

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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As Drone Use Rises, India Back To Tunguska Shield

- Amid rising drone threats, India has placed fresh orders for Tunguska air defence missiles from Russia, reviving and upgrading a legacy system now adapted for counter-unmanned warfare.
- The defence ministry on Friday signed a ₹445 crore deal to procure new missiles for the system, originally inducted in the 1990s. "These cutting-edge missiles will enhance India's multilayered air defence against aerial threats, including aircraft, drones and cruise missiles," officials said, adding that the deal further strengthens the Indo-Russian strategic partnership.
- The upgraded missiles are tailored to counter low-flying drones, which have exposed gaps in high-end systems like the S-400 that are optimised for larger, faster targets.
- A key vulnerability of expensive platforms such as the S-400 is their exposure to low-cost drone swarms. Flying at low altitudes, these drones can overwhelm defences, inflicting damage even if a small fraction penetrates.
- India and Russia have for years discussed upgrades to the Tunguska system, which combines surface-to-air missiles with twin 30 mm guns to tackle small, slow-moving aerial threats. As a close-in weapon system, it can create a dense defensive fire envelope against incoming drones.



Defence Capability Bristling As Rs 2.4 Lakh Crore Fresh Deals Get Nod

- The defence ministry has approved several major procurement deals for unmanned strike aircraft, S-400 air defence systems, transport aircraft and artillery guns that are valued at over ₹2.38 lakh crore.
- Among the procurements cleared by the Rajnath Singh-led Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) was the acquisition of new military transport aircraft (MTAs) that will be made in India with the assistance of a foreign technology partner. Singh is India's defence minister.
- Valued at around ₹1 lakh crore, the procurement will see keen competition among Indian private sector firms that will be required to supply 60 transport aircraft with a high level of indigenisation.
- For the Army, approvals were accorded for the Air Defence (AD) Tracked System, Armoured Piercing Tank Ammunition, High Capacity Radio Relay, Dhanush Gun System and Runway Independent Aerial Surveillance System.
- The Army is expected to order 300 Dhanush Gun System to expand its fleet, enhancing the artillery's capabilities to engage targets at longer ranges in all terrains with enhanced lethality and accuracy.

- Separately, the defence ministry signed contracts worth Rs 858 crore for procurement of Tunguska air defence missile systems and inspection of P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft. The Rs 445 crore Tunguska contract for the Army was signed with Russia's JSC Rosoboronexport in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. Officials said the systems will enhance India's multi-layered air defence capability and strengthen defence cooperation with Russia.



Operation Urja Suraksha

- In a swift response to escalating tensions in West Asia, the Indian Navy has initiated Operation Urja Suraksha. This meticulously planned mission focuses on escorting and safeguarding India-bound energy shipments navigating the critically important **Strait of Hormuz**.
- Iran's recent blockade of the strait has heightened risks for global maritime trade, prompting India to act decisively to protect its energy lifelines.
- The operation unfolds with calculated precision and deliberate low visibility. Senior naval officials emphasise that the primary aim is to guarantee the seamless and secure passage of Indian-flagged vessels laden with essential energy cargoes. This approach minimises disruptions while maximising safety in a volatile region.
- All vessels carrying liquefied natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and crude oil destined for Indian ports have been meticulously identified. These ships form the backbone of India's energy imports, with the Strait of Hormuz

serving as a chokepoint through which nearly 20 per cent of the world's oil supply flows daily.

- A senior naval officer revealed that warships are not merely providing escorts. They offer specialised navigational guidance to vessel crews, aiding safe traversal through the Persian Gulf and the narrow, hazard-prone waters of the Strait of Hormuz.
- This support extends into the Arabian Sea, ensuring layered protection until ships reach comparatively secure zones.
- The Strait of Hormuz, a mere 33 kilometres wide at its narrowest, has long been a geopolitical flashpoint. Iran's blockade, announced amid heightened hostilities reported on 26 March 2026, disrupts a corridor handling over 21 million barrels of oil daily. For India, which imports around 85 per cent of its crude oil needs, the stakes could not be higher.



US Troops Injured At Saudi Base

- Iran kept firing missiles at Israel and Gulf Arab nation on Friday, including a strike at a military base in Saudi Arabia that U.S. officials said wounded at least 10 U.S. service members, two of them seriously.
- The attack on Prince Sultan Air Base also damaged several U.S. refueling aircraft, said two U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military matters. One of the officials said two of the troops were seriously wounded.
- Israel, meanwhile, warned Friday it will expand its attacks on Iran, while the U.S. military also continued striking Iran. President Donald Trump delayed his threat

to obliterate Iran's energy plants over its effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

- Facing a convulsing stock market, Trump on Thursday extended a deadline for reopening the waterway until April 6, saying Iran asked for the grace period and that talks were going "very well," despite Iran continuing to publicly insist it is not negotiating with the White House on a 15-point proposal to end the conflict.
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- Israel's military said early Saturday that Yemen had launched a missile toward Israel, the first time it had faced fire from that country.
- Iran and Hezbollah continued to also fire on Israel overnight Friday into Saturday.

