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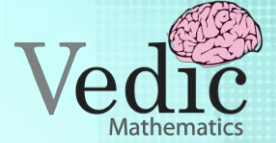
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## Defence news

### I. Geopolitical & International Relations in Defence

**Europe's Defence Buildup and US Pivot to Indo-Pacific:** The EU's defense commissioner stated that Europe needs to significantly boost its military capabilities as the United States shifts its focus towards countering China's rising military power in the Indo-Pacific. This comes after NATO allies agreed to increase their defence spending. (BSS, July 22, 2025)

**UK's Military Support Campaign for Ukraine:** The British Defence Secretary John Healey announced a 50-day military support campaign for Ukraine. This initiative, aligning with a warning from US President Donald Trump to Russia, aims to supply critical air defence ammunition to Ukraine to "force Putin to the negotiating table." Britain and Germany have also agreed to jointly provide air defence missiles. (Ommcom News, July 22, 2025)

**Russia-Iran Joint Naval Exercise (CASAREX 2025):** Russia and Iran launched the CASAREX 2025 joint naval exercise in the Caspian Sea on July 21, 2025. This operation is seen as a strong assertion of their military presence, enhancing maritime security and rescue operations, and consolidating their control in the strategically important Caspian Sea region. It could also be a warning to Azerbaijan against interference. (SpecialEurasia, July 21, 2025)

**China-Taiwan Tensions and Han Kuang Exercises:** Taiwan is continuing its annual Han Kuang military exercises, focusing on the defense of offshore islands, utilizing new US-made systems, and preparing civilian infrastructure for conflict. Meanwhile, the China Coast Guard (CCG) continues "dark" patrols (with AIS turned off) in the restricted waters around Taiwan's Pratas Island and Kinmen Islands, escalating harassment tactics. (Institute for the Study of War, July 21, 2025)

**NATO Summit of 2025 Outcomes:** The recent NATO Summit in The Hague (June 25, 2025) saw a recommitment to collective defense and a new target for allies to invest 5% of GDP annually on core defence requirements and related spending by 2035. This includes allocating at least 3.5% of GDP to resource core defence requirements. The UK also decided to join NATO's nuclear mission, acquiring F-35A jets capable of carrying U.S. B61-12 nuclear bombs. (NATO, Hedgeye, July 2025)

**UK-Germany Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation Treaty:** Signed on July 17, 2025, this treaty includes 17 priority projects, with a strong focus on defence cooperation. Key areas include advancing a new Deep Precision Strike capability within the European Long Range Strike Approach (ELSA), coordinating uncrewed aerial systems development, strengthening Eastern Flank defence through a new Land Strategic Partnership (including BOXER cooperation), and enhanced undersea cooperation in the Northern Seas. (Bundesregierung.de, GOV.UK, July 17, 2025)

**US-India Defence Framework:** The US and India have agreed to sign a new 10-year US-India Defence Framework by this year, following





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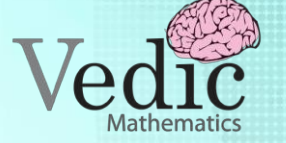
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discussions between US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth and Indian Union Minister Rajnath Singh. The framework aims to deepen defence partnership, strengthen cooperation in capacity building, industrial collaboration, logistics sharing, and increased joint military exercises. (The Indian EYE, July 3, 2025)

## II. Defence Technology and Innovation

**India's Indigenous Drone Development:** Two 20-year-old engineering students from BITS Pilani's Hyderabad campus have developed and sold cutting-edge, radar-proof Kamikaze drones to Indian Army units. These drones can reach speeds over 300kmph and deliver 1kg payloads with pinpoint accuracy, aiming to reduce India's dependency on imported drones. (Times of India, July 22, 2025)

**Australian NASAMS First Firing:** The Australian Army's National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAMS) successfully fired two AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025. This marks a significant step forward for Australia's air and missile defence capabilities. (Defence.gov.au, July 22, 2025)

**French Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MBT) Development:** ArianeGroup has debuted designs for a conventionally armed medium-range ballistic missile (MBT), a potential answer to Europe's long-range strike capability gap. This development is being considered as part of the European Long-range Strike Approach (ELSA) framework, which aims to jointly develop indigenous long-range strike capabilities. (IISS, July 21, 2025)

**Indian Army's High-Tech Modernisation Roadmap:** The Indian Army has outlined sweeping modernization plans, seeking private sector involvement for developing hypersonic weapons, soldier systems, autonomous platforms, and integrated cyber, space, and electronic warfare capabilities. This includes investment in directed energy weapons for drone and missile defence. (Indian Masterminds, July 5, 2025)

**Uncrewed Naval Systems (UNS):** The market for Uncrewed Naval Systems is projected to soar, driven by geopolitical threats. UNS 2025, an event in July, is exploring their deployment for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, mine-countermeasures, anti-submarine warfare, and search and rescue operations. (Defender Media, July 5, 2025)

**AI in Defence:** Artificial Intelligence continues to be a top military technology trend, enhancing computational reasoning for ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) missions, empowering autonomous weapon systems, and enabling predictive maintenance. Startups are developing self-organizing AI systems for military use and high-performance AI models for detecting explosive objects in drone imagery. (StartUs Insights, July 5, 2025; Defender Media, July 5, 2025)

