

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India And Indonesia Sign BrahMos And Astra Deal

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Indonesia has marked a significant milestone in bilateral relations, with the signing of more than eight agreements across defence, technology, health, education, and cultural cooperation.
- The centrepiece of these accords was the long-anticipated **BrahMos missile** deal, which firmly positions Indonesia as a key partner in India's expanding coastal missile deployment network across **Southeast Asia**.
- Alongside this, India agreed to supply **ASTRA air-to-air missile systems** under a new arrangement between **Bharat Dynamics and Indonesia's Republic Corps**, further strengthening defence interoperability.
- The agreements extended well beyond defence. A framework on maritime safety and security was finalised, reflecting the shared priority of safeguarding sea lanes in the Indo-Pacific.
- The ongoing multi-nation tour, which includes **Australia and New Zealand**, is firmly aligned with India's **Act East Policy** and the **MAHASAGAR Vision**, reinforcing New Delhi's commitment to a **free and open Indo-Pacific**.
- **Astra Missile**
 - Indigenous Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) developed by the DRDO.
 - Designed to engage enemy aircraft before they come within visual range.
 - Equipped with an active radar seeker for terminal guidance.
 - Integrated with the Sukhoi Su-30MKI and being integrated with the HAL Tejas.
- **BrahMos Missile**
 - World's fastest operational supersonic cruise missile.

- Developed through a joint venture between India and Russia.
- Can be launched from land, sea, submarine, and air platforms.
- Capable of flying at very low altitudes to evade enemy radar.
- Widely deployed by the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.



India & France Launch First JWG On Critical Minerals Cooperation

- France and India have formally launched their first Joint Working Group (JWG) on Critical Minerals in New Delhi, co-chaired by Benjamin Gallezot and Kadam Sandeep Vasant, marking a major step in building resilient supply chains for rare earths and strategic minerals.
- This initiative directly supports both nations' ambitions in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and technological sovereignty.
- France's Inter-Ministerial Delegate for Strategic Minerals and Metals Supplies, Benjamin Gallezot, visited New Delhi on 6–7 July, accompanied by Olivier Frezot, Regional Director for Asia at the Bureau of Geological and Mining Research (BRGM), the French Geological Survey.
- The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in exploration, processing, and recycling of critical minerals and rare earth elements, with the aim of building resilient and sustainable supply chains.
- The exchanges enabled both nations to identify shared interests and outline collaborative projects in France, India, and other strategic countries.

- BRGM and the Geological Survey of India, which already share a long-standing partnership, participated actively and identified new avenues for joint work to enhance knowledge across the entire critical minerals value chain.
- The visit builds upon the **France–India Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in Critical Minerals**, signed during President Emmanuel Macron’s visit to India in February 2026.
- This declaration provides a framework for closer cooperation in exploration, mining, research and innovation, diversification of value chains, supply chain resilience, and circularity.

- **What are Critical Minerals?**

- Critical minerals are naturally occurring minerals that are essential for a country's economic growth, national security, energy transition, and advanced technologies, but whose supply is at risk due to limited availability, import dependence, or concentration of production in a few countries.
- These minerals are called "critical" because a disruption in their supply can significantly affect industries such as defence, electronics, renewable energy, electric vehicles, and telecommunications.

- **Why are Critical Minerals Important?**

- **National Security:** Used in missiles, fighter aircraft, submarines, radars, satellites, and other defence systems.
- **Clean Energy:** Essential for solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles (EVs), and battery storage.
- **Electronics:** Required for smartphones, laptops, semiconductors, and communication equipment.
- **Economic Growth:** Crucial for manufacturing, high-tech industries, and industrial development.

- **Examples of Critical Minerals**

Mineral	Major Uses
Lithium	EV batteries, energy storage

Cobalt	Rechargeable batteries, aerospace
Nickel	Batteries, stainless steel
Graphite	Battery anodes, lubricants
Rare Earth Elements (Neodymium, Dysprosium, etc.)	Magnets, wind turbines, missiles, electronics
Copper	Electric wiring, renewable energy, EVs
Silicon	Semiconductors, solar panels
Titanium	Aircraft, naval vessels, medical implants
Tungsten	Defence equipment, cutting tools
Gallium	Semiconductors, 5G, radar systems



India & Rwanda Agree To Expand Bilateral Defence Partnership

- The second **Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC)** meeting between India and Rwanda took place in New Delhi on July 06 & 07, 2026. The two sides decided to expand partnership in the field of military training, military exercises, medical cooperation and defence industries.
- An implementation plan with timelines for the action items emanating from the meeting was also agreed to during the meeting.
- The delegation also interacted with the Indian defence industry and received an update on India's growing defence industrial ecosystem, indigenous capabilities, and technological advancements.
- The two sides identified potential areas of cooperation in the defence industrial sector and committed to accelerate future collaboration in the field between the two countries.
- In addition, the delegation visited Army Hospital (Referral & Research) where they were provided a first-hand experience of India's military medical capabilities, advanced healthcare infrastructure, and the comprehensive medical support system established for the Defence Forces.
- The MoU on defence cooperation was signed in July 2018 during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Rwanda.
- The successful conduct of the second JDCC meeting and associated engagements reflects the shared commitment of both countries towards strengthening defence partnership, enhancing institutional cooperation, and fostering closer ties.



