personnel Injured in Meghalaya:

- Two BSF personnel were injured in an attack by suspected cattle smugglers along the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district on July 12, 2025.
- Separately, BSF personnel apprehended 26 illegal immigrants from Bangladesh in West Garo Hills district on July 15, 2025.

##### India-Nepal Border Security for PM's Rally:

- Security has been beefed up on the India-Nepal border in East Champaran district for PM Modi's rally in Motihari, Bihar, scheduled for July 18, 2025. Three companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed.
- **Border Closures for Uttarakhand Polls:** Nepal-India border crossings in Baitadi and Darchula districts will be temporarily closed on July 24 and 28 due to upcoming panchayat elections in Uttarakhand, ensuring security and law and order.





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**MCQs**

**1. What is the sanctioned project cost for the development of the indigenous AWACS, Netra MK-2?**

- a) ₹10,000 crore
- b) ₹15,000 crore
- c) ₹20,000 crore
- d) ₹25,000 crore

**Correct Answer:** c) ₹20,000 crore

**Explanation:** The text states, "The Centre has officially sanctioned a major ₹20,000 crore project for the development of indigenous Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS), named Netra MK-2."

**2. Which aircraft type, previously acquired from Air India, will be used as platforms for the new Netra MK-2 AWACS?**

- a) Boeing 747
- b) Airbus A321
- c) Sukhoi Su-30
- d) HAL Tejas

**Correct Answer:** b) Airbus A321

**Explanation:** The text says, "Six Airbus A321 aircraft, previously acquired from Air India, will be used as platforms for these new AWACS..."

**3. In which sector were the high-altitude trials of the Akash Prime air defence system successfully conducted?**

- a) Siachen Glacier
- b) Thar Desert
- c) Ladakh sector
- d) Eastern Ghats

**Correct Answer:** c) Ladakh sector

**Explanation:** The text mentions, "India has successfully conducted high-altitude trials of the indigenously developed Akash Prime air defence system in the Ladakh sector, at an elevation exceeding 15,000 feet."

**4. What is the name of India's new hypersonic cruise missile, developed under DRDO's classified Project Vishnu?**

- a) BrahMos-NG
- b) Agni-P
- c) ET-LDHCM
- d) Shaurya

**Correct Answer:** c) ET-LDHCM

**Explanation:** The text identifies it as "India's Extended Trajectory-Long Duration Hypersonic Cruise Missile (ET-LDHCM), developed under DRDO's classified Project Vishnu."

**5. What is the planned strike range for India's proposed Ultra Long-Range Strike Aircraft (ULRA) Stealth Bomber?**

- a) 5,000 km
- b) 8,000 km
- c) 10,000 km
- d) 12,000 km-class

**Correct Answer:** d) 12,000 km-class

**Explanation:** The text states, "A plan is underway to field the world's first 12,000 km-class indigenous strategic bomber, the Ultra Long-Range Strike Aircraft (ULRA)."

**6. What was the approximate total amount of capital acquisition proposals cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on July 3, 2025?**

- a) ₹50,000 crore
- b) ₹75,000 crore
- c) ₹1.05 lakh crore
- d) ₹1.50 lakh crore







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**Correct Answer:** c) ₹1.05 lakh crore

**Explanation:** The text says, "...amounting to approximately ₹1.05 lakh crore."

**7. All capital acquisition proposals cleared by the DAC on July 3, 2025, are to be procured through indigenous sourcing from Indian companies, emphasizing which category?**

- a) Buy (Global)
- b) Buy (Indian)
- c) Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)
- d) Lease (Global)

**Correct Answer:** c) Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)

**Explanation:** The text specifies, "All these procurements are through indigenous sourcing from Indian companies, emphasizing the "Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)" category."

**8. India has proposed joint production of which Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) system with the United States?**

- a) Spike
- b) Konkurs
- c) Milan
- d) Javelin

**Correct Answer:** d) Javelin

**Explanation:** The text mentions, "India has proposed joint production of the Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) system with the United States."

**9. The US and India are set to sign a new Defence Framework by the end of 2025, spanning how many years?**

- a) 5 years

- b) 8 years
- c) 10 years
- d) 15 years

**Correct Answer:** c) 10 years

**Explanation:** The text states, "The US and India are set to sign a new 10-year Defence Framework by the end of 2025."

**10. The 8th edition of the biennial India-French Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI was conducted in which country?**

- a) India
- b) France
- c) Germany
- d) United Kingdom

**Correct Answer:** b) France

**Explanation:** The text mentions, "...conducted at Camp Larzac, La Cavalerie, France, from June 18 to July 1, 2025."

**11. Which Indian-made multiple rocket launcher system has Armenia recently procured from India?**

- a) Smerch
- b) Grad
- c) Pinaka
- d) M-777 Howitzer

**Correct Answer:** c) Pinaka

**Explanation:** The text states, "Recent Armenian purchases from India include systems like Larsen & Toubro's Pinaka multiple rocket launcher..."

**12. On July 17, 2025, BSF troops recovered suspected heroin along the India-Pakistan border in which Indian state?**

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat





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- c) Jammu & Kashmir  
d) Punjab

**Correct Answer:** d) Punjab

**Explanation:** The text says, "On July 17, 2025, BSF troops recovered 8.6 kg of suspected heroin along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab's Ferozepur sector..."

**13. In which Indian state were two BSF personnel injured in an attack by suspected cattle smugglers along the India-Bangladesh border on July 12, 2025?**

- a) West Bengal  
b) Tripura  
c) Meghalaya  
d) Assam

**Correct Answer:** c) Meghalaya

**Explanation:** The text mentions, "Two BSF personnel were injured in an attack by suspected cattle smugglers along the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district..."

**14. The India-Nepal border in East Champaran district has seen beefed-up security for PM Modi's rally scheduled for July 18, 2025, in which city?**

- a) Kathmandu  
b) Patna  
c) Motihari  
d) Raxaul

**Correct Answer:** c) Motihari

**Explanation:** The text specifies, "...for PM Modi's rally in Motihari, Bihar, scheduled for July 18, 2025."

