



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### Astra Rafael Comsys Wins ₹285.56 Crore MoD Order for IAF Communications.



02-Nov-25

Astra Rafael Comsys, a joint venture between India's Astra Microwave Products and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, has secured a ₹285.56 crore contract from the Ministry of Defence dated October 31, 2025. The order is for supplying advanced communication systems and accessories to the Indian Air Force's Special Forces, aimed at enhancing secure and reliable operational communications in electronically contested, high-threat environments. The contract is expected to be executed within 11 months, reflecting a swift delivery timeline. This development aligns with India's strategic thrust on indigenization of defence technology under the "Make in India" initiative, strengthening tactical communication capabilities essential for modern warfare. Astra Rafael Comsys specializes in military-grade software-defined radios and electronic warfare systems, further consolidating its role as a key domestic supplier. This contract bolsters India's strategic autonomy in defence communications while enhancing the IAF's Special Forces operational edge. Key date: October 31, 2025.

### DRDO Calls on Startups to Enhance Indigenization of Air Defence System



02-Nov-25

At the DRDO Industry Synergy Meet 2025 held on October 29-30 in Bengaluru, Dr. BK Das, Director General of DRDO's Electronics and Communication Systems Cluster, underscored the vital role of startups in accelerating the development of India's multi-layered Sudarshan Chakra air defence system. This ambitious initiative aims to establish a fully indigenous, integrated air defence shield by 2035, incorporating satellites,

advanced radars, and directed energy weapons to neutralize diverse aerial threats including aircraft, drones, and missiles. The meet also saw the transfer of 12 technology licensing agreements to industry partners, fostering greater collaboration under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The involvement of startups and private industry is seen as critical to scaling up production, indigenous seeker technology, and future fighter aircraft engines, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for rapid self-reliance in defence capabilities and strengthening India's strategic air defence posture.

### IAF plans to procure 100 indigenous jammer pods for Su-30MKI in 36 months.



02-Nov-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has initiated a procurement process for 100 self-protection jammer pods for its Su-30MKI aircraft as part of the 'Make in India' initiative, emphasizing the enhancement of its electronic warfare capabilities. The request for information (RFI) mandates a 36-month delivery timeline and aligns with the larger "Super Sukhoi" upgrade program, aimed at modernizing the fleet with indigenous technologies such as advanced radar systems. The new pods will provide 360-degree jamming coverage to protect the aircraft from sophisticated enemy radar and missile systems, marking a significant move towards self-reliance in defense technology. This development not only strengthens the IAF's operational readiness but also bolsters India's domestic defense industry by fostering innovation and collaboration among local manufacturers.

### ISRO Set to Launch CMS-03 Military Satellite Enhancing Navy Communications



02-Nov-25

India's Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is poised to launch the CMS-03 military communication satellite aboard the LVM3-M5 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on November 2, 2025. Weighing

approximately 4,410 kg, CMS-03 will significantly enhance the Indian Navy's communication capabilities by providing secure, multi-band connectivity across the Indian Ocean Region. Designed to replace the older GSAT-7, this satellite will facilitate robust communication for warships, submarines, and aircraft, ensuring real-time data transfer and improved decision-making in both peacetime and conflict situations. The strategic importance of CMS-03 is underscored by the increasing presence of Chinese naval forces in the region, as it strengthens India's autonomy over maritime security operations and reduces reliance on foreign communication satellites. As part of a broader initiative to build a comprehensive space-based defense infrastructure, the successful deployment of CMS-03 will not only bolster the Navy's operational capabilities but also solidify India's position as a significant maritime power in the Indo-Pacific region. This launch marks a pivotal moment in enhancing India's indigenous military space capabilities and supports the nation's ongoing pursuit of self-reliance in defense technology.

### **Rafale indigenisation strategy accelerates towards 50% local content, enhancing India's defense manufacturing capabilities.**



02-Nov-25

India's Defence Ministry is advancing its indigenisation strategy for the acquisition of 114 Rafale aircraft, aiming for 50% local content, rejecting minimal localisation approaches of 10-15%. Dassault Aviation has proposed up to 60% indigenous content, planning local assembly and production of key components. This transformative initiative aligns with India's broader self-reliance objectives and aims to enhance domestic capabilities in aerospace manufacturing. The program highlights the need for technical knowledge transfer and stringent quality standards, crucial for establishing a robust aerospace ecosystem that can support future defense aviation programs. The collaboration with Dassault signifies a pivotal shift towards substantial domestic participation, reinforcing India's strategic autonomy in defense manufacturing.