Fresh Wave of Attacks On Iran

- The U.S. Central Command said on Tuesday it completed a new round of strikes on Iran and that it had struck over 80 targets during its latest attacks.
- Along with unleashing a new wave of strikes against Iran, Washington had also revoked a license allowing the country to sell oil after three tankers were hit by projectiles in the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- “U.S. forces struck Iranian air defense systems, command and control networks, coastal radar sites, anti-ship missile capabilities, and more than 60 Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps small boats in and near the strait (of Hormuz) to degrade Iran’s ability to continue attacking international commerce flowing through the international trade corridor,” the U.S. military said in a statement.
- “CENTCOM forces remain postured and prepared to hold Iran accountable when the agreement is not adhered to or obeyed.”
- Iran’s top joint military command said Iranian armed forces would deliver a “crushing response,” accusing Washington of what it called a “blatant act of aggression,” while warning that Tehran would not allow U.S. interference in the management of the Strait of Hormuz.
- The ceasefire in the Iran war has remained fragile. The war began when the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on February 28 and Iran responded with its own strikes on Israel and Gulf states that host U.S. bases.
- U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran and Israeli attacks on Lebanon during the war have killed thousands and displaced millions. The war has also spiked oil prices and shaken markets around the world.



Russia Develops Anti-Drone Bullet That Splits Into Three Projectiles

- As the dynamics of modern warfare evolve, the emergence of drones on the battlefield has prompted nations to adapt their military strategies. In a notable development, Russia has unveiled a new type of ammunition intended specifically for countering drone threats.
- This innovative anti-drone round, known as Mnogotochie, boasts a unique design that allows it to split into three separate projectiles mid-flight. This feature significantly enhances its engagement capabilities, widening the area where it can effectively target unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- Mnogotochie is available in both 5.45mm and 7.62mm calibers, ensuring compatibility with a range of standard Russian firearms, including rifles and machine guns. This versatility is poised to make the round a valuable addition to the arsenal of soldiers tasked with neutralizing drone threats in the field.
- The ammunition is produced by Vysokotochka, a subsidiary of the defense conglomerate Rostec. It is specifically engineered for counter-unmanned aerial system (C-UAS) operations, a growing focus as aerial drones becomes increasingly prevalent in military engagements.
- The Mnogotochie round has an effective operational range of up to 300 meters, or approximately 984 feet, making it a formidable tool against small, agile targets in the sky.
- As drone warfare continues to pose unique challenges and opportunities, the introduction of such advanced ammunition highlights the ongoing arms race in technological advancements on the battlefield.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Indonesia, which missile agreement became the highlight of the bilateral defence cooperation?

- A. Akash Missile
- B. Nirbhay Missile
- C. **BrahMos Missile**
- D. Pralay Missile

Answer: C. BrahMos Missile

2. The Astra missile is primarily classified as a:

- A. Ballistic Missile
- B. Cruise Missile
- C. Surface-to-Air Missile
- D. **Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)**

Answer: D. Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)

3. BrahMos missile is jointly developed by India and which country?

- A. Israel
- B. France
- C. United States
- D. **Russia**

Answer: D. Russia

4. India and France launched their first Joint Working Group (JWG) on which strategic sector?

- A. Artificial Intelligence
- B. Space Technology
- C. Nuclear Energy
- D. **Critical Minerals**

Answer: D. Critical Minerals

5. Which of the following is NOT generally considered a critical mineral?

- A. Lithium
- B. Cobalt
- C. Graphite
- D. **Limestone**

Answer: D. Limestone

6. The second Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting held in New Delhi was between India and:

- A. Kenya
- B. Nigeria
- C. **Rwanda**
- D. Tanzania

Answer: C. Rwanda

7. The Strait of Hormuz is strategically important because it serves as a major route for the transportation of:

- A. Coal
- B. Iron Ore
- C. **Crude Oil and Natural Gas**
- D. Agricultural Products

Answer: C. Crude Oil and Natural Gas

8. Russia's newly developed anti-drone ammunition "Mnogotochie" is unique because it:

- A. Uses laser guidance.
- B. Travels at hypersonic speed.
- C. Is nuclear-capable.
- D. **Splits into three projectiles during flight.**

Answer: D. Splits into three projectiles during flight.

9. Which Indian organisation developed the Astra missile?

- A. HAL
- B. ISRO
- C. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- D. **DRDO**

Answer: D. DRDO

10. Which of the following correctly matches the missile with its primary role?

- A. BrahMos – Air-to-Air Missile
- B. Astra – Anti-Ship Cruise Missile
- C. **Astra – Air-to-Air Missile**
- D. BrahMos – Surface-to-Air Missile

Answer: C. Astra – Air-to-Air Missile

11. Colonel Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of Indian Navy Is

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

ANSWER: B

12. Maitree Exercise Held B/W India And ___?

- A. Thailand
- B. USA
- C. Qatar
- D. Singapore

ANSWER: A

13. Tangail Airdrop Was Done At Which War

- A. 1948
- B. 1962
- C. 1965
- D. 1971

ANSWER: D

14. War Cry of NAGA REGIMENT

- A. Bharat Mata ki Jai
- B. Ki ki so so Lhargyalo
- C. Jai Durga Naga
- D. Durga Mata Ki Jai

ANSWER: C

15. Kamov Ka-31 Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle
- C. Helicopter
- D. Submachine gun

ANSWER: C

16. High Altitude Warfare School Is At

- A. Wellington
- B. Gulmarg

- C. Shimla
- D. Dehradun

ANSWER: B

17. War Cry of THE MAHAR REGIMENT

- A. Bharat Mata ki Jai
- B. Bolo Hindustan Ki Jay
- C. Jai Hind
- D. Durga Mata Ki Jai

ANSWER: B

18. Southwestern Air Command Of IAF Is In

- A. Prayagraj
- B. Gandhinagar
- C. Shillong
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: B

19. Bagram Air Base Located In

- A. Pakistan
- B. Iraq
- C. Afghanistan
- D. Qatar

ANSWER: C

20. Dassault Aviation Is A Company Of

- A. Thailand
- B. USA
- C. Qatar
- D. France

ANSWER: D