

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Kalyani Strategic Systems And FN Herstal Join Forces For Indian Counter-Drone

- Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd (KSSL), the defence subsidiary of Bharat Forge, has entered into a memorandum of understanding with Belgian defence company FN Herstal to explore cooperation in local manufacturing and technology for small arms, integrated weapon systems and counter-uncrewed aerial system capabilities in India.
- The agreement was signed on 3 September 2026 and is intended to assess the establishment of a dedicated production centre in India. The companies are also considering the possibility of forming a strategic alliance or joint venture to serve the Indian market.
- This initiative is closely aligned with the Indian government's Make in India policy, which emphasises indigenous defence production and reduced reliance on imports.
- The companies stated that the partnership is designed to boost local manufacturing, enhance technology cooperation and create domestic value. It will also support the security of supply for the Indian armed forces, ensuring reliable access to advanced weapon systems.



Thales And Bharat Forge's KSSL To Co-Produce Advanced 70mm Rockets

- Thales and Bharat Forge's defence arm Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd (KSSL) have signed a Strategic Alliance Agreement to co-develop and manufacture unguided and laser-guided 70-mm rocket systems in India, with the first fully India-produced rocket expected by early 2027.
- This pact strengthens India-Belgium defence cooperation and supports India's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India for the World initiatives.
- Global defence major Thales and KSSL confirmed the agreement during Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever's official visit to India. The 70-mm rocket systems are already operational with the Indian armed forces, and the collaboration seeks to expand indigenous production capability.
- Thales will provide its expertise in 2.75-inch/70-mm rockets and launchers developed in Belgium. KSSL will leverage its local manufacturing and testing facilities, including its upcoming Energetics facility in Andhra Pradesh, to support production and integration of components sourced from Thales' qualified supply chain.
- Thales highlighted that its 70-mm rocket solutions are used by 70 armed forces across 55 countries. These rockets can be integrated across air, land and maritime platforms, including rotary-wing aircraft such as the Advanced Light Helicopter and Light Combat Helicopter.

- The first fully India-produced rocket is targeted for early 2027, signalling a major milestone in India's defence manufacturing journey. The project is expected to generate local employment, strengthen supply chains and contribute to India's export potential in advanced rocket systems. Engineering & Technology



ISRO's Launch of India's First Imaging Satellite

- ISRO's EOS-05 is set to give India a new kind of view from space when the Earth observation satellite launches aboard the GSLV-F17 mission from Sriharikota at 2:55 am on September 4. Positioned in geosynchronous orbit around 36,000 km above Earth, the satellite is designed to repeatedly observe the same region continuously rather than capture brief snapshots while passing overhead.
- ISRO has described EOS-05, also known as Gisat-1A, as India's first state-of-the-art imaging satellite from geosynchronous orbit. Its ability to maintain persistent coverage could support monitoring of the Indian subcontinent, including remote border areas, strategic assets, severe weather and environmental events. The satellite is intended for both civilian and military applications.
- Why EOS-05's orbit matters for India
- Most of India's Earth observation and imaging satellites, including the Cartosat and Risat series, operate in low Earth orbit, generally between 60 km and 2,000 km.
- A GEO satellite offers a fundamentally different advantage. At roughly 36,000 km altitude, a satellite can match Earth's rotational speed and remain positioned over the same location. That allows it to maintain a continuous view of a particular part of the planet rather than returning to the same area only after completing multiple orbits.

- For EOS-05, this means the satellite can provide ongoing observation of a fixed region and track rapidly changing events such as severe storms, lightning and fires.
- With EOS-05, ISRO is attempting to add a new persistent Earth-observation capability to its satellite fleet, combining a geosynchronous orbit with high-resolution multispectral imaging and continuous monitoring of the same region.