### **L&T and BEL expect AMCA stealth fighter contract by Q4 FY27.**



02-Nov-25

Larsen & Toubro (L&T), in joint venture with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), expects the contract award for India's indigenous fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) stealth fighter by Q4

of fiscal year 2026-27. The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), under the Ministry of Defence, is leading the project to develop a medium-weight stealth fighter with advanced avionics, supercruise capability, and multi-spectral sensor fusion to modernize the Indian Air Force's air combat capabilities. The shortlist of eligible bidders is anticipated between October and December 2025, followed by Request for Proposal issuance and final contract award by early 2027. L&T-BEL, having contributed significantly to the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas program, brings key expertise, marking a landmark private sector involvement in fifth-generation fighter development. This initiative aims to enhance India's strategic autonomy and counter regional air power threats, with the first prototype slated for 2027 and production expected by 2035.

### **Adani Defence's Kanpur Complex wins SIDM Champion Award 2025 for excellence in defense manufacturing.**



02-Nov-25

Adani Defence & Aerospace's Kanpur Ammunition Complex won the prestigious Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) Champion Award 2025 for excellence in design, manufacturing, and testing. Presented by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on October 31, 2025, in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, this recognition highlights the complex's advanced manufacturing capabilities aligned with Industry 4.0 standards, automation, and AI-driven precision systems. Spanning 500 acres, the facility produces small to large-caliber ammunition with high safety and quality standards, reinforcing India's strategic self-reliance in defense production under the "Make in India, Made for the World" vision. CEO Ashish Rajvanshi emphasized that the award reaffirms Adani Defence's commitment to transforming India into a global defense manufacturing hub, crucial for enhancing national security and supporting Aatmanirbhar Bharat objectives amidst intensifying regional geopolitical challenges.

### **HAL Seeks Development of Advanced Anti-Jamming GNSS for Military Aircraft**



02-Nov-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) issued an Expression of Interest (EoI) on October 29, 2025, seeking Indian firms to design and develop an advanced Anti-Jamming and Anti-Spoofing Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) specifically for fixed-wing military aircraft. This initiative addresses

growing electronic warfare threats posed by adversaries capable of disrupting satellite navigation, crucial for aircraft navigation and weapon systems. The GNSS system aims to combine hardware resilience with intelligent signal processing to safeguard against jamming and spoofing attempts, ensuring uninterrupted, secure navigation even in contested environments. This strategic move aligns with India's broader defense modernization efforts to strengthen indigenous capabilities amid regional challenges, primarily from China and Pakistan, enhancing the Indian Air Force's operational effectiveness and electronic resilience. HAL's call signifies an important step toward securing India's military airborne navigation in an era of sophisticated electronic warfare. Key developments took place in late October 2025, emphasizing Make-in-India collaboration to boost national security.

## Indigenous MPATGM set for 2026 clearance, enhancing India's anti-tank capabilities.



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02-Nov-25

The Indian Army's indigenous Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) is set for operational clearance by 2026 after a successful series of trials, significantly enhancing infantry firepower. Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), this third-generation missile is designed to target modern armoured vehicles, demonstrating advanced features comparable to global systems like the Javelin and Spike. The MPATGM's lightweight design and "fire-and-forget" capability address operational needs highlighted during the 2020 Galwan clashes, aiming to replace older imported missiles. This initiative aligns with India's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" policy, reducing import dependency in defense technologies while bolstering national security through self-reliance in critical military capabilities.

### Politics

## Amit Shah: PM Modi realized Patel's vision by abrogating Article 370.



SHARE

02-Nov-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfilled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a unified India by abrogating Article 370 on August 5, 2019, which had previously prevented the full integration of Jammu and Kashmir. Shah emphasized that Patel's historic efforts to integrate over 560 princely states into India remained

incomplete until this move, which he described as completing the mission of national unity. The abrogation has led to the application of the entire Indian Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir, fostering greater integration, socio-economic development, and strengthening India's strategic position in the region. The decision has also intensified geopolitical tensions with Pakistan and China, while reinforcing India's stance on Kashmir as an internal matter.

