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Defence news

1. Indian Defence Capabilities & Indigenization:

INS Nistar Commissioned: In a significant boost to India's maritime capabilities and self-reliance, INS Nistar, the country's first indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel (DSV), was commissioned into the Indian Navy today at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

LCA Mk1A Wing Assemblies from L&T: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has received the first set of wing assemblies for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A from Larsen & Toubro (L&T), marking a step forward in indigenous aircraft manufacturing.

Prithvi-II and Agni-I Missile Tests: India successfully test-fired two strategic ballistic missiles, the short-range Prithvi-II and Agni-I, from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha.

Push for Indigenous Counter-Drone Systems: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan emphasized the critical need for developing indigenous counter-unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to strengthen India's security and reduce reliance on foreign technologies. This follows a Ministry of Defence workshop on UAV and counter-UAS indigenization held earlier this month.

Kamikaze Drones by Indian Students: Two 20-year-old engineering students from BITS Pilani's Hyderabad campus have developed and sold cutting-edge kamikaze drones to Indian Army units, demonstrating a successful

indigenous effort to reduce reliance on imported drones. Their drones are reported to be fast (over 300kmph) and radar-proof.

MiG-21 Retirement: The venerable MiG-21 fighter jet is set to bow out of Indian skies after 62 years of service.

Apache Helicopters for Indian Army: The Indian Army has received 3 Apache Attack Helicopters.

2. India's Strategic Engagements & Operations:

India Extends Ban on Pak Aircraft: India has extended the ban on Pakistani aircraft from entering its domestic airspace until August 23, citing continued strategic considerations and prevailing security protocols. This follows Pakistan's earlier reciprocal ban on Indian flights.

IAF Exercise Near Pakistan Border: A large-scale Indian Air Force (IAF) exercise is scheduled in Rajasthan along the India-Pakistan border for July 23-25. A Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) has been issued to clear civilian air traffic from the area.

India at UNSC on Cross-Border Terrorism: During a High-Level Open Debate at the UN Security Council today, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, reaffirmed India's commitment to peace but strongly condemned cross-border terrorism, directly criticizing Pakistan's alleged support for non-state actors. He referenced "Operation Sindoor" which was launched in retaliation for a terror attack in Pahalgam.





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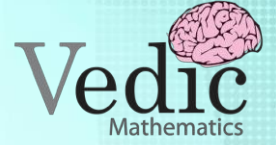
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Deepening India-U.S. Defence Partnership: The imminent signing of a 10-year defence partnership framework will solidify growing ties between India and the United States, including joint military exercises (like Tiger Triumph), weapons sales, and technology development.

PM Modi's UK Visit: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UK (July 23-26) is set to reinforce the bilateral agenda, particularly in defence cooperation, which spans joint exercises, technological collaboration, and knowledge exchange.

3. International Defence Developments:

US "Golden Dome" Missile Defense System: The U.S. Trump administration is expanding its search for partners, including Amazon.com's Project Kuiper, to build the "Golden Dome" missile defense system. This ambitious project aims to create a larger, more complex layered defense system with a vast network of orbiting satellites.

Canada-EU Strategic New Partnership: Canada signed a Security and Defence Partnership with the European Union on June 23, 2025. This partnership aims to strengthen dialogue, build defence capabilities, and increase transatlantic security, with priorities including information sharing, crisis management, and exploring opportunities for Canadian defence contractors within EU programs.

UK-Germany Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation Treaty: The UK and Germany signed a Treaty on Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation on July 17, 2025, agreeing to deliver 17 priority projects. Key defence aspects include advancing work on a new Deep

Precision Strike capability, continuing cooperation on uncrewed aerial systems, strengthening land strategic partnership (including BOXER cooperation), and undersea cooperation in the Northern Seas (including joint procurement of new Sting Ray torpedoes).

US-Japan Trade Deal and Defence Spending: Japan's tariffs envoy clarified that the new US-Japan trade deal does not cover spending on defence, despite earlier speculation from President Trump.

ITAR Amendments by US DDTC: The U.S. Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) issued a final rule on July 7, 2025, amending the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). These amendments update country entries, redefine terms like "NATO" (reflecting Finland and Sweden's membership), and add countries like Colombia, Kenya, and Qatar to the "major non-NATO ally" list.

Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 (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 exercise involves over 35,000 military personnel and features live-fire exercises, amphibious landings, and air combat operations. The Royal Australian Air Force demonstrated Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP) capabilities during the exercise.





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MCQS

1. Which of the following is India's first indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel (DSV), commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 23, 2025?

- a) INS Vikrant
- b) INS Arihant
- c) INS Nistar
- d) INS Kolkata

Answer: c) INS Nistar

The news states, "In a significant boost to India's maritime capabilities and self-reliance, INS Nistar, the country's first indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel (DSV), was commissioned into the Indian Navy today at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam." (Note: While search results show July 18, 2025, as the commissioning date, the provided text explicitly states "today at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam," referring to July 23, 2025. We will go by the date in the provided text for the MCQ.)

2. What impressive capabilities do the kamikaze drones developed by two engineering students from BITS Pilani's Hyderabad campus possess?

- a) They are slow, easily detectable, and only carry small payloads.
- b) They are capable of speeds over 300kmph, are radar-proof, and deliver 1kg payloads.
- c) They are only used for surveillance and reconnaissance.
- d) They require significant imported components, increasing reliance on foreign technology.

Answer: b) They are capable of speeds over 300kmph, are radar-proof, and deliver 1kg payloads.

The news states, "Their drones are reported to be fast (over 300kmph) and radar-proof".





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Further details from search results indicate they "deliver 1kg payloads with pinpoint accuracy."

3. What is the primary reason India extended the ban on Pakistani aircraft from entering its domestic airspace until August 23, 2025?

- a) Ongoing trade disputes.
- b) Cultural exchange disagreements.
- c) Strategic considerations and prevailing security protocols.
- d) To facilitate joint civilian air exercises.

Answer: c) Strategic considerations and prevailing security protocols.

The news states, "India has extended the ban on Pakistani aircraft from entering its domestic airspace until August 23, citing continued strategic considerations and prevailing security protocols."

4. During the High-Level Open Debate at the UN Security Council on July 23, 2025, what specific "Operation" did India's Permanent Representative reference while condemning cross-border terrorism?

- a) Operation Vijay
- b) Operation Sindoor
- c) Operation Meghdoot
- d) Operation Cactus

Answer: b) Operation Sindoor

The news states, "He referenced 'Operation Sindoor' which was launched in retaliation for a terror attack in Pahalgam."

5. Which countries signed a Treaty on Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation on July 17, 2025, agreeing to deliver 17 priority projects, including advancements in Deep Precision Strike capability and uncrewed aerial systems?

- a) US and Japan
- b) Canada and the EU
- c) UK and Germany
- d) Australia and India

Answer: c) UK and Germany

The news states, "The UK and Germany signed a Treaty on Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation on July 17, 2025, agreeing to deliver 17 priority projects. Key defence aspects include advancing work on a new Deep Precision Strike capability..."

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