

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 09 December 2025

### Joint Production of Il-114 Aircraft

- India and Russia have initiated preliminary talks focusing on the joint production of the Il-114 regional turboprop aircraft. This marks a significant move in the longstanding defence and aviation collaboration between the two nations.
- The discussions coincided with Russian President Vladimir Putin's first visit to India in four years, highlighting the renewed momentum in bilateral relations.
- The Il-114, developed for regional and short-haul routes, is gaining attention as both countries explore its manufacturing potential in India. ROSTEC, Russia's prominent state corporation responsible for defence and technological enterprises, confirmed that technical and commercial feasibility studies are currently underway.
- This initiative reflects a broader strategy to deepen technology sharing and joint production in sectors of strategic importance and high value.
- The Ilyushin Il-114 is a Russian twin-engine turboprop airliner, designed for regional routes. First flown in 1990, it was intended to replace the Antonov An-24. A total of 20 Il-114s have been built.
- Engine type: Klimov TV7-117
- Range: 1,000 km
- Top speed: 500 km/h
- First flight: 29 March 1990
- Length: 27 m
- Cruise speed: 470 km/h
- Manufacturers: Ilyushin, Tashkent Mechanical Plant



## TATA, Lockheed Martin Announce New Defence MRO Facility

- TATA Advanced Systems and Lockheed Martin have jointly announced the establishment of a new Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Bangalore to support the operations of the C-130J Super Hercules military transport aircraft in India.
- This development marks a significant step towards strengthening the defence ecosystem in India, particularly in sustaining and enhancing the readiness of one of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) key tactical airlift platforms.
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- The C-130J Super Hercules has been a mainstay for the IAF with 12 aircraft currently in operation. Known globally for its reliability and mission versatility, the C-130J serves both military and humanitarian roles and has set records for operations in high-altitude regions such as Daulat Beg Oldi and Nayoma Air Base in eastern Ladakh.
- The newly announced MRO facility aims to build on this legacy by offering comprehensive heavy maintenance, component repair, overhaul, structural checks, and testing for the entire C-130J fleet in India.
- The facility will also provide structural restoration and avionics upgrades, expand training opportunities for Indian engineers and maintainers, and foster new business prospects for Indian suppliers throughout the C-130 supply chain.



## BrahMos-II Supersonic Cruise Missile

- The planned first flight test of the BrahMos-II missile marks a critical milestone in India's hypersonic missile development programme. Scheduled for 2027 or 2028, this test is designed to validate the missile's ability to sustain speeds of up to Mach 8.
- Achieving stable flight at such hypersonic speeds will demonstrate both the technological prowess and strategic advancement of the BrahMos-II project.
- Central to this test is the confirmation of the scramjet engine's functionality. Scramjet propulsion is a complex technology that allows the missile to maintain high speeds by efficiently burning fuel with supersonic airflow.
- Demonstrating that the scramjet can operate effectively at cruise conditions is vital to prove that the missile can achieve and sustain hypersonic velocity for extended periods.
- Alongside propulsion validation, the flight test will assess the missile's guidance and navigation systems at hypersonic speeds. Maintaining accurate targeting control while travelling at Mach 8 poses significant challenges in terms of sensor precision, control algorithms, and aerodynamic stability. The test aims to ensure that the BrahMos-II can follow its intended flight path with high accuracy despite the extreme physical stresses.



## Russia Offers Kalibr-PL Missile With 1500 km Range

- Russia has extended a significant and strategic offer to India that promises to considerably enhance the Indian Navy's capabilities, particularly in submarine warfare.
- The offer involves the delivery of the 3M-14E Kalibr-PL missile, a submarine-launched land-attack cruise missile with a range of approximately 1500 kilometres. This missile, known for its lethality and versatility, is set to become a crucial asset in expanding the maritime strike power of Indian submarines.
- Submarines are widely recognised as one of the most formidable weapons in any naval arsenal due to their stealth and survivability. Equipping Indian submarines with land-attack cruise missiles like the Kalibr would multiply their deep-strike capability, allowing them to hit targets far inland with precision, thereby significantly boosting India's strategic reach in the Indian Ocean region.
- India's maritime interests span vast and diverse areas, including the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the broader Indian Ocean. Maintaining a robust presence and deterrence capability in these waters requires advanced weaponry that can provide both versatility and a significant operational range.
- The Kalibr missile system can be integrated onto India's existing fleet of conventional submarines, such as the Kilo-class Sindhughosh-class and the Scorpene Kalvari-class, effectively transforming them into multi-role strategic platforms capable of both conventional and strategic strikes.
- This offer arrives at a critical time as India continues the development of its indigenous submarine-launched cruise missile (SLCM) for Project 75-Alpha and future nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN) programmes. While DRDO's

homegrown SLCM is progressing, it is expected to take another four to six years to become fully operational.

