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Defence news

Geopolitical Landscape and Defence Spending:

NATO's Increased Defence Spending Targets: At the recently concluded NATO Summit in The Hague (June 24-25, 2025), member countries committed to significantly increasing their defence spending to 5% of GDP over the next 10 years, more than double the previous target of 2%. This new target is subdivided into 3.5% for core defence requirements and 1.5% for wider defence-related measures. This reflects intensifying security challenges, particularly the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the long-term threat posed by Russia.

Global Military Spending Surge: Global defence spending surged by 8.1% in 2024, reaching an unprecedented \$2.3 trillion. This increase is driven by renewed great-power competition, regional instability (especially in Eastern Europe, the Indo-Pacific, and the Middle East), and a shift away from counterinsurgency focus to deterring peer adversaries.

Public Debt Concerns: The surge in military spending is largely being funded by increased public borrowing, raising concerns about growing public debt levels globally.

Transatlantic Defence Industrial Cooperation: NATO allies are reaffirming their commitment to rapidly expanding transatlantic defence industrial cooperation and harnessing emerging technology to advance collective security, with efforts to eliminate defence trade barriers.

II. Military Technology Advancements & Procurement:

Dominance of Autonomous Systems and AI: Defence, autonomy, cybersecurity, and aerospace innovation continue to define global security discussions. Conferences and events in July 2025 are focusing heavily on military robotics, uncrewed maritime operations (ASVs, undersea drones), and AI integration for battlefield autonomy, lethal decision-making, and logistics.

Demand for Drone Operators Soaring: The Royal Australian Artillery, among other forces, is experiencing a significant increase in demand for drone operators due to the shift to advanced uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) like the Integrator tactical uncrewed aerial system, which offers enhanced intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and targeting capabilities.

New Delivery Vehicles for Military Aid: The ASD-Connect platform is being launched to integrate Ukraine's defence industry into the European ecosystem, providing direct and secure access for Ukrainian manufacturers to European partners.

Hackathons for Defence Tech: Events like the European Defense Tech Hackathon and AI Data Jam Hackathon are bringing together engineers and government representatives to develop solutions, for example, for automatically detecting explosive objects in drone imagery.

Cryo-Electron Microscopy (Cryo-EM) and MagIC Technology: These advanced technologies continue to be crucial for understanding diseases, drug design, and





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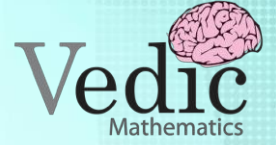
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analyzing biomarkers, indirectly supporting military health and biological defense efforts.

III. India-Specific Defence News (as of July 15, 2025):

Apache Helicopter Delivery to Indian Army: The U.S. is set to deliver the first batch of three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to the Indian Army on July 15, 2025. This long-delayed delivery (originally May-June 2024) aims to enhance ground-attack capabilities, particularly in regions like Ladakh. The Indian Army Aviation Corps had already established its first Apache squadron (451st Aviation Squadron) in anticipation.

Indigenous UAV Development: Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) has been shortlisted to develop a 150 kg category Light Medium-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (LM-UAV) for the Indian Army. This loitering munition aims for precision strikes, ISR, and high-altitude operations, with over 75% indigenous content aligning with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. Key features include a 900 km range, 9 hours endurance, 5 km altitude, and stealth capabilities.

Akash Missile System Development (Brazil-India Talks): Brazil has terminated negotiations with India for the Akash-1S surface-to-air missile system, opting for Italy's EMADS system. Brazil sought a system capable of intercepting threats above 3,000 meters, which Akash-1S lacked. The Indian Defence Research Wing (idrw.org) reports that India is now reconsidering and may offer the more advanced Akash-NG (New Generation) system to Brazil, which offers superior range (70-80 km), a 360° launch capability from canisterized systems,

and an AESA seeker. Akash-NG is currently undergoing final user trials and is expected to enter serial production in 2-3 years.

Pahalgam Terrorist Attack (Jammu & Kashmir): A detailed investigation has revealed that the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which killed 26 civilians, was a conspiracy hatched by Pakistan's ISI and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), executed exclusively by Pakistani foreign terrorists to maintain secrecy and minimize local involvement.

Naval Contracts: The U.S. Department of Defense announced several significant contracts, including for Rolls-Royce Corp. for MT7 turboshaft engines for Ship to Shore Connector programs, Black Hills Ammunition Inc. for 5.56mm ammunition, Lockheed Martin for F/A-18 aircraft components, and The Boeing Co. for EA-18G platform support. Global Pacific Design Builders LLC was awarded a substantial contract for housing units at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

IV. Major Defence Exercises:

Exercise Shakti 2025 (India-France): The 8th edition of "Exercise Shakti," a biennial joint military exercise between India and France, was held from June 18 to July 1, 2025, at La Cavalerie in France. It focused on multi-domain operations in a sub-conventional (counter-terrorism) scenario, enhancing interoperability.

Talisman Sabre 2025 (Multinational, led by Australia): India, along with 18 other nations, is participating in Talisman Sabre 2025, a major bilateral military drill led by Australia that commenced on July 13, 2025. This 11th iteration is the largest and most sophisticated warfighting exercise ever conducted in





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Australia, involving over 35,000 military personnel. Activities are also being conducted in Papua New Guinea for the first time.

Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2025 (India-Mongolia): This annual bilateral military exercise was scheduled to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from May 31 to June 13, 2025.

MCQS

1. At the recent NATO Summit in The Hague (June 24-25, 2025), what new defence spending target did member countries commit to for the next 10 years?

- a) 2% of GDP
- b) 3.5% of GDP
- c) 5% of GDP
- d) 7% of GDP

Answer: c) 5% of GDP

The text clearly states: "At the recently concluded NATO Summit in The Hague (June 24-25, 2025), member countries committed to significantly increasing their defence spending to 5% of GDP over the next 10 years..."

2. What was the total global defence spending in 2024, as mentioned in the text?

- a) \$1.5 trillion
- b) \$2.0 trillion
- c) \$2.3 trillion
- d) \$2.5 trillion

Answer: c) \$2.3 trillion

The text indicates: "Global defence spending surged by 8.1% in 2024, reaching an unprecedented \$2.3 trillion."

3. What advanced uncrewed aerial system (UAS) is specifically mentioned as contributing

to the soaring demand for drone operators in forces like the Royal Australian Artillery?

- a) Predator B
- b) Reaper MQ-9
- c) Integrator tactical uncrewed aerial system
- d) Global Hawk

Answer: c) Integrator tactical uncrewed aerial system

The text notes: "...due to the shift to advanced uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) like the Integrator tactical uncrewed aerial system, which offers enhanced intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and targeting capabilities."

4. When is the first batch of three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters scheduled to be delivered to the Indian Army by the U.S.?

- a) May 2024
- b) December 2024
- c) July 15, 2025
- d) November 2025

Answer: c) July 15, 2025

The text explicitly states: "The U.S. is set to deliver the first batch of three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to the Indian Army on July 15, 2025."

5. Which Indian company has been shortlisted to develop a 150 kg category Light Medium-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (LM-UAV) for the Indian Army, emphasizing over 75% indigenous content?

- a) Bharat Dynamics Ltd.
- b) Tata Advanced Systems Ltd.
- c) Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL)
- d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

Answer: c) Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL)





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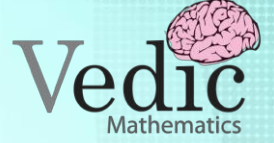
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The text states: "Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) has been shortlisted to develop a 150 kg category Light Medium-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (LM-UAV) for the Indian Army."

6. Why did Brazil terminate negotiations with India for the Akash-1S surface-to-air missile system?

- a) Brazil found the Akash-1S too expensive.
- b) Brazil opted for Italy's EMADS system, seeking a system capable of intercepting threats above 3,000 meters, which Akash-1S lacked.
- c) India was unable to meet the delivery timeline.
- d) Brazil decided to develop its own indigenous missile system.

Answer: b) Brazil opted for Italy's EMADS system, seeking a system capable of intercepting threats above 3,000 meters, which Akash-1S lacked.

The text explains: "Brazil has terminated negotiations with India for the Akash-1S surface-to-air missile system, opting for Italy's EMADS system. Brazil sought a system capable of intercepting threats above 3,000 meters, which Akash-1S lacked."

7. A detailed investigation into the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam (Jammu & Kashmir) revealed it was a conspiracy hatched by which foreign entities, executed exclusively by foreign terrorists?

- a) Al-Qaeda and Taliban
- b) ISI and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) of Pakistan
- c) ISIS and local insurgents
- d) Hizbul Mujahideen and Jaish-e-Mohammed

Answer: b) ISI and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) of Pakistan

The text states: "A detailed investigation has revealed that the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam... was a conspiracy hatched by

Pakistan's ISI and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), executed exclusively by Pakistani foreign terrorists..."

8. Which two countries participated in the 8th edition of "Exercise Shakti," a biennial joint military exercise held from June 18 to July 1, 2025, at La Cavalerie in France?

- a) India and the United States
- b) India and Russia
- c) India and France
- d) India and Australia

Answer: c) India and France

The text says: "The 8th edition of 'Exercise Shakti,' a biennial joint military exercise between India and France, was held from June 18 to July 1, 2025, at La Cavalerie in France."

9. Talisman Sabre 2025, a major multinational military drill that commenced on July 13, 2025, is primarily led by which country/countries?

- a) United States only
- b) Australia only
- c) United States and Australia
- d) India and Australia

Answer: c) United States and Australia

The text states: "...a major bilateral military drill led by Australia that commenced on July 13, 2025. This 11th iteration is the largest and most sophisticated warfighting exercise ever conducted in Australia..." (Note: While led by Australia, other sources confirm it's a bilateral exercise with the U.S. that has expanded to include other nations, so U.S. and Australia is the most accurate overall lead).

10. Where was the annual bilateral military exercise "NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2025" between India and Mongolia scheduled to be held from May 31 to June 13, 2025?

- a) New Delhi, India





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- b) Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- c) Umroi, Meghalaya, India
- d) Gobi Desert, Mongolia

Answer: b) Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The text specifies: "This annual bilateral military exercise was scheduled to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from May 31 to June 13, 2025."