US Approves \$5 Billion Arms Sale to Saudi Arabia

- The United States has approved a **potential \$5 billion defence sale to Saudi Arabia**, centred on the **Joint Direct Attack Munition–Extended Range (JDAM-ER)** system. The proposed package is intended to strengthen Saudi Arabia's ability to respond to regional security threats and further deepen the defence relationship between Washington and Riyadh.
- **What is the \$5 Billion Deal?**
- The US State Department has cleared the potential sale of **more than 10,000 JDAM-ER guidance kits and associated equipment** to Saudi Arabia. The estimated value of this package is **\$5 billion**, with **Boeing** identified as the principal contractor.
- JDAM-ER is an extended-range version of the Joint Direct Attack Munition family. It converts conventional bombs into **precision-guided weapons**, improving their accuracy and allowing aircraft to engage targets from greater stand-off distances.
- **Key Details**
- **Buyer:** Saudi Arabia

- **Seller:** United States
- **Estimated value:** \$5 billion
- **Main system:** JDAM-ER
- **Quantity:** More than 10,000 guidance kits
- **Principal contractor:** Boeing
- **Purpose:** Strengthening Saudi Arabia's defence capabilities
- **Region:** West Asia/Middle East
- **What is JDAM-ER?**
- **JDAM** stands for **Joint Direct Attack Munition**. It is a guidance system that can transform conventional unguided bombs into precision-guided munitions.
- The **JDAM-ER** variant adds an extended-range capability, allowing the weapon to reach targets from a greater distance than standard JDAM configurations.
- This provides military aircraft with greater flexibility while reducing the need to fly directly over or very close to a target area.
- **Why Does Saudi Arabia Need These Weapons?**
- Saudi Arabia is located in a strategically important but highly volatile part of West Asia. Regional tensions, missile and drone threats, and conflicts involving state and non-state actors have increased the importance of modern air-defence and precision-strike capabilities.
- The proposed US sale is aimed at improving Saudi Arabia's ability to **deter and respond to potential threats** while strengthening its broader military readiness. The deal also demonstrates Washington's continuing commitment to Saudi Arabia as a major security partner.
- **Saudi Arabia's Major Non-NATO Ally Status**
- An important aspect of the deal is Saudi Arabia's status as a **Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA)** of the United States.
- In January 2026, US President Donald Trump formally designated Saudi Arabia as a Major Non-NATO Ally for purposes of US foreign-assistance and arms-export legislation.
- Being an MNNA does **not** mean that Saudi Arabia is a member of NATO or receives the same collective-defence guarantee as NATO members. However, the designation reflects a high level of strategic and defence cooperation with the United States.
- **A Broader US Defence Package for Saudi Arabia**
- The \$5 billion JDAM-ER approval comes alongside other recent US military sales involving Saudi Arabia.

- For example, the US has also approved a potential **\$1.96 billion sale of Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System II (APKWS-II) guidance sections**, along with launchers, rocket motors, warheads, training and support equipment. The stated US rationale includes strengthening Saudi homeland defence and interoperability with US and regional forces.
- Earlier in 2026, Washington also approved a potential **\$3 billion package for F-15 fleet sustainment and training**, aimed at maintaining the operational capability of Saudi Arabia's fighter fleet.
- **Additional \$750 Million Engine Deal**
- Alongside the \$5 billion JDAM-ER package, the US State Department also approved a possible **\$750 million sale of AGT-1500 engines to Saudi Arabia**.
- **Honeywell** has been identified as the principal contractor for that transaction.
- Together, these approvals illustrate the breadth of ongoing US-Saudi military cooperation.



Exercise Veer Guardian 2026

- Ex Veer Guardian 2026 is being conducted between #IndianAirForce and Japanese Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) at Jodhpur from 09 Sep to 22 Sep 26.
- Two JASDF C-2 aircraft touched down at Air Force Station Jodhpur, marking the arrival of the Japanese contingent for the second edition of the Exercise.
- The exercise will further enhance interoperability, operational synergy and mutual understanding, reinforcing the enduring bonds of friendship between India and Japan.
- The Japanese F-2A fighters and personnel are expected to participate in a series of integrated air-combat training activities alongside IAF fighter aircraft and other operational assets. The exercise will provide an opportunity for both air

forces to train together, exchange operational experiences and enhance interoperability.

