

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 19 December 2025

### Trump Signs \$1 Trillion Annual Defence Bill Without Fanfare

- U.S. President Donald Trump signed into law a nearly \$1 trillion annual defense policy bill, despite provisions providing new aid to Ukraine and reining in his ability to dial down U.S. involvement in the defense of Europe.
- The fiscal 2026 National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, authorizes a record \$901 billion in annual military spending, \$8 billion more than Trump requested.
- The sweeping legislation determines everything from how many ships, aircraft and missile systems are bought, to a pay raise for the troops, to how to address geopolitical threats.
- The White House announced he had signed it. It was a quiet affair, with no Oval Office ceremony attended by reporters.
- The measure is a compromise, combining separate measures already passed in the House of Representatives and Senate before it was passed this month.
- In a break with Trump, whose Republicans hold majorities in both the House and Senate, the NDAA includes several provisions to boost security in Europe.
- Trump has been cool to bolstering European security, feeling the allies should pay their own way. His recently published National Security Strategy is seen as friendly to Russia and a reassessment of the U.S. relationship with the continent.
- The fiscal 2026 NDAA provides \$800 million for Ukraine - \$400 million in each of the next two years - as part of the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which pays U.S. companies for weapons for Ukraine's military.
- It comes as Trump's team is locked in negotiations with Ukraine and Russia in a bid to bring about a halt to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



## Acquisition Proposal of 5 Fleet Support Vessels In Final Stage

- India's naval modernisation efforts have reached a pivotal juncture with the acquisition proposal for five fleet support vessels (FSVs) advancing to its final negotiation stage. This development, disclosed by Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt.
- The project centres on Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), based in Visakhapatnam, which has secured a collaborator contract in line with prevailing procurement protocols. HSL's partnership involves Anadolu Shipyard, a key player within Turkey's TAIS consortium, facilitating the design and construction of these vital vessels.
- Each FSV is slated to measure approximately 230 metres in length, boasting a substantial displacement of 45,000 tons. These dimensions position them as among the largest support ships in the Indian Navy's inventory, tailored for extended maritime operations.
- Fleet support vessels play an indispensable role in modern naval warfare, functioning as floating logistics hubs. They enable at-sea replenishment of fuel, ammunition, provisions, and spares, liberating strike groups from frequent port calls.



## JSR Dynamics Develops New Stealth Cruise Missile

- India has unveiled a ground breaking indigenous stealth cruise missile system known as the LRP2GM, or Long Range Powered Precision Guided Munition. Developed by JSR Dynamics, this advanced weapon was recently showcased to the Indian Navy as a versatile precision strike platform, according to a report by Defence Blog.
- Capable of ground- and ship-launched operations, it represents a significant step forward in India's self-reliant defence manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- The LRP2GM falls into the lightweight ~400 kg class, with an all-up weight ranging from 360 to 390 kg. It measures no more than 4.5 metres in length and boasts a wingspan of approximately 2.2 metres. This compact design facilitates integration across multiple platforms, including surface warships, coastal batteries, and potentially carrier-borne aircraft.
- Propulsion for the missile is provided by a high-performance turbojet engine delivering around 1,500 N of thrust. This enables sustained cruise speeds of about 1,000 km/h, equivalent to Mach 0.8–0.9. Operating at a service ceiling of up to 10 km, the system offers endurance exceeding 45 minutes, supporting extended standoff engagements.
- Navigation relies on a robust inertial navigation system (INS) fused with jamming-resistant GNSS technology. This setup supports multi-constellation satellite guidance, ensuring precision even in electronically contested

environments. Such resilience is critical for operations in high-threat scenarios prevalent in the Indo-Pacific region.



## India Shuts Down Visa Application Centres In Bangladesh

- India has temporarily closed its visa application centres in the Bangladeshi cities of Khulna and Rajshahi amid escalating anti-India protests, according to an official from the High Commission of India in Dhaka. The decision follows security concerns triggered by demonstrations organised by local groups opposing perceived Indian influence.
- The closures were announced on Thursday, 18 December 2025, with operations halted "whenever the security situation turns bad," the official told ANI. Notably, the visa centre in Dhaka has resumed normal functioning, highlighting the localised nature of the threat in Khulna and Rajshahi.
- In Rajshahi, the platform "July 36 Mancha," known for its anti-Indian hegemony stance, led a march towards the Indian Assistant High Commission. The procession began around 12:30 pm local time from Bhadra Mor but was intercepted by police barricades approximately 100 metres from the target office.
- Protesters responded by staging a sit-in before the barricades, demanding permission to proceed. Similar unrest has been reported in Khulna, where parallel demonstrations were scheduled, forcing the precautionary shutdown of facilities.
- This incident echoes events from the previous day, when Bangladesh Police blocked a group marching to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka's Gulshan area. The protesters sought the return of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and others who fled after last year's July uprising.
- Those demonstrations included threats against Indian diplomats, prompting India to summon Bangladesh's envoy. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has



urged Bangladesh's interim government to uphold its diplomatic obligations by safeguarding foreign missions.



