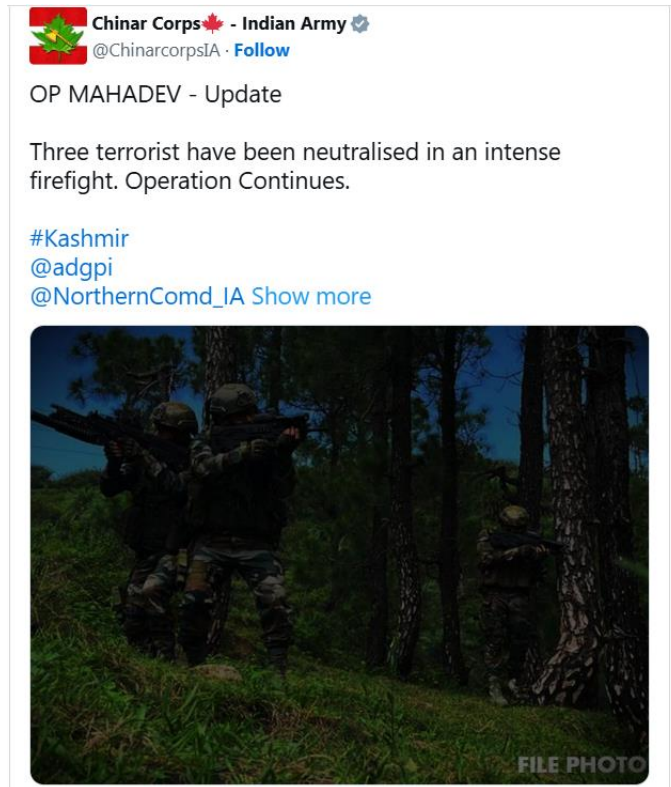


Daily Defence Current Affairs

29 July 2025

Operation Mahadev

- In a joint counter-terror operation on Monday, Indian Army para commandos shot dead three terrorists in the Harwan area near **Dachigam Forest** on the outskirts of Srinagar. Among those killed was Hashim Musa, also known as Suleman or Sulieman, who officials say was behind the deadly Pahalgam attack in April that left 26 people dead, including 25 tourists and a local resident.
- The Indian Army confirmed the operation, codenamed Mahadev, was launched after security forces picked up a satellite phone signal. The same device, according to officials, had been used by those involved in the Pahalgam massacre.
- At 12:37 PM, the Chinari Corps said that a contact was established with the terrorists in General Area Lidwas and in less than an hour drone footage showed three bodies, confirming that three terrorists were neutralised.
- The anti-terror operation had been in progress for two days, following the interception of suspicious communication from deep inside the Dachigam forests. Local nomads also provided crucial inputs, helping the forces narrow down the location of the suspects, sources said.
- Intelligence indicated that the terrorists were affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the group that had claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack.
- The operation was launched after a lone Chinese satellite phone was detected as active in the Baisaran area on July 11. This triggered a coordinated search involving the Army, J&K Police, and CRPF. Subsequent intelligence inputs, including information from local nomads, further confirmed terrorist movement in the region.
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MoD to Set Up Testing Facility in Mechanical & Material Domain

- MoD signed an MoU to establish a state-of-the-art testing facility in Mechanical & Material domain **Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor** in Tiruchirappalli under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS).
- The DTIS provides up to 75% government funding as 'Grant-in-Aid', with the remaining 25% funded by the **Special Purpose Vehicle** (SPV), comprising Indian private entities and State/Central Governments.
- For the Mechanical & Material domain testing facility, Micro Labs, a private entity, is the lead SPV member. Other members of the SPV consortium are Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited, Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Vaidheswaran Industries.
- Upon the completion of the project, it will provide advanced testing equipment and services to both government and private industry, thus giving a boost to 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence.

- With an outlay of Rs 400 Crore, the DTIS was launched by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, to set up state-of-the-art testing facilities in collaboration with private industry and Central/State Government.



Drones At Home In Rare Tech Transfer Deal

- India is on the verge of finalising a landmark defence deal with US-based Shield AI that will enable the IAF to acquire the advanced **V-BAT combat drones** while also establishing local manufacturing under a rare full technology transfer agreement.
- As part of a **\$4.5 billion emergency procurement** program initiated after Operation Sindoor, the Indian Ministry of Defence is in advanced talks to purchase enhanced **V-BAT drones** from Shield AI for **\$35 million**—the ceiling for emergency contracts.
- Parallel to this, Shield AI and JSW Defence (a division of the JSW Group) have inked a \$90 million joint venture agreement to transfer full drone technology to India.
- The V-BAT is a Group 3 unmanned aerial system (UAS) featuring fixed wings and vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) capability, providing long endurance for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) missions.



