

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Lockheed Martin Gets \$35 billion US Deal To Boost THAAD Production

- U.S. President Donald Trump is set to meet munitions makers at the White House on Wednesday as his administration pushes to expand weapons production after military operations in Iran and other conflicts drew down U.S. stockpiles.
- The United States has supplied large quantities of weapons to allies while also using munitions in its own military operations, raising concerns about inventories of key air-defense and precision-guided weapons and increasing pressure on contractors to boost output.
- The meeting would mark the second White House gathering with chief executives of major defense firms focused on ramping up weapons production. A March meeting included the CEOs and other officials from BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, RTX Corp, Boeing, Honeywell Aerospace and L3Harris Technologies, along with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.
- The Pentagon on Wednesday awarded Lockheed Martin an undefinitized contract worth up to \$35 billion to ramp up production of THAAD interceptors, part of a push to replenish missile defence stockpiles and boost output.



Switchable Satellite

- XDLINX Space Labs, a Hyderabad-based start-up, is set to launch a self-funded imaging satellite in late 2026, marking a bold step in India's private space sector.
- The mission will showcase its software-defined satellite technology, capable of switching roles between imaging, communications, and navigation, with a second collaborative mission planned for early 2027.
- XDLINX Space Labs has announced that it will fly a largely self-funded imaging satellite in the last quarter of 2026. This decision reflects the company's determination to prove its technology in orbit without waiting for external customers.
- The purpose of this mission is to qualify the company's capability in space. Engineers often stress that while designs may appear flawless on the ground, true validation only comes once the system has operated successfully in orbit. By funding the mission itself, XDLINX is backing its own technology and demonstrating confidence in its platform.
- The satellite is intended to launch aboard ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), which is designed to carry compact satellites into low Earth orbit. XDLINX has applied for a launch slot, though the final manifest will be determined by the launch provider.



Iran President Invites PM Modi To Attend Ali Khamenei's Funeral

- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has extended an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the funeral of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.
- Sources confirmed that communication was made during a telephonic conversation between the two leaders, which also touched upon the ongoing conflict in West Asia.
- Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who served as the supreme leader of the Islamic Republic for thirty-six years, was killed on 28 February, the first day of Israeli and United States airstrikes on Tehran.
- He was eighty-six years old at the time of his death. His funeral rites are scheduled to begin on 4 July and will conclude with his burial in his hometown of Mashhad on 9 July.
- State media has reported that the funeral arrangements will include ceremonies in Qom, a holy city south of Tehran, on 7 July. Despite Islamic law requiring burial ideally within a day of death, exceptions are permitted during times of war.
- Speculation about the funeral date had persisted since his assassination, with earlier reports suggesting a burial at the end of June before confirmation that it would take place in July.

- Ali Khamenei's son, fifty-six-year-old Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, assumed the role of Supreme Leader on 8 March. However, questions about his health and whereabouts have persisted, with senior United States officials such as Marco Rubio and Pete Hegseth claiming that he is in a coma.



ISRO Hosted BRICS Heads of Space Agencies Meeting

- India, as BRICS Chair for 2026, is hosting the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) meeting in Bengaluru on 23–24 June, bringing together leaders from eleven member nations to strengthen cooperation in space exploration.
- The event focused on space sustainability, expansion of the BRICS satellite constellation, and the creation of a BRICS Space Council.
- India, through the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Space (DOS), with support from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), is hosting the two-day meeting.
- The gathering saw participation from the heads and senior representatives of the space agencies of Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates.
- Indian space-tech companies are being given a platform to showcase their capabilities. The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** is facilitating presentations to highlight innovations in launch services, satellite technologies, geospatial intelligence, and downstream applications.



Drone Verse Demonstrates FPV Drones

- Drone Verse has successfully demonstrated its Rudra-7 FPV drones and Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS) to the Indian Army at Leh in Ladakh, operating at altitudes of up to 18,000 feet.
- This marks a significant milestone in India's indigenous drone capabilities, showcasing reliable performance in extreme high-altitude conditions and strengthening frontline defence preparedness.
- Gurugram-based DroneVerse carried out the demonstration of its FPV drones and C-UAS systems before Indian Army officials in Leh, Ladakh. The trials were conducted at altitudes reaching 18,000 feet, where thin air, freezing temperatures, and turbulent winds posed severe challenges to aerial platforms.
- Despite these conditions, the Rudra-7 FPV drone displayed stable flight control, precision targeting, and sustained operational reliability.
- The Rudra-7 drone successfully executed high-speed vertical climbs, precision strike simulations, and real-time live feed transmissions. Its advanced propulsion tuning and adaptive flight algorithms allowed it to maintain manoeuvrability under reduced atmospheric pressure.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which company received a Pentagon contract worth up to \$35 billion to increase THAAD interceptor production?