## III. Other Defence-Related Events

**Garden Reach Launches Eighth Anti-Submarine Warfare Ship for Indian Navy:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) launched the eighth and final ship in a series of anti-submarine warfare shallow water crafts for the Indian Navy. Named "Ajay," these versatile ships are designed for coastal operations, low-







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intensity maritime operations, mine-laying, and full-scale sub-surface surveillance. (Indian Defence Research Wing, July 22, 2025)

**Bangladesh Air Force Jet Crash:** A Bangladesh Air Force training jet crashed into a school building in Dhaka, with the death toll rising to 27. (Ommcom News, July 21, 2025)

### MCQS

**1. Why does the EU's defence commissioner believe Europe needs to significantly boost its military capabilities?**

- a) To prepare for a direct conflict with Russia.
- b) Because the United States is shifting its focus to the Indo-Pacific to counter China.
- c) To become independent from NATO.
- d) To increase its presence in Africa.

**Answer:** b) Because the United States is shifting its focus to the Indo-Pacific to counter China. The text states, "The EU's defense commissioner stated that Europe needs to significantly boost its military capabilities as the United States shifts its focus towards countering China's rising military power in the Indo-Pacific."

**2. What is the main objective of the UK's 50-day military support campaign for Ukraine, announced by Defence Secretary John Healey?**

- a) To train Ukrainian troops in advanced combat techniques.
- b) To establish a no-fly zone over Ukraine.
- c) To supply critical air defence ammunition to force Putin to the negotiating table.
- d) To deploy British troops to Ukraine.

**Answer:** c) To supply critical air defence ammunition to force Putin to the negotiating table.

The text says, "This initiative... aims to supply critical air defence ammunition to Ukraine to 'force Putin to the negotiating table.'"

**3. The CASAREX 2025 joint naval exercise, launched by Russia and Iran on July 21, 2025, is taking place in which body of water?**

- a) Black Sea
- b) Mediterranean Sea
- c) Caspian Sea
- d) Arabian Sea

**Answer:** c) Caspian Sea

The text explicitly states, "Russia and Iran launched the CASAREX 2025 joint naval exercise in the Caspian Sea on July 21, 2025."

**4. What new target did NATO allies set at the 2025 Summit in The Hague regarding defence spending by 2035?**

- a) To invest 2% of GDP annually on core defence requirements.
- b) To invest 3.5% of GDP annually on core defence requirements.
- c) To invest 5% of GDP annually on core defence requirements and related spending.
- d) To reduce defence spending to focus on economic development.

**Answer:** c) To invest 5% of GDP annually on core defence requirements and related spending.

The text indicates, "The recent NATO Summit in The Hague (June 25, 2025) saw... a new target for allies to invest 5% of GDP annually on core defence requirements and related spending by 2035."

**5. What is one of the key areas of focus for defence cooperation under the UK-Germany Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation Treaty signed on July 17, 2025?**

- a) Joint space exploration missions.





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b) Advancing a new Deep Precision Strike capability within the European Long Range Strike Approach (ELSA).

c) Developing new cyber security protocols for civilian use.

d) Expanding naval presence in the Pacific Ocean.

**Answer:** b) Advancing a new Deep Precision Strike capability within the European Long Range Strike Approach (ELSA).

The text states, "Key areas include advancing a new Deep Precision Strike capability within the European Long Range Strike Approach (ELSA)."

**6. What specific type of indigenous drone have two BITS Pilani students developed and sold to Indian Army units?**

a) Reconnaissance drones

b) Surveillance drones

c) Radar-proof Kamikaze drones

d) Cargo delivery drones

**Answer:** c) Radar-proof Kamikaze drones

The text reports, "Two 20-year-old engineering students from BITS Pilani's Hyderabad campus have developed and sold cutting-edge, radar-proof Kamikaze drones to Indian Army units."

**7. During which exercise did the Australian Army's NASAMS successfully fire AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles?**

a) Exercise Sea Dragon 2025

b) Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025

c) Exercise Pitch Black 2025

d) Exercise Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2025

**Answer:** b) Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025

The text mentions, "The Australian Army's National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAMS) successfully fired two AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025."

**8. What type of missile has ArianeGroup debuted designs for, to address Europe's long-range strike capability gap?**

a) Anti-tank guided missiles

b) Short-range air-to-air missiles

c) Conventionally armed medium-range ballistic missiles (MBT)

d) Cruise missiles for naval vessels

**Answer:** c) Conventionally armed medium-range ballistic missiles (MBT)

The text says, "ArianeGroup has debuted designs for a conventionally armed medium-range ballistic missile (MBT), a potential answer to Europe's long-range strike capability gap."

**9. Which of the following is not explicitly mentioned as an area where the Indian Army is seeking private sector involvement for modernization?**

a) Hypersonic weapons

b) Autonomous platforms

c) Directed energy weapons

d) Nuclear submarine development

**Answer:** d) Nuclear submarine development

The text lists "hypersonic weapons, soldier systems, autonomous platforms, and integrated cyber, space, and electronic warfare capabilities" and "directed energy weapons for drone and missile defence" but does not mention nuclear submarine development in this context.

**10. What is the name of the eighth and final anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft launched by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) for the Indian Navy?**

a) Vikrant

b) Arihant

c) Ajay

d) Varun





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**Answer: c) Ajay**

The text states, "Named 'Ajay,' these versatile ships are designed for coastal operations..." and "Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) launched the eighth and final ship in a series of anti-submarine warfare shallow water crafts for the Indian Navy."