- Sirens went off around Beer Sheba and the area near Israel's main nuclear research center, for the third time overnight Friday into Saturday.
- The Houthis so far had stayed out of the war as the rebels have had an uneasy ceasefire for years with Saudi Arabia, which launched a war against the group on behalf of Yemen's exiled government in 2015.



Ukraine Signs Drone Defence Pact With Saudi Arabia in Jeddah

- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has signed a landmark defence cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia focused on counter-drone technology and air defence systems. The deal was finalized in Jeddah on Thursday, March 26, 2026, marking Kyiv's first such security pact with a Gulf nation.
- The agreement aims to exchange technical know-how and operational experience in drone defence, an area where Ukraine has developed extensive battlefield expertise since Russia's full-scale invasion began in 2022. Zelensky said the partnership addresses shared threats, noting that Saudi Arabia faces similar challenges in protecting its critical infrastructure from aerial attacks. "We are prepared to work together to enhance civilian safety and defence capabilities," he said.
- Signed during Zelensky's visit to Saudi Arabia, the pact covers technology transfer, joint investment, and future defence contracts. Zelensky emphasised the cooperation would be mutually beneficial, as Saudi defence industries also possess technologies valuable to Ukraine.

- Zelensky and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman also discussed energy security and expressed concern over Russia's reported military cooperation with Iran. Speaking earlier at a security forum in Helsinki, Zelensky underscored the value of Ukraine's frontline experience in developing effective defensive systems. Ukrainian defence firms have reported growing interest from Gulf states in their anti-drone solutions, though export approvals remain pending.



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REVIEW QUESTIONS

EXAMS

1. Which country is supplying the Tunguska air defence missiles to India?

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

ANSWER: C

2. What is the primary purpose of the upgraded Tunguska system?

- A. To counter nuclear threats
- B. To target submarines
- C. To counter low-flying drones and aerial threats
- D. To enhance cyber security

ANSWER: C

3. Why are systems like S-400 considered vulnerable in certain situations?

- A. They are too slow

- B. They are ineffective against tanks
- C. They are vulnerable to low-cost drone swarms
- D. They cannot detect aircraft

ANSWER: C

4. What is the main objective of Operation Urja Suraksha?

- A. To develop new energy resources
- B. To escort and protect India-bound energy shipments
- C. To build naval bases in West Asia
- D. To conduct joint military exercises

ANSWER: B

5. Why is the Strait of Hormuz strategically important for India?

- A. It is a major tourist route
- B. It connects India to Europe directly
- C. It is a key route for global oil supply and India's energy imports
- D. It is used for fishing activities

ANSWER: C

6. INS 'Vikrant' Is Designed & Built By

- A. Indian Navy & DRDO
- B. Boeing & Indian Navy
- C. DRDO & MDL
- D. Warship Design Bureau & CSL

ANSWER: D

7. Defence Research & Development Laboratory Hq Is In

- A. Hyderabad
- B. New Delhi
- C. Kochi
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

8. Lieutenant Commander Of the Indian Navy Is Equivalent to Which Rank Of IAF?

- A. Squadron Leader
- B. Major
- C. Group Captain
- D. Flying Officer

ANSWER: A

9. Which Is The Capital Of Uzbekistan?

- A. Moscow
- B. Dodoma
- C. Tashkent
- D. Dushanbe

ANSWER: C

10. Ex 'DESERT EAGLE' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

11. What Is The Highest Commissioned Rank Awarded In The IAF?

- A. Air Marshal
- B. Air Chief Marshal
- C. Wing Commander
- D. Admiral

ANSWER: B

12. Rashtriya Raksha University Is In

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. Mumbai
- C. New Delhi
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

13. The Zorawar Is A

- A. Tank
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: A

14. Current Scientific Advisor To The Defence Minister Is

- A. Rakesh Sinha

- B. S. Somnath
- C. G. Sateesh Reddy
- D. Samir Kamat

ANSWER: C

15. The Current Chairman Of DRDO Is

- A. Rakesh Sinha
- B. S. Somnath
- C. G. Sateesh Reddy
- D. Samir Kamat

ANSWER: D

16. Ex SHAKTI, Ex VARUNA, GARUDA India conducted with

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

ANSWER: C

17. Is India's 3rd Highest Military Decoration Award.

- A. PVC
- B. MVC
- C. Veer Chakra
- D. Kirti Chakra

ANSWER: C

18. Motto of THE MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENT

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Assam Vikram
- C. Yudhaya Krit Nishchaya
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: D

19. Dodoma Is The Capital Of

- A. Tanzania
- B. Turkmenistan
- C. UAE
- D. Tajikistan

ANSWER: A

20. "The Godfather" Book Written By

- A. Mario Puzo
- B. Anne Frank
- C. Amish Tripathi
- D. Albert Einstein

ANSWER: A