- The Kalibr-PL thus presents an ideal interim solution to bridge this capability gap by providing India with an immediate strategic weapon system without the need for significant modifications to the submarine platforms.
- The integration of the Kalibr missile system would enable Indian submarines to achieve a strategic land-attack reach comparable to that of surface warships armed with BrahMos missiles. This dual capability—attacking from both sea and land via surface and subsurface launch platforms—would deliver a formidable two-front offensive capability, increasing India's naval deterrence and ability to respond to emerging threats.
- The newly inaugurated projects will enhance mobility of the armed forces, ensure smooth delivery of logistics, boost tourism, generate employment opportunities and increase economic activities, the defence minister said.
- Global collaborations – regular international exercises such as Malabar, Varuna and Milan strengthen maritime partnerships



## **Oman Hands Over 20 Jaguar Jets To India For Spares As IAF Battles Aging Fleet**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is poised to receive over 20 Jaguar fighter-bombers from the Sultanate of Oman, a move that will significantly bolster the IAF's spares inventory for these aging aircraft.
- These jets, once operational with the Royal Oman Air Force, will be dismantled and used solely for parts, addressing the growing challenge of maintaining India's fleet of Jaguars amid dwindling spare parts availability.

- The Jaguars hold an important place within the IAF, with six squadrons operating between 18 and 20 aircraft each. Introduced to India's service in 1979, the Jaguar is one of the few military powers worldwide still flying this Anglo-French strike aircraft.
- However, as production lines have long since closed and nations like the United Kingdom, France, and Nigeria have all retired their Jaguars, spare parts have become scarce. The arrival of Oman's 20-plus Jaguars offers a timely and practical solution to this pressing maintenance issue.
- While the acquisition of used aircraft purely for spares may lack glamour, it is a highly strategic move ensuring the continued operational capability of the Jaguar fleet. Oman's decision to hand over their Jaguars reflects the strong, friendly relationship between the two countries, particularly in defence cooperation.
- The Indian Air Force has previously benefited from similar arrangements, having received approximately 30 retired Jaguars from the French Air Force and a few from the British and Omani air forces for the same purpose.
- The Jaguar has a proven combat record in India, having played a vital role during the 1999 Kargil conflict and subsequent military operations against Pakistan. Over the years, these aircraft have undergone extensive overhauls and upgrades to extend their service life.





## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. The preliminary talks between India and Russia on the Il-114 aircraft focus primarily on:**

- A. Joint development of a new fighter jet
- B. Joint production of a regional turboprop aircraft
- C. Leasing Russian transport aircraft
- D. Upgrading India's existing Antonov An-32 fleet

**ANSWER: B**

**2. The Il-114 regional aircraft is powered by which engine?**

- A. Kuznetsov NK-12
- B. Saturn AL-31
- C. Klimov TV7-117
- D. Ivchenko AI-20

**ANSWER: C**

**3. The newly announced Tata–Lockheed Martin MRO facility in Bangalore is meant to support which aircraft?**

- A. C-17 Globemaster III
- B. AH-64E Apache
- C. C-130J Super Hercules
- D. CH-47F Chinook

**ANSWER: C**

**4. The primary purpose of the planned first flight test of BrahMos-II is to validate:**

- A. Stealth technology in cruise missiles
- B. Scramjet engine performance at hypersonic cruise
- C. Air-launch capability from fighter aircraft
- D. Underwater launch capability

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Oman's handover of more than 20 Jaguar aircraft to India is intended mainly for:**

- A. Pilot training
- B. Conversion into drones
- C. Spare parts to support India's Jaguar fleet

D. Upgrading them for frontline operations

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Marine Engineering Training Establishment of the Indian Navy located at**

- A. Noida
- B. Kochi
- C. Pune
- D. Wayanad

**ANSWER: C**

**7. RIMPAC Stands For**

- A. Rim of the Pacific Exercise
- B. Rim of the Perfect Exercise
- C. Rim of the Pacific Economy
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Which Helicopter Can Fire ATGM Helina?**

- A. INS Hansa
- B. INS Parundu
- C. Chetak
- D. Dhruv

**ANSWER: D**

**9. INS Ranjit Is A**

- A.** Destroyer
- B.** OPV
- C.** Submarine
- D.** Tank

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Which Country Is Not The Member Of G-7?**

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



**ANSWER: A**

**11. Berlin Is The Capital Of**

- A. France
- B. Qatar
- C. Germany
- D. Maldives

**ANSWER: C**

**12. "Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings in the BCCI" Book Written By**

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Vinod Rai
- D. Anurag Thakur

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Where Is The Hq Of The Southern Western Command of The Indian Army?**

- A. Jaipur
- B. Jabalpur
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Sea Dragon Exercise Hosted By**

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**15. India Purchased C 130 J from**

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Ex KHANJAR Conducted B/W India &**

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. Kazakhstan
- D. Kyrgyzstan

**ANSWER: D**

**17. OPEC Hq Is In**

- A. Vienna
- B. New York
- C. Chennai
- D. Abu Dhabi

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Gangtok Is The Capital Of**

- A. Sikkim
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Telangana
- D. Tripura

**ANSWER: A**

**19. What Is The Full Form Of JCB?**

- A. Joseph Cyril Bamford
- B. Joseph Cyrus Bamford
- C. Joseph Cyril Bofors
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Lt Gen. Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of IAF?**

- A. Vice Admiral
- B. Air Commodore
- C. Commodore
- D. Air Marshal

**ANSWER: D**