## China Eastern Airlines To Launch Daily Non-Stop Delhi-Shanghai Flights

- China Eastern Airlines is set to launch daily non-stop flights between Delhi and Shanghai from 2 January 2026, a development hailed by the Chinese Embassy in India as welcome news for travellers between the two nations.
- The embassy's spokesperson shared this update via a post on X, highlighting the airline's commitment to enhanced connectivity. The announcement also mentioned the imminent return of the Kolkata-Kunming route and plans for a new direct link between Mumbai and Shanghai.
- This move underscores robust passenger demand, prompting China Eastern Airlines to accelerate its expansion plans. The airline had initially relaunched the Delhi-Shanghai service in November 2025 after a nearly five-year suspension, starting with three weekly flights before swiftly upgrading to daily operations based on strong feedback.
- Flight services between India and China ground to a halt in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Restoration efforts were further delayed by the prolonged border standoff in eastern Ladakh, which escalated following the deadly Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020—the most severe confrontation since the 1962 Sino-Indian war.

- Bilateral ties plummeted to their nadir post-Galwan, with military build-ups along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Over four years, multiple rounds of diplomatic and military dialogues facilitated troop disengagements from key friction points.
- A pivotal breakthrough came in October 2024, when India and China reached a disengagement agreement for the remaining hotspots of Depsang and Demchok. This paved the way for renewed high-level engagement.
- Shortly thereafter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping convened on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia. Their discussions yielded decisions aimed at stabilising and improving relations, marking a thaw in hostilities.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Where was DSC A20 commissioned into the Indian Navy?**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Visakhapatnam
- C. Kochi
- D. Chennai

**ANSWER: C**

**2. Which company is building the Diving Support Craft (DSC) series for the Indian Navy?**

- A. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- B. Garden Reach Shipbuilders
- C. Larsen & Toubro
- D. Titagarh Rail System Limited

**ANSWER: D**

**3. The Bombardier Global-6500 aircraft selected for ISTAR missions are primarily meant for which role?**

- A. Strategic bombing
- B. Air refuelling
- C. Airborne surveillance and command
- D. Fighter escort

**ANSWER: C**

**4. DHRUV64 is India's first indigenous microprocessor with which key feature?**

- A. 32-bit single core
- B. 64-bit dual core
- C. Quad-core architecture
- D. AI-only processor

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Astrobase's rocket engine uses which propulsion cycle?**

- A. Gas generator cycle
- B. Pressure-fed cycle
- C. Staged combustion cycle
- D. Full-flow staged combustion cycle

**ANSWER: D**

**6. European ASRAAM Stands For**

- A. Advanced Short Range Air Missile
- B. Advanced Short Ring Air-to-Air Missile
- C. Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile
- D. None

**ANSWER: C**

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

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

**ANSWER: C**

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

- A. Jaipur
- B. Jabalpur

- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Sea Dragon Exercise Hosted By**

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

**ANSWER: A**

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

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

**ANSWER: A**

**11. College of Military Engineering (CME) Is Located At**

- A. Pune
- B. Kamptee
- C. Mumbai
- D. Noida

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Which Country Ranked Third Highest In The World Defence Expenditure?**

- A. Australia
- B. USA
- C. France
- D. Bharat

**ANSWER: D**

**13. Regimental Center Of PUNJAB REGIMENT Is In**

- A. Balasore, Odisha
- B. Chennai, T.N.
- C. Trombay, M.H.
- D. Ramgarh Cantonment, Jharkhand



**ANSWER: D**

**14. India Purchased IAI Searcher UAV from**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**15. KHARTOUM Is The Capital Of**

- A. Spain
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Suriname
- D. Sudan

**ANSWER: D**

**16. "A Promised Land" Book Is Written By**

- A. Barack Obama
- B. Meena Iyer
- C. Amish Tripathi
- D. PS Sreedharan Pillai

**ANSWER: A**

**17. HELINA Missile Has A Maximum Range Of**

- A. 7 kilometres
- B. 8 kilometres
- C. 9 kilometres
- D. 10 kilometres

**ANSWER: A**

**18. "We Protect" Is The Motto Of**

- A. ICG
- B. IAF
- C. Indian Army
- D. BSF

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Joint Exercises B/w The India And France Is Called:**

- A. Yama

- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. GARUDA

**ANSWER: D**

**20. India Purchased MiG-21 from**

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

**ANSWER: D**