## BJP accuses Congress of hiding Sardar Patel's 1939 assassination attempts for 86 years.



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02-Nov-25

On the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has accused the Congress party of concealing two assassination attempts on the Iron Man of India that occurred in 1939. According to BJP, these attacks were orchestrated by the Muslim League as Patel was uniting princely states through the Prajamandal Movement. The first attempt took place on January 20, 1939, in Vadodara, where Muslim League-backed mobs attacked Patel's procession, shouting slogans and pelting stones, even setting the Prajamandal office ablaze. The second violent attack occurred on May 14, 1939, in Bhavnagar during a peaceful procession, where 57 armed assailants hiding inside Nagina Mosque attacked Patel's open jeep. Two patriots, Bachubhai Patel and Jadhavbhai Modi, were martyred protecting Patel. The British government investigated and brought the accused to trial, with two sentenced to death and several others to life imprisonment. BJP criticized Congress historians for erasing these events from textbooks and archives, calling it an "uncomfortable truth" hidden for 86 years. The party called for the recognition of Patel's steadfastness amidst internal betrayal during India's freedom struggle. Congress has yet to issue an immediate response to these allegations.

### Geopolitics and Security Alliances

## India's Indo-Pacific strategy safeguards regional interests, not targeting any nation, says Defence Minister.



SHARE

02-Nov-25

During the 12th ADMM-Plus meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized that India's focus on the rule of law and freedom of

navigation in the Indo-Pacific aims to safeguard the collective interests of regional stakeholders rather than target any specific nation. He reiterated India's commitment to a cooperative and inclusive regional order based on mutual respect and adherence to international law, particularly in light of rising concerns over China's assertive military posture in the South China Sea. Singh highlighted the importance of ASEAN as central to regional stability and reaffirmed India's dedication to strengthening ASEAN-led security frameworks as part of its Act East Policy. The discussions at the ADMM-Plus also touched on enhancing maritime collaboration, counterterrorism, and capacity building, underscoring India's readiness to work with ASEAN partners to maintain the Indo-Pacific as a zone of peace and shared opportunity. This development signifies India's strategic pivot towards fostering a rules-based order in the region, which is essential for countering coercive behaviors and ensuring balanced development among nations.

## **Rajnath Singh engages ASEAN Defence Ministers, enhancing Indo-Pacific ties.**



02-Nov-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently engaged in strategic dialogues during his visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus). In his interactions with ASEAN Defence Ministers, Singh emphasized India's pivotal role in fostering peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, underlining the importance of deepening defence ties under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN. He introduced initiatives such as the ASEAN-India Initiative on Women in UN Peacekeeping Operations and the ASEAN-India Defence Think-Tank Interaction, which aim to enhance collaboration among member states. The Malaysian Defence Minister recognized India as a superpower and highlighted its self-reliant defence industry as beneficial for ASEAN nations. Additionally, Singh held bilateral discussions with the Vietnamese Defence Minister, Phan Van Giang, and US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, where they signed a landmark 10-year framework for the US-India Major Defence Partnership. This framework is expected to strengthen military cooperation and enhance regional security stability. The discussions also revolved around maritime security, counter-terrorism, and economic ties, with Singh advocating for a rules-based maritime order and freedom of navigation, particularly in the South China Sea. His visit not only reinforces India's commitment to regional security but also showcases its strategic

engagement in the Indo-Pacific, with a focus on multilateral cooperation, technological collaboration, and enhanced interoperability through upcoming naval exercises. Overall, this development underscores India's growing influence in regional geopolitics and its dedication to fostering a secure and cooperative environment in the Indo-Pacific, aligning with its Act East Policy and broader strategic objectives.

## **India's Navy monitors Chinese ships as 55 nations join drills.**



02-Nov-25

India's Navy remains vigilant in monitoring Chinese vessels in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), with Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan announcing that every naval and research ship is under surveillance. This move comes as India prepares to host the International Fleet Review (IFR) and the biennial Exercise MILAN in February 2026, which will feature participation from 55 countries, including the United States and Russia, while deliberately excluding China and Turkey due to their previous support for Pakistan during recent conflicts. Vice Admiral Vatsayan emphasized that India is fully operationally prepared to address any contingencies amid increasing extra-regional naval activities in the IOR, which sees between 40 to 50 foreign ships at any given time. He reiterated that the ongoing Operation Sindoor against Pakistan remains active, underscoring India's readiness to safeguard its maritime interests. The exclusion of China and Turkey from these events serves as a strategic warning and reflects India's growing assertiveness in regional defense matters, highlighting the country's commitment to acting as a responsible maritime power while ensuring stability in the IOR amidst geopolitical tensions. This approach not only showcases India's naval capabilities but also reinforces its alliances with like-minded nations, solidifying its role in maintaining security in a critical global transit route.