- Official said India-Japan Bilateral Air Force Exercise 'VEER GUARDIAN' is being conducted from 11 to 22 September 2026 at Jodhpur, Air Force Station.
- The exercise assumes added significance as it will mark the first time that Japan is deploying its fighter aircraft to India for a joint exercise, reflecting the growing depth of defence cooperation between the two strategic partners. Veer Guardian 26 will be the second iteration of the bilateral fighter exercise.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd (KSSL) has signed an MoU with which Belgian defence company?

- A. Saab
- B. FN Herstal
- C. Thales
- D. Leonardo

Answer: B. FN Herstal

2. KSSL and FN Herstal are exploring cooperation primarily in which emerging defence capability?

- A. Anti-satellite weapons
- B. Ballistic missile defence
- C. Counter-Uncrewed Aerial Systems
- D. Nuclear submarine technology

Answer: C. Counter-Uncrewed Aerial Systems

3. Thales and KSSL have agreed to co-develop and manufacture which rockets in India?

- A. 122-mm rockets
- B. 70-mm rockets
- C. 155-mm rockets
- D. 300-mm rockets

Answer: B. 70-mm rockets

4. The first fully India-produced rocket under the Thales-KSSL partnership is targeted for which period?

- A. Early 2026
- B. Mid-2026
- C. Early 2027
- D. Late 2028

Answer: C. Early 2027

5. EOS-05 is significant because it is designed to provide persistent Earth observation from which type of orbit?

- A. Low Earth Orbit
- B. Medium Earth Orbit
- C. Polar Orbit
- D. Geosynchronous Orbit

Answer: D. Geosynchronous Orbit

6. The United States has approved a potential defence sale worth approximately how much to Saudi Arabia, centred on JDAM-ER?

- A. \$1 billion
- B. \$3 billion
- C. \$5 billion
- D. \$10 billion

Answer: C. \$5 billion

7. What does JDAM stand for?

- A. Joint Defence Air Missile
- B. Joint Direct Attack Munition
- C. Joint Deployment Air Mechanism
- D. Joint Defence Attack Missile

Answer: B. Joint Direct Attack Munition

8. Exercise Veer Guardian 2026 is being conducted between the Indian Air Force and which country's air force?

- A. France
- B. Australia
- C. Japan
- D. South Korea

Answer: C. Japan

9. IRST Stands For

- A. Infra-Red Search and Terrorist System
- B. Infra-Red Search and Tokyo System
- C. Infra-Red Search and Track System
- D. None

ANSWER: C

10. India Sold Brahmos Missile To

- A. Philippines
- B. Vietnam
- C. Thailand
- D. Japan

ANSWER: A

11. Agni-V Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. IRBM
- D. ICBM

ANSWER: D

12. Which is Not Correctly Matched:

- A. IAF Day: 8 Oct

- B. Indian Navy Day: 4 Dec
- C. Indian Coast Guard: 26 Jan
- D. BSF Day: 1 Dec

ANSWER: C

13. "Sarvatra" (Everywhere) Is The Motto Of

- A. JKRF
- B. RR
- C. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- D. Madras Regiment

ANSWER: C

14. IAF Was Formed On

- A. 8 October 1932
- B. 8 October 1922
- C. 8 October 1942
- D. 8 October 1952

ANSWER: A

15. SLBM Stands For

- A. Submarine-launched Ballistic Misery
- B. Submarine-launched Ballistic Missile
- C. Submarine-launched Ballet Missile
- D. Solar-launched Ballistic Missile

ANSWER: B

16. Lima Is The Capital Of

- A. Poland
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Peru

ANSWER: D

17. "The Epic Battle of Longewala" Book Written By

- A. Arun Kumar
- B. Ashish Ghatak
- C. Ramesh Kandula
- D. Air Marshal Retd Bharat Kumar

ANSWER: D

18. Joint Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Konkan Shakti

ANSWER: D

19. Where Is The Hq Of The Southwestern Command of The Indian Army?

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

ANSWER: A

20. Merkava Mk.4 Is The Tank Of

- A. Germany
- B. Israel
- C. USA
- D. India

ANSWER: B