- A) Boeing
- B) RTX Corporation
- C) Lockheed Martin
- D) Northrop Grumman

Answer: C) Lockheed Martin

Explanation: The U.S. Pentagon awarded Lockheed Martin a contract worth up to \$35 billion to ramp up the production of THAAD missile interceptors and replenish defence stockpiles.

2. The software-defined satellite planned by XDLINX Space Labs is expected to be launched using which vehicle?

- A) PSLV
- B) GSLV Mk III
- C) SSLV
- D) Falcon 9

Answer: C) SSLV

Explanation: XDLINX Space Labs intends to launch its imaging satellite aboard ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), designed for deploying small satellites into low Earth orbit.

3. What is the unique feature of XDLINX Space Labs' software-defined satellite?

- A) Nuclear-powered propulsion
- B) Ability to switch between imaging, communication, and navigation functions
- C) Human spaceflight capability
- D) Deep-space exploration mission

Answer: B) Ability to switch between imaging, communication, and navigation functions

Explanation: The satellite can dynamically change its role between imaging, communications, and navigation through software-defined technology.

4. Which city hosted the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) Meeting in June 2026?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Bengaluru
- D) Mumbai

Answer: C) Bengaluru

Explanation: India hosted the BRICS HOSA Meeting in Bengaluru on 23–24 June 2026 as part of its BRICS Chairmanship.

5. The Rudra-7 drone demonstrated by DroneVerse was tested at altitudes of up to:

- A) 10,000 feet
- B) 12,000 feet
- C) 15,000 feet
- D) 18,000 feet

Answer: D) 18,000 feet

Explanation: The Rudra-7 FPV drone successfully operated in the challenging conditions of Leh, Ladakh, at altitudes reaching 18,000 feet.

6. Which organization facilitated Indian space technology companies to showcase their innovations during the BRICS Space Agencies Meeting?

- A) DRDO
- B) NSIL
- C) IN-SPACe
- D) HAL

Answer: C) IN-SPACe

Explanation: The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) facilitated presentations by Indian space-tech companies during the BRICS meeting.

7. Joint Ex B/w The India And Singapore Is Called:

- A. Bold Kurukshetra
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A

8. Quad Was Founded On

- A. 2017
- B. 2018
- C. 2019
- D. 2020

ANSWER: A

9. Where Is The Hq Of The Training Command of The IAF?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: C

10. Air Marshal Rank of IAF Is Equivalent to which rank of the Indian Navy?

- A. Commodore
- B. Captain
- C. Commander
- D. Vice Admiral

ANSWER: D

11. 'Ex Zapad' Conducted B/W India &

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

ANSWER: B

12. IBSAMAR Trilateral Naval Exercise Held Between India, Brazil And ___?

- A. North Korea
- B. Switzerland
- C. Singapore
- D. South Africa

ANSWER: D

13. The Port Duqm Is In

- A. Yemen
- B. Iran
- C. Iraq
- D. Oman

ANSWER: D

14. Madrid Is The Capital Of

- A. Spain
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

15. "Fit At Any Age" Book Is Written By

- A. Ajay Bhatt
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Vikram Sampath
- D. Retd. Air Marshal PV Iyer

ANSWER: D

16. Lamitye Exercise Held B/W India And ___?

- A. Thailand

- B. USA
- C. Qatar
- D. Seychelles

ANSWER: D

17. Which Of The Following Is Not Main Organ Of United Nations?

- A. International Court of Justice
- B. Economic and Social Council
- C. Secretariat
- D. International Monetary fund

ANSWER: D

18. "Badri Vishal Lal Ki Jai" Is The War Cry Of

- A. GARHWAL RIFLES
- B. MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENT
- C. THE GRENADIERS
- D. PUNJAB REGIMENT

ANSWER: A

19. NAMICA Stands For

- A. Nag Missile Cart
- B. Nag Missile Carrier
- C. Nag Missile Corn
- D. None

ANSWER: B

20. Akash Is A Medium-range Mobile Surface-to-air Missile System Developed By

The___

- A. HAL
- B. TATA
- C. Mahindra
- D. DRDO

ANSWER: D