



## Defense Business and Industry

### India's defense production reaches Rs 1.51 lakh crore, exports near Rs 24,000 crore.

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India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced a remarkable surge in domestic defence production, reaching Rs 1.51 lakh crore from Rs 46,000 crore in 2014, with exports nearing Rs 24,000 crore. This transformation from an import-dependent nation to a burgeoning producer-exporter underscores the success of the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. During the inauguration of 125 crucial infrastructure projects by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in strategic regions, Singh highlighted the adoption of indigenous technologies like Class-70 modular bridges, enhancing India's self-reliance in engineering. The BRO's budget has seen significant increases, reflecting the government's commitment to bolstering national security and infrastructure development in challenging terrains, thus reinforcing India's defense capabilities and strategic resilience.

### Russia grants full tech transfer for Su-57E engine production at HAL Koraput.

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Russia has confirmed a full Transfer of Technology (ToT) for the development of the Su-57E engine, the Izdeliye 177S, allowing Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to begin serial production at its Koraput facility by 2029-2030. This initiative will increase indigenous content to 54% initially and rise to over 62% for future engine orders, enhancing India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing. The 177S engine, which offers significant improvements in thrust and durability, is designed to be a drop-in replacement for existing Su-30MKI engines, facilitating a cost-effective mid-life upgrade. Strategically, this deal grants India access to

advanced aerospace technologies that were previously denied by Western suppliers, significantly elevating its capabilities in fifth-generation aviation.

### IWI to supply 40,000 LMGs to India, enhancing defense ties.

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A leading Israeli defense firm, Israel Weapon Industries (IWI), plans to supply India with its first batch of 40,000 light machine guns (LMGs) early next year and is finalizing a contract for nearly 170,000 new-age carbines. The collaboration with Bharat Forge and PLR Systems, a subsidiary of the Adani Group, emphasizes local production under the Make in India initiative. IWI is also exploring the integration of its advanced Arbel technology in Indian defense operations. This partnership not only strengthens Indo-Israeli defense ties but also enhances India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing amid global supply chain challenges. The timely delivery of these weapons aims to address current operational demands within India's defense forces.

### Indian Army Highlights Soldier Innovations at Inno-Yoddha 2025

**Event**  [SHARE](#)

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The Indian Army hosted its annual Inno-Yoddha 2025 event on December 5 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, where Vice Chief Lieutenant General Pushpendra Pal Singh felicitated 32 soldier-led innovations selected from a record 89 submissions gathered between November and December. These advancements target operational gaps in logistics, training, and effectiveness amid border tensions with China and Pakistan, with five technologies—Exploder, Agniastra, Vidyut Rakshak, Baaz Attack Drone, and Multi-purpose Octacopter—receiving Transfer of Technology to industry on the same day. Over five years, 117 ideas have been nurtured, 47 productised, and 30 IPRs filed, bolstering Atmanirbhar Bharat and strategic self-reliance to counter evolving threats decisively.

## India Nears Deal for 300 R-37M Missiles to Boost Air Force Capability

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India is accelerating negotiations with Russia for approximately 300 R-37M (RVV-BD) hypersonic air-to-air missiles, with a range exceeding 300 km, to arm Su-30MKI fighters following high-level talks during Russian President Vladimir Putin's state visit on December 4-5, 2025. Key developments include offers for swift integration via minor software updates to the N011M Bars radar, enabling rapid operationalization within 12-18 months and countering Pakistan Air Force J-10CE jets equipped with PL-15 missiles (180-200 km range), as highlighted in Operation Sindoor lessons from May 2025. From an Indian strategic perspective, this bolsters beyond-visual-range dominance, neutralizes adversary AWACS and tankers far from borders, and fortifies two-front deterrence against China and Pakistan amid escalating aerial asymmetries. Discussions also encompassed Su-30 overhauls and BrahMos-NG, reinforcing Indo-Russian defence ties despite Western pressures.

## Blackstone Tactical Launches DART-X: India's First Indigenous AI Defense Turret.

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Delhi-based Blackstone Tactical launched the DART-X P Remote Controlled Weapon System (RCWS) on December 4, 2025, a lightweight platform under 20kg optimized for standard 7.62mm rifles, enabling precise fire from sheltered positions on light vehicles, UGVs, or fortifications. This indigenous innovation, fused with next-gen AI for rapid targeting and response, enhances operator safety and tactical agility in high-threat border patrols and urban ops, aligning with Atmanirbhar Bharat's self-reliance push. From an Indian security lens, it bolsters infantry firepower amid LAC tensions, reduces personnel exposure to enemy fire, and positions India for exports to allies, outpacing heavier foreign systems in Himalayan terrains. No major updates emerged December 5-7, but trials could accelerate Army integration.

