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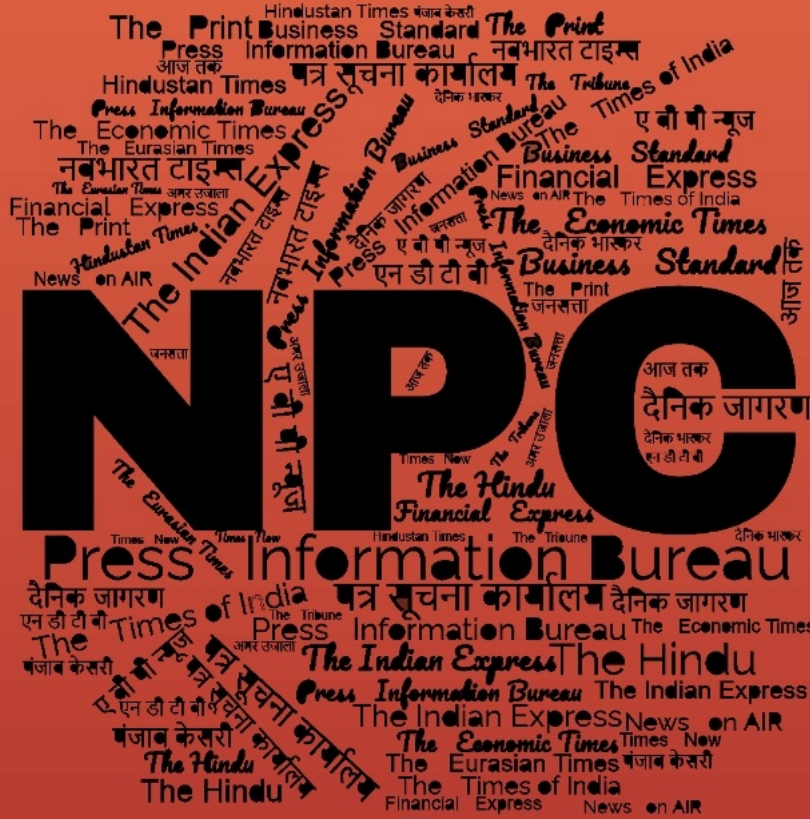
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# समाचार पत्रों से चयनित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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# Defence News

## Army sets sights on indigenous suicide drones that can hit deep into enemy territory

*Source: The Economic Times, Dt. 08 Jan 2026*

Army is looking for a family of indigenous loitering munitions that can strike with precision deep into enemy territory and are capable of operating in environments with heavy jamming and spoofing. Tenders for the mega project are expected to be issued shortly, with the industry gearing up to offer indigenously designed and developed systems, said people familiar with the development.

While the initial contract is valued at ₹2,000 crore, the project is likely to be expanded manifold in the coming years, as the Army is looking to equip several units with similar equipment which is capable of carrying out both shallow and deep strikes across the border. Several Indian companies will be in the fray for the order, which involves offering an indigenous platform to avoid dependence on foreign sources, according to the people. Once placed, the order is expected to open up an industrial ecosystem capable of manufacturing such systems at scale, when required by the Army, they said.

The tender will be issued under fast-track procedure that will enable the Army to conduct trials, shortlist and place orders within a matter of months, in contrast to the traditional procedure that can take up to two years for finalisation. Two Indian companies will eventually get orders under the project, the people said. The order will be split 60:40 between the two lowest bidders who manage to clear specifications and trials, according to them.

Major players in the fray who have delivered such systems to the forces include Tata Advanced Systems, Adani Defence, Solar Defence and Aerospace Ltd and Newspace Research and Technologies. Other companies likely to bid include Nibe Defence, Avision and SMPP. Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi last year announced plans to integrate drones and loitering munitions and raise specialised drone units. He promulgated the 'Eagle on every Arm' concept to equip each soldier with a drone capability.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/army-sets-sights-on-indigenous-suicide-drones-that-can-hit-deep-into-enemy-territory/articleshow/126400484.cms?from=mdr>

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## Long range training deployment of Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) to South East Asia

*Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 07 Jan 2026*

The ships of the First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy — INS Tir, Shardul, Sujata and ICGS Sarathi — will be proceeding on a Long Range Training Deployment (LRTD) to South East Asia as part of a training curriculum of the 110th Integrated Officers' Training Course (IOTC).

As part of the deployment, the squadron is scheduled to undertake port calls at Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. The deployment is aimed at providing comprehensive operational and cross-cultural exposure to officer trainees, while reinforcing India's sustained maritime engagement with South East Asian nations in consonance with India's Act East Policy and vision for a free, open and inclusive Indian Ocean Region.



During these port visits, a wide range of professional interactions, training engagements and cooperative activities are planned with the host navies and maritime agencies. These include structured training exchanges, cross-deck visits, interactions with various subject matter experts and Joint Maritime Partnership exercises. These engagements are designed to further enhance interoperability, mutual trust and understanding, while promoting the exchange of best practices at sea.