## **Navy Vice Chief underscores vigilance amid Bangladesh-Pakistan defense ties.**



02-Nov-25

In light of the evolving geopolitical landscape, particularly the burgeoning defense ties between Bangladesh and Pakistan, Indian defense agencies are on high alert. Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Vice Chief of the Indian Navy, emphasized that all branches of India's armed forces are closely monitoring these developments, especially following Sheikh Hasina's exit from the Bangladeshi political scene and the subsequent rise of an interim government under



Muhammad Yunus. With notable visits—including General Sahir Shamshad Mirza's recent meeting with Yunus and the upcoming four-day visit of Pakistan's Navy Chief, Admiral Naveed Ashraf—Bangladesh is increasingly engaging with Pakistan in defense and trade cooperation. This shift is historically significant, considering the longstanding tensions dating back to the 1971 Liberation War when India aided Bangladesh in its quest for independence from Pakistan. India remains vigilant, as the Indian Ocean is a vital maritime corridor fraught with both traditional and non-traditional security challenges. The Indian Navy's commitment to enhancing maritime operational readiness is underscored by plans to induct new vessels and conduct multi-service exercises, reflecting India's strategic aim to assert its dominance and safeguard its interests in the region amidst rising external influences.

## **Hegseth advocates ASEAN unity to counter China's dominance in the South China Sea.**



02-Nov-25

During a recent meeting in Malaysia, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth urged Southeast Asian nations to enhance their maritime capabilities to counter China's aggressive posturing in the South China Sea. Emphasizing the need for a united front, Hegseth called for strengthened cooperation in maritime surveillance, including the use of unmanned technologies, to address intimidation and illegal activities occurring within sovereign waters. He expressed concerns about China's recent actions, including ramming incidents involving its coast guard and the designation of the disputed Scarborough Shoal as a nature reserve, labeling such moves as unjustifiable. Hegseth's remarks underline the broader significance of maintaining freedom of navigation and regional stability in the face of China's growing assertiveness. By advocating for a cohesive response among ASEAN nations, he aims to deter provocations and reinforce collective security in a region critical to global trade and strategic interests. The call for enhanced regional cooperation reflects a growing recognition of the need to counterbalance Beijing's influence while ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Southeast Asian countries.

## **Rajnath Singh Highlights ADMM-Plus as Key to Indo-Pacific Security and Promotes MAHASAGAR Vision.**



02-Nov-25

During the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Kuala Lumpur, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized India's commitment to an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region free from coercion, highlighting the importance of a rules-based maritime order. He praised Malaysia's chairmanship and outlined India's MAHASAGAR vision, aimed at fostering regional cooperation and security across the Indo-Pacific, while integrating economic growth, technology partnerships, and human capital development. Singh reaffirmed India's dedication to multilateral frameworks, underscoring its role in co-chairing several Expert Working Groups focused on humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and counter-terrorism. He addressed emerging security challenges, including cyber threats and climate change, advocating for a collaborative approach to resilience and adaptation. Singh's call for a future rooted in trust and inclusivity reflects India's strategic vision to strengthen ASEAN-led security architecture and enhance regional stability amid rising geopolitical tensions, particularly with China's assertive military posture. This initiative signifies India's proactive stance in shaping a cooperative security landscape, ensuring that shared prosperity prevails in the region while addressing mutual interests and emerging security dynamics.

## **Pak Defence Minister claims India seeks to distract Pakistan on borders.**



02-Nov-25

In a recent interview, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif accused India of waging a proxy war to keep Pakistan occupied along its borders, echoing a long-standing narrative aimed at deflecting attention from Islamabad's internal and external challenges. His remarks followed a ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan, brokered with support from Qatar and Türkiye, intended to ease border tensions. Asif claimed that India's actions have resulted in setbacks on the eastern front, further asserting that proof of India's alleged interference would be presented if necessary. This situation underscores the persistent complexities of South Asian geopolitics, where accusations and counter-accusations shape diplomatic narratives and security strategies amidst ongoing regional instability.

## Trump hints at possible U.S. underground nuclear tests amid global tensions. SHARE

02-Nov-25

President Donald Trump has indicated a potential resumption of U.S. nuclear testing, including underground tests, which had been dormant for 33 years. His statement came during a flight to Palm Beach and was framed as a response to other nuclear powers, notably China and Russia. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth backed this approach, emphasizing its role in maintaining nuclear deterrence. Meanwhile, legislation has been proposed by Representative Dina Titus to prevent the resumption of explosive nuclear tests, warning that such actions could trigger a new arms race and jeopardize public safety in Nevada, highlighting the complex geopolitical implications of renewed nuclear testing amid rising tensions with rival nations.