## Philippines explores India's Akash-1S to replace outdated HAWK systems.

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The Philippines is in talks with India to acquire the Akash-1S medium-range surface-to-air missile system, aiming to replace its outdated MIM-23 HAWK batteries. This initiative aligns with the Philippines' modernization program, focusing on bolstering air defense capabilities

in light of obsolescence issues with existing systems. The Akash-1S, offering an engagement range of up to 45 km, is touted as a reliable solution for protecting strategic assets. However, Manila's desire for longer-range systems highlights a gap in immediate defense needs. If finalized, the deal, estimated at \$200 million, would further enhance defense ties between India and the Philippines, following successful arrangements like the BrahMos missile agreement.

## Russia offers 3M-14E Kalibr-PL missiles to boost Indian submarines' deep-strike capabilities.

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Russia has proposed to equip the Indian Navy's submarine fleet with the 3M-14E Kalibr-PL land-attack cruise missile system, offering a rapid enhancement of deep-strike capabilities up to 1,500 km without extensive refits. This modular system is viewed as an interim solution while India's indigenous Submarine-Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) matures, allowing the ageing Kilo-class submarines to extend their operational effectiveness. The integration of Kalibr-PL would significantly bolster India's deterrent capabilities against regional adversaries, particularly in light of evolving security dynamics in the Indian Ocean region. As the Indian Navy evaluates the Project 75I tender, the urgency for such enhancements underscores the strategic importance of maintaining robust maritime defense capabilities.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### Japan-China tensions rise over radar confrontations in the Indo-Pacific region.

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Tensions between Japan and China have escalated significantly following recent incidents in which Chinese fighter jets targeted Japanese military aircraft with fire-control radar over international waters near Okinawa. Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi condemned these actions as "dangerous," emphasizing that such radar illumination surpasses the necessary requirements for safe aircraft operation and signals a potential military threat. The incidents mark some of the most severe military confrontations between the two nations in recent years, coming amid heightened military activity in the region, including a significant presence of U.S. military forces in Japan. In response, a

Chinese navy spokesperson disputed Japan's claims, asserting that Japanese aircraft had interfered with Chinese naval training exercises, thus highlighting a narrative of mutual accusations that reflects deeper geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific. The ongoing confrontation underscores the precarious security environment in the region, particularly concerning the implications for Taiwan, which lies in proximity to both nations and is viewed by Beijing as a critical area of interest.

## Putin's visit underscores India's refusal to yield to Western pressure.

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The recent visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to India marked a significant reaffirmation of the longstanding India-Russia partnership, emphasizing India's strategic autonomy amidst growing Western pressures. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar highlighted the historical stability of this relationship while asserting India's commitment to maintain a balanced approach in its foreign relations, particularly with the U.S. Despite Western sanctions on Russia and ongoing U.S.-China rivalries, India continues to prioritize its defense ties with Moscow, including the procurement of advanced military systems like the S-400 air defense. The discussions during Putin's visit, which included agreements on economic cooperation and a joint venture in fertilizers, reflect India's intent to deepen bilateral engagements while navigating complex international dynamics. Jaishankar further underscored that India's strategic choices will not be dictated by external powers, reinforcing its position as a pivotal democracy that seeks to balance relationships with major global players to bolster national interests. This strategic posture illustrates India's broader efforts to hedge against over-dependence on any single power, thereby asserting its place in a multipolar world.

## India's warm welcome to Putin showcases strategic autonomy amid Western pressures.

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Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's warm reception of Russian President Vladimir Putin signals India's intention to maintain its strategic autonomy amid growing Western pressure regarding the Ukraine conflict. During Putin's visit, India and Russia signed agreements on various sectors including energy, trade, and health, while Modi announced progress on a free-trade pact with the Eurasian Economic Union. Despite Western criticism and calls for India to take a firmer

stance against Russia, analysts note India's approach reflects a careful balancing act between its longstanding defense and energy partnership with Moscow and its economic ties with the US and EU. This visit underscores the need for India to reinforce its relationships with major powers during a period of significant geopolitical realignment.

## China accuses Japan of disrupting its naval training operations in Miyako Strait.

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A Chinese military spokesperson has accused Japan of interfering with its training operations in the Miyako Strait, specifically citing disruptions caused by Japanese Self-Defense Force aircraft during exercises involving the CNS Liaoning aircraft carrier group. Wang Xuemeng, from the People's Liberation Army Navy, condemned Japan for its alleged smear tactics and asserted that such actions threaten flight safety and disrupt normal operations. He called for Japan to cease these activities and indicated that China would take necessary measures to protect its security interests. This exchange underscores rising tensions in the region, particularly regarding military activities and the strategic balance in the Asia-Pacific.