The 110th Integrated Officers' Training Course includes six international officer trainees, reflecting Indian Navy's continued commitment to capacity building and professional training of personnel from friendly foreign Nations. In addition, personnel from the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force are also embarked for the deployment, further strengthening jointness and cohesiveness between the services.

The Long Range Training Deployment underscores the Indian Navy's emphasis on training excellence whilst contributing to maritime diplomacy, goodwill and cooperative approach to regional maritime security.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2212110&reg=3&lang=1>

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## Samudra Pratap strengthens self reliance vision: PM

*Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 08 Jan 2026*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the commissioning of home-built pollution control ship Samudra Pratap has strengthened the vision of self-reliance and reflected the commitment to sustainability. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship Samudra Pratap on Monday, India's first indigenously built pollution control vessel and the largest ship in the Coast Guard's fleet so far.



“The commissioning of Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samudra Pratap is noteworthy for numerous reasons, including the fact that it adds strength to our vision of self-reliance, boosts our security apparatus and reflects a commitment to sustainability, among others the prime minister said in a social media post.

The vessel will serve as a critical platform for enforcing marine pollution control regulations, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and safeguarding India’s Exclusive Economic Zone. The vessel’s primary role is pollution response at sea, supported by State-of-the-art systems including side-sweeping arms, floating booms, high-capacity skimmers, portable barges, and a pollution control laboratory.

The ship is also fitted with an external fire-fighting system and integrates advanced systems such as dynamic positioning, integrated bridge system, integrated platform management system, and automated power management system to enhance automation and mission efficiency.

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/samudra-pratap-strengthens-self-reliance-vision-pm>

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## **DGCA chief inaugurates Garuda Aerospace Drone Battery manufacturing facility**

**Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 08 Jan 2026**

In a major boost to India’s indigenous drone manufacturing ecosystem, Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), inaugurated a new drone battery manufacturing facility set up by Garuda Aerospace in Chennai. The facility was unveiled during Bharat Drone Udaan, an industry event organised by the Bharat Drone Association at Garuda Aerospace’s operations centre.

The inauguration comes shortly after Garuda Aerospace launched its defence drone manufacturing unit, marking another significant milestone in the company’s expansion. Backed by former Indian cricket captain MS Dhoni, the startup continues to strengthen its position as a key player in India’s rapidly evolving drone sector, with a focus on domestic manufacturing and self-reliance.

During the visit, Kidwai also inaugurated a newly developed Academic Block at Garuda Aerospace's DGCA-approved Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO). The expanded academic infrastructure is expected to increase training capacity and improve curriculum delivery, catering to the growing demand for certified drone pilots across sectors such as agriculture, defence, infrastructure, disaster response, and logistics.

The DGCA chief also released the Garuda Bharat Drone Udaan Impact Book, a publication that documents Garuda Aerospace's growth journey, technological milestones, and real-world applications of drone technology across rural and industrial India. The book highlights innovative use cases, successful case studies, and the company's role in promoting responsible drone adoption and ecosystem development under the Make in India initiative.



Speaking at the event, Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Founder and Director of Garuda Aerospace, said the company's evolution reflects the impact of progressive government policies. "From our beginnings in agricultural technology a decade ago, we have grown into India's largest drone company, having manufactured more than 3,000 drones and trained over 2,500 pilots. We were the first to receive DGCA approvals for both manufacturing and training, and our clients were the first to benefit from AIF-backed drone loans," he said.

Jayaprakash added that initiatives such as the SMAM drone subsidy scheme, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) program, and government-led efforts to empower women's self-help groups with agricultural drones have played a crucial role in scaling the industry. "Our growth would not have been possible without consistent regulatory support from the DGCA and the Ministry. We remain committed to local manufacturing and positioning India as a global drone hub," he noted. Addressing the gathering, DGCA Kidwai praised Garuda Aerospace for its wide-ranging drone portfolio and focus on indigenisation.

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/dgca-chief-inaugurates-garuda-aerospace-drone-battery-manufacturing-facility>

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## Pakistan set to strike deal with Bangladesh on sale of JF-17 amid strengthening ties

*Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 08 Jan 2026*

Pakistan is set to offer its JF-17 Thunder fighter jets to Bangladesh amid strengthening ties between the two countries, Islamabad's military has announced in a recent statement. Pakistan's Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and Bangladesh counterpart Hasan Mahmood Khan held a talk on a potential pact over the sale of JF-17 fighter jets to Dhaka, Reuters reported.

"The meeting focused on strengthening operational cooperation and institutional synergy, with emphasis on training, capacity building, and collaboration in aerospace advancements," Pakistan military's media wing Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

The JF-17 Thunder is a multi-role combat aircraft jointly developed by China and Pakistan. The talks of "potential procurement" between the two countries come amid a resumption of ties in the past few months after the fall of Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh in August 2024 and Muhammad Yunus-led interim government coming to power.

According to the military statement, Islamabad has assured Bangladesh of fast-tracked delivery of Super Mushshak trainer aircraft, along with a complete training and long-term support ecosystem. "The visit underscored the strong historical ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh and reflected a shared resolve to deepen defence cooperation and build a long-term strategic partnership," the military statement reportedly said.