## North Korea dismisses denuclearization as an unrealistic "pipe dream" ahead of summit. SHARE

02-Nov-25

North Korea has declared that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is an unrealisable "pipe dream," responding to discussions anticipated between Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung at a summit on the sidelines of the APEC forum in Gyeongju. According to North Korean state media KCNA, the Republic of Korea's (ROK) efforts to challenge its status as a nuclear power and pursue denuclearization reflect a lack of common sense. This statement underscores North Korea's defiance and its entrenched position on nuclear capabilities, which complicates diplomatic efforts aimed at stabilizing the region. The broader significance lies in the continued tensions and the challenges faced by South Korea and its allies in addressing North Korea's nuclear ambitions amidst shifting geopolitical dynamics.

## Russian missile strikes on Ukraine surge to highest level in 2.5 years. SHARE

02-Nov-25

In October, Russian missile strikes on Ukraine reached a 2.5-year high, with 270 missiles launched, marking a 46% increase from the previous month and the highest monthly total since early 2023, according to Ukrainian air force data. This intensified assault is aimed at crippling Ukraine's energy grid, exacerbating blackouts and causing widespread distress among civilians as winter approaches. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned these actions as a strategy to

instill chaos and psychological pressure on the population. In retaliation, Ukraine has targeted Russian oil depots to disrupt Moscow's energy exports, underscoring the ongoing volatility in the conflict and the critical importance of energy infrastructure in modern warfare.

## Kremlin redirects Novator missile inquiries to Defense Ministry amid INF Treaty concerns. SHARE

02-Nov-25

The Kremlin has shifted inquiries regarding the use of the Novator 9M729 missile, which has been reportedly deployed in Ukraine since August, to its Defence Ministry amid concerns of breaching the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. Spokesman Dmitry Peskov emphasized that operational details are strictly military matters, while Russia continues to deny claims that the missile exceeds treaty limits, asserting compliance with the now-defunct agreement. The 9M729's alleged range of over 2,000 kilometers raises global security anxieties, particularly in Europe, as analysts warn that its potential deployment could reignite discussions about arms control compliance and the risks of a renewed missile race. This situation underscores the fragility of existing international arms regulation frameworks and the critical need for renewed diplomatic dialogue.

## India promotes collaborative partnerships for sustainable growth in Africa's mineral sector. SHARE

02-Nov-25

At the 20th CII India-Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi, Sevala Naik Mude, Additional Secretary in India's Ministry of External Affairs, emphasized India's commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships in Africa's mineral sector, advocating for local value addition rather than mere resource extraction. With trade between India and Africa having surged to over USD 100 billion, India has positioned itself as the fifth-largest investor in the continent, focusing on sustainable industrial growth through joint ventures and technology transfer. This approach highlights a strategic shift towards mutual economic empowerment, aligning with India's goals for clean energy and industrial development while respecting Africa's sovereign rights. Mude's vision underscores the importance of fostering equitable partnerships that promote long-term benefits and skill development across Africa.

## India's control over Indus River threatens Pakistan's agricultural stability amid rising tensions. SHARE

02-Nov-25

India's strategic leverage over the Indus River poses significant risks to Pakistan's agricultural stability, which relies heavily on its waters. A recent report indicates that minor adjustments by India could drastically affect Pakistan's already strained water supply, especially during critical months. Following the Pahalgam terror attack attributed to Pakistan-backed militants, India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, asserting that any such measure would remain until Pakistan ceases its support for terrorism. This shift has heightened regional tensions, with China bolstering its support for Pakistan's Mohmand Dam project as a countermeasure. Additionally, a new Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defense agreement hints at potential military support for Pakistan amidst escalating disputes, underscoring the fragile balance of power in South Asia where water security is increasingly intertwined with geopolitical alliances.

## Bangladesh's missile upgrades heighten India's security and strategic concerns. SHARE

02-Nov-25

Bangladesh's recent missile modernization, including the operational deployment of Turkey's TRG-300 Kaplan multiple launch rocket systems and potential procurement of China's SY-400 short-range ballistic missiles, has heightened security concerns for India. The TRG-300's range of 120 kilometers and the SY-400's capabilities, which could reach up to 200 kilometers, put critical Indian infrastructures, particularly the Siliguri Corridor, at risk. In response, India has bolstered its eastern military presence with S-400 air defense systems and deployed