## China and Russia conduct third joint anti-missile drills in December.

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China and Russia recently concluded their third joint anti-missile drills in early December on Russian soil, part of ongoing military exercises aimed at enhancing coordination between their armed forces. While the drills focus on missile defense and strategic stability, officials from both nations assert that these activities are not directed against any third party, which raises questions about their implications for regional security dynamics. This collaboration underscores the deepening military ties between China and Russia, potentially prompting concerns in neighboring countries, particularly India, regarding their own defense strategies and the need for enhanced vigilance in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

## Military Operations

### General Dwivedi stresses jointness, integration, and innovation for modern battlefield readiness.

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Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi emphasized the importance of jointness, integration, and innovation during the Biennial Mechanised Infantry Commanders Conference 2025 in New Delhi. He urged Army commanders to adapt to evolving tactics and techniques vital for modern warfare, particularly in a multi-domain environment. The conference focused on the Mechanised Infantry's role as a Lead Integrator in Combined Arms Operations, discussing emerging operational paradigms and the utilization of unmanned aerial systems. This initiative underscores the Indian Army's commitment to enhancing its operational capabilities and readiness to tackle future battlefield challenges, reflecting a proactive approach in an increasingly complex security landscape.

### Operation Sindoore continues; Navy Chief pledges strong response to threats.

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Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi emphasized that Operation Sindoore remains active, warning potential aggressors of a strong military response akin to past actions against terrorist bases in Pakistan, following the tragic Pahalgam attack in April 2025. Speaking during the Armed Forces Flag Day Function in New Delhi, he recognized the pride citizens take in the armed forces and commended the meticulous planning behind recent military operations. Meanwhile, Navy Day ceremonies commemorated India's maritime heroes, highlighting the Indian Navy's strategic evolution since its decisive victory in 1971 against Pakistan, reinforcing the nation's commitment to safeguarding its maritime interests and readiness to confront any threats.

### Russia reports shooting down 77 Ukrainian drones amid escalating conflict.

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Russia's defense ministry reported the downing of 77 Ukrainian drones overnight across several regions, including Crimea, as both nations intensify cross-border air assaults in their ongoing conflict. The strikes caused

damage to a power transmission tower in the Rostov region, affecting local residents, though no injuries were reported. The war has increasingly involved long-range drone and missile operations, with Ukraine targeting Russian military and infrastructure assets in retaliation to Moscow's attacks on Ukrainian cities and energy systems. This escalation highlights the ongoing challenges in regional security and the persistent threat posed by drone warfare in the protracted conflict.

### Rajnath Singh praises Indian forces' restraint and coordination during Operation Sindoore.

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the restraint and discipline exhibited by Indian armed forces during Operation Sindoore, launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack that resulted in 26 fatalities. He highlighted the operation's success in neutralizing terrorist threats while avoiding escalation, showcasing the effective coordination between military, civil administration, and local citizens. Singh attributed this achievement to enhanced connectivity and logistics in border areas, which he described as crucial for operational effectiveness. He further noted that strong communication networks underpin not only security but also the economic development of these regions, reinforcing the government's commitment to holistic border area development.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### UK sanctions target Khalistan finances, bolstering India's security efforts.

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The UK government has taken a significant step in combating pro-Khalistan terrorism by sanctioning British Sikh businessman Gurpreet Singh Rehal and the group Babbar Akali Lehar, under its Domestic Counter-Terrorism Regime. This unprecedented action, following discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Kier Starmer, aims to disrupt the financial networks supporting the Khalistan movement, a long-standing concern for India. The sanctions include an asset freeze and director disqualification for Rehal, who is linked to organizations allegedly involved in recruiting and financing terrorism in India. The UK Treasury's commitment to thwarting terrorist financing reflects a broader strategy to protect national security and uphold community safety, emphasizing that those exploiting the financial system for extremist activities

will face strict repercussions. This crackdown is expected to significantly weaken the Khalistani movements by choking their financial resources, thereby enhancing India's security posture in the region.

## **Jaishankar: Pakistan Army fuels terrorism and ideological hostility towards India.**

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External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized that many of India's challenges, particularly terrorism, stem from the Pakistani Army, attributing ideological hostility towards India to its military establishment. In an interview, he discussed India's strategic military operations, including Operation Sindoora, highlighting India's accountability and adherence to established norms, which distinguishes it from Pakistan. Jaishankar also touched upon regional dynamics, expressing optimism about India-Bangladesh relations post the political turmoil surrounding former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He reiterated India's commitment to democratic processes in neighboring countries, reinforcing India's position as a responsible regional power amidst ongoing security challenges.