A defence delegation led by Bangladesh Air Force chief, Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan, called on his Pakistan counterpart, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, at Air Headquarters, Islamabad, on Tuesday. Pakistan is already in talks with Azerbaijan and finalised a \$4 billion deal with Libyan National Army to supply JF-17.

Islamabad had used the J-10 fighter jets during the May conflict with India, military experts and officials have said. Pakistan has also claimed that the jet has proved its capabilities since the conflict.

In another thaw in their relationship — even when India has frosty ties with both at present — Bangladesh national carrier, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, is set to launch non-stop flights to Pakistan's Karachi from January 29. Direct flights between the two nations were not operational since 2012 due to their strained ties.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/pakistan-set-to-strike-deal-with-bangladesh-on-sale-of-jf-17-amid-strengthening-ties-101767801953380.html>

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# Science & Technology News

## PSLV-C62 मिशन 12 को होगा लॉन्च

Source: NavBharat Times, Dt. 08 Jan 2026

■ पीटीआई, बंगलुरु: इंडियन स्पेस रिसर्च ऑर्गनाइजेशन (ISRO) 12 जनवरी को आंध्र प्रदेश के श्रीहरिकोटा से PSLV-C62 मिशन लॉन्च करेगा। इसरो नए साल के अपने पहले मिशन की तैयारी में जुट गया है। इसरो के एक अधिकारी के अनुसार, इस मिशन का प्राइमरी पेलोड EOS-N1 है, जो डिफेंस रिसर्च एंड डिवेलपमेंट ऑर्गनाइजेशन द्वारा रणनीतिक उद्देश्यों के लिए बनाया गया इमेजिंग सैटलाइट है। इसरो ने बताया कि PSLV-C62 को 12 जनवरी को सुबह 10 बजकर 17 मिनट पर लॉन्च किया जाएगा। रॉकेट में स्पेन के एक 'स्टार्टअप' द्वारा विकसित केस्ट्रैल इनिशियल डेमोस्ट्रेटर भी होगा।

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## ISRO to launch PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission on January 12

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 08 Jan 2026

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission on January 12. The launch of the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-N1) satellite along with other payloads will take place from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 10:17 a.m.

EOS-N1 is an earth imaging satellite said to be built for strategic purposes. ISRO has not shared further details about the satellite. "The Launch of PSLV-C62 Mission is scheduled on 12 January 2026 at 10:17 hrs IST from First Launch Pad (FLP), SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota," ISRO posted on X.

The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission is the first launch for ISRO in 2026 and comes within a few days of successfully launching the US's BlueBird Block-2 satellite communication satellite in low earth orbit on December 24 onboard the LVM-3 launch vehicle.

The launch of the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission will be the 105th launch from Sriharikota. It is also an important launch for the space agency as the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV) which is ISRO's workhorse had suffered a glitch during its previous attempt to launch a satellite.

On May 18 2025, while ISRO attempted to launch the EOS-09 satellite aboard the PSLV-C61 it could not accomplish the mission due to an observation in the third stage of the rocket. PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission will also launch payloads developed by startup and academia from India and abroad.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/isro-to-kick-off-2026-with-pslv-c62-launch-on-january-12/article70481555.ece>

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## India plans to send astronauts to moon by 2040: Ex-ISRO chief

*Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 08 Jan 2026*

India plans to land its astronauts on the Moon by 2040, former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief AS Kiran Kumar said on Wednesday. Kumar, who is currently the chairman of the management council of the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), was speaking at the inauguration of the 5th Astronomical Society of India (ASI) Symposium.

“Between now and 2040, there are a whole lot of missions which are going to go into space activities. So, 2040 is a plan where we want to land Indians on the Moon and bring them back safely. India is also working towards building a space station by 2040,” he said.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the event held at the PRL campus, the former Indian Space Research Organisation head elaborated on the country’s space roadmap. In the immediate future, there will be a Chandrayaan follow-on mission, and work was underway with Japan for a lander and rover, he said.

“We should be trying to look for some specific information in the South Polar region (of the Moon). It will only be the beginning of a whole lot of activities beyond that. India, as a country, is committed to doing space observation and then understanding the universe,” Kumar said. This will up open up a lot of opportunities for academic institutions, engineering institutions and even private companies to contribute to India’s space exploration, he said.

In his speech before the gathering of scientists and students during the inaugural session, Kumar said India is the only country which started building space technology primarily for societal benefits and not for military purposes. Dr Vikram Sarabhai’s contribution to India’s space sector, when the country was only 10 years into Independence, was phenomenal, he said.

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/india-plans-to-send-astronauts-to-moon-by-2040-exisro-chief>

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The Tribune  
The Statesman  
ਪੰਜਾਬ ਕੇਸਰੀ ਜਨਸਤਾ  
The Hindu  
The Economic Times  
Press Information Bureau  
The Indian Express  
The Times of India  
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