Centre Clears ₹29,558 Crore For Indigenous Defence Technology Development

- The Indian government has approved projects worth ₹29,558.66 crore for the DRDO over the past three years to enhance indigenous defence technologies.
- The yearly breakdown of these approvals shows 40 projects worth ₹3,842.71 crore sanctioned in 2023, 43 projects worth ₹22,175.49 crore in 2024, and 20 projects worth ₹3,540.46 crore approved so far in 2025.
- A key initiative under this funding is the development of the Kaveri Derivative Engine (KDE), intended to power unmanned combat aerial vehicles.
- Two specific projects related to the KDE have received ₹723.59 crore in total — ₹472.42 crore for the Flightworthy Kaveri Dry Engine Development and ₹251.17 crore for the Technology Demonstration of the Kaveri Derivative Dry Engine.



Trump Sets 10 to 12-day Deadline For Russia On War With Ukraine

- U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he was setting a new 10 or 12-day deadline for Russia over its war in Ukraine, underscoring his frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin for prolonging fighting between the two sides.
- Speaking in Scotland, where he is holding meetings with European leaders and playing golf, Trump said he was disappointed in Putin and shortening a 50-day deadline he had set on the issue earlier this month.
- "I'm going to make a new deadline of about ... 10 or 12 days from today," Trump told reporters during a meeting with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. "There's no reason in waiting... We just don't see any progress being made."
- The U.S. president has repeatedly voiced exasperation with Putin for continuing attacks on Ukraine despite U.S. efforts to end the war.
- Before returning to the White House in January, Trump, who views himself as a peacemaker, had promised to end the three-and-a-half-year-old conflict within 24 hours.
- "I'm disappointed in President Putin," Trump said on Monday. "I'm going to reduce that 50 days that I gave him to a lesser number because I think I already know the answer what's going to happen."
- There was no immediate comment from the Kremlin.
- Trump has threatened new sanctions on Russia and buyers of its exports unless an agreement is reached by early September.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. With which country did India conduct the joint military exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra 2025'?

- A. France
- B. Australia
- C. Japan
- D. Singapore

ANSWER: D

2. What is the name of the extended-range, drone-launched missile recently test-fired by DRDO?

- A. ULPGM-V1
- B. ULM-ERX
- C. ULPGM-V2
- D. ULPGM-V3

ANSWER: D

3. What is the name of the US-based company with which India is finalising a defence deal for V-BAT combat drones?

- A. Raytheon Technologies
- B. Lockheed Martin
- C. Shield AI
- D. Northrop Grumman

ANSWER: C

4. What is the estimated cost of acquiring the enhanced V-BAT drones under the emergency procurement programme?

- A. \$50 million
- B. \$25 million
- C. \$35 million
- D. \$45 million

ANSWER: C

5. What is the total value of projects approved by the Indian government for DRDO in the past three years?

- A. ₹19,000 crore
- B. ₹25,000 crore
- C. ₹29,558.66 crore

D. ₹35,000 crore

ANSWER: C

6. The V-BAT drone deal includes which rare feature in international defence agreements?

- A. Lifetime maintenance guarantee
- B. Full technology transfer
- C. No-cost weapons package
- D. Free pilot training

ANSWER: B

7. Where is the new testing facility being established under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme?

- A. Coimbatore
- B. Chennai
- C. Salem
- D. Tiruchirappalli

ANSWER: D

8. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees HQ Is In

- A. Geneva
- B. Berlin
- C. New York
- D. Moscow

ANSWER: A

9. Major Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of IAF Is

- A. Commander
- B. Squadron Leader
- C. Group Captain
- D. Lieutenant

ANSWER: B

10. World Trade Organisation (WTO) Hq Is At

- A. Paris, France
- B. Vienna, Austria
- C. New York, USA
- D. Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER: D

11. The Land Ports Authority Of India Works Under

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- C. Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways
- D. Ministry of Jal Shakti

ANSWER: A

12. Hanoi Is The Capital Of

- A. Vietnam
- B. Singapore
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

13. "Bangali & A Nation In Making" Book Is Written By

- A. Lala Hardayal
- B. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- C. Surendra Nath Banerji
- D. Veer Savarkar

ANSWER: C

14. Where is the Black Sea located?

- A. Between Europe and Brazil
- B. Between Europe and Asia
- C. Between Canada and Mexico
- D. Between France and Spain

ANSWER: B

15. Aadesh-class patrol vessel Designed And Built By

- A. Goa Shipyard Limited
- B. GRSE
- C. MDL
- D. CSL

ANSWER: D

16. World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Hq Is At

- A. Paris, France
- B. Vienna, Austria

- C. New York, USA
- D. Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER: D

17. The Bab-El-Mandeb Is A Strait Between

- A. Arabia and Africa
- B. Asia and Africa
- C. Arabia and Mediterranean Sea
- D. None of these

ANSWER: A

18. INS Tarkash Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Frigate

ANSWER: D

19. LEMOA Agreement Is A Military Ties B/W India And

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Russia

ANSWER: A

20. Motto of IMA Is

- A. Valour and Wisdom
- B. Always Brave
- C. Service Before Self
- D. None

ANSWER: A