## **Quad demands justice for Red Fort blast perpetrators and urges global cooperation.**

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The Quad grouping, comprising India, the US, Australia, and Japan, has condemned the recent terror attack near Delhi's Red Fort that resulted in the death of fifteen individuals. In a two-day Counter Terrorism Working Group meeting in New Delhi, the partners called for the perpetrators, organizers, and financiers of the attack to be brought to justice and urged UN member states to cooperate in this effort. The discussions emphasized the importance of countering cross-border terrorism and ensuring the Indo-Pacific region remains safe from such threats. The Quad's commitment to enhancing multilateral cooperation and sharing intelligence on terrorist activities underscores a collective approach to addressing regional security challenges and combating terrorism effectively.

## **India and US advocate for tougher actions against LeT and JeM.**

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India and the United States have urged for additional punitive measures, including asset freezes and arms embargoes, against Pakistan-based terrorist organizations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-

Mohammad (JeM), as well as their affiliates and backers, during a recent joint working group meeting on counter-terrorism in New Delhi. The discussions emphasized the need for a coordinated response to combat terrorism, highlighting concerns over the misuse of technology, such as drones and AI, by these groups. The two nations reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening multilateral cooperation through frameworks like the UN and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). This collaborative stance underlines the significance of the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership in addressing cross-border terrorism and enhancing global security.

## **Cybersecurity and Information Warfare**

### **US, Canada warn of China-linked hackers stealing sensitive data.**

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US and Canadian cybersecurity agencies have issued a joint advisory warning that hackers linked to China utilized the Brickstorm malware to infiltrate government and IT networks, maintaining long-term access for potential sabotage and data theft. The malware reportedly targeted multiple entities, allowing attackers to steal sensitive login credentials, thereby compromising network integrity. Although the agencies did not disclose the specific number of affected organizations, they emphasized the ongoing threat posed by these state-backed operations. In response, the Chinese embassy refuted the allegations, asserting that the Chinese government does not endorse cyberattacks and criticized the lack of evidence provided by the US and Canadian authorities, highlighting the escalating tensions surrounding cybersecurity in international relations.

### **NATO's cyber war game tests defenses against Russian threats in Estonia.**

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NATO recently conducted its largest cyber war game in Estonia, simulating a multifaceted cyber assault on civilian and military infrastructures, reflecting heightened concerns about threats from Russia and China. Participants from 29 NATO nations faced scenarios involving power blackouts, satellite disruptions, and malware attacks, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in addressing cyber threats. The exercise revealed vulnerabilities and the necessity for rapid communication and trust among allies, as adversarial actions can have cascading

effects across nations. Additionally, NATO is exploring AI technology to enhance situational awareness in cyber warfare, indicating a significant shift in defense strategies against evolving hybrid threats.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Col Prateek Roy of Indian Army awarded Geddes Gavel in Australia.

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Col Prateek Roy of the Indian Army has been honored with the Geddes Gavel Award upon completing the Defence Strategic and Studies Course at the Australian Defence College, as reported by the Indian High Commission in Canberra. This recognition underscores the strong collaborative ties between India and Australia in defense training and strategic studies, highlighting India's commitment to enhancing its military leadership capabilities. The award reflects not only individual excellence but also India's broader efforts to engage in international defense dialogues and partnerships, reinforcing its position in the Indo-Pacific region. Such accolades foster goodwill and promote deeper defense cooperation between the two nations.

### Vice President Radhakrishnan donates salary to support Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

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On the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan donated his entire monthly salary to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, emphasizing the importance of supporting the families of martyrs and disabled soldiers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also expressed their gratitude towards the armed forces, highlighting their courage and sacrifices for the nation. They urged citizens to contribute to the fund, which has been observed since 1949 to honor those who serve the country. This collective call for support signifies not only respect for military personnel but also reinforces the civilian responsibility to aid those who protect national integrity.

### Indian Army officers enhance intelligence skills at Pune course completion.

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Student officers from various branches of the Indian armed forces have successfully completed the

prestigious Intelligence Staff Course at the Military Intelligence Training School and Depot in Pune, highlighting a significant advancement in India's intelligence capabilities. The course, tailored to enhance skills in intelligence analysis, operational planning, and inter-agency coordination, aims to equip officers to effectively tackle evolving security challenges. During the convocation, Lt Gen Devinder Pal Singh emphasized the importance of utilizing the knowledge gained to improve operational preparedness and decision-making processes. This initiative fosters collaboration and synergy among India's security forces, ultimately strengthening the nation's defense mechanisms in a complex security environment.

### CDS General Anil Chauhan congratulates armed forces on Flag Day, honoring their valor and commitment.

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On Armed Forces Flag Day, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan conveyed his greetings to all ranks of the Indian Armed Forces, including veterans and Veer Naris, emphasizing their essential role in India's defense preparedness and national security. He praised the unwavering commitment, exceptional valor, and supreme sacrifices of the soldiers, sailors, and air warriors who have protected the nation's sovereignty across various frontiers and domains. This acknowledgment not only honors the contributions of the armed forces but also highlights the critical importance of maintaining high morale and unity within the ranks, fostering a sense of pride among military personnel and the citizenry alike in the face of ongoing geopolitical challenges.

### Indian Army's 20 Rashtriya Rifles Aids Fire-Stricken Family in Ramnagar

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On December 7, 2025, personnel from the Indian Army's 20 Rashtriya Rifles Battalion swiftly responded to a fire incident in Ramnagar, assisting the family of Mushtaq Ahmed Dar, who suffered significant damage to their home. The soldiers provided essential aid, including food, dry rations, and financial support, while also helping clear debris from the affected residence. Local residents expressed appreciation for the Army's prompt and compassionate response, which further reinforced the trust and goodwill between the military and the community. This incident underscores the critical role of the Indian Armed Forces in humanitarian assistance, highlighting their commitment to supporting civilians in distress and fostering strong civil-military relations.

## Miscellaneous

### Rajnath Singh inaugurates 125 BRO projects to boost border infrastructure and security.

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently inaugurated 125 strategically significant infrastructure projects constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), valued at approximately Rs 5,000 crore, across key border regions in India, including Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttarakhand. The projects, which include roads and bridges, are aimed at enhancing national security, operational readiness, and local economies, marking a significant milestone in India's border infrastructure development. Notably, five essential bridges in the border region of Chamoli, Uttarakhand, were also inaugurated, significantly improving the movement of armed forces and boosting connectivity in remote areas. These initiatives not only fortify India's strategic capabilities along critical border areas, particularly with China, but also promise to stimulate local tourism and employment opportunities, reinforcing the dual objective of security and regional development. The series of inaugurations, described by BRO as a landmark moment in high-altitude engineering and infrastructure enhancement, demonstrates India's commitment to advancing its border infrastructure while showcasing the growing capabilities of the BRO in challenging terrains.

### Armed Forces Flag Day honors soldiers' sacrifices and promotes military welfare across India.

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The Armed Forces Flag Day, celebrated annually on December 7, pays tribute to the courage and sacrifice of soldiers and veterans across India's armed forces, including the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. Established in 1949 following India's independence, this day serves to collect donations for the welfare of military personnel and their families, with a focus on aiding war widows and disabled soldiers. As part of the observance, citizens don red, deep blue, and light blue flags representing the three military branches, and various events such as shows and dramas are

organized to enhance public awareness of the armed forces' contributions to national security. The significance of this day extends beyond mere commemoration; it fosters a spirit of gratitude and respect among the populace towards those who safeguard the nation's borders and uphold its honor.

### Modi gifts Putin Assam tea, saffron, and a Russian Bhagavad Gita.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented an array of culturally significant gifts to Russian President Vladimir Putin, reinforcing the strong bonds between India and Russia. Among the gifts were Assam black tea, renowned for its robust flavor, and Kashmiri saffron, a staple of Indian cuisine. The ornate Murshidabad silver tea set and a handcrafted silver horse from Maharashtra symbolized the rich craftsmanship and shared cultural heritage of both nations. Furthermore, a Russian edition of the Bhagavad Gita emphasized the timeless wisdom of Indian philosophy, promoting ethical living and inner peace. This exchange not only highlights India's rich cultural offerings but also underscores the enduring partnership and mutual respect between India and Russia, pivotal for regional stability and cooperation.

### India and South Korea strengthen space ties through collaboration efforts.

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India and South Korea are advancing their strategic space partnership, highlighted by a recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA) on December 6, 2025. Indian Ambassador to Seoul Gourangalal Das hosted KASA Administrator Yoon Youngbin at the Indian Embassy, where they discussed joint space projects, shared use of science and technology infrastructure, ground station operations, and business-to-business ties in both nations' growing private space sectors. The talks build on India's leadership in cost-effective space missions and South Korea's NURI rocket successes, aiming to enhance collaboration with Global South partners while reinforcing bilateral commitments reaffirmed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Lee Jae-myung at recent G20 and G7 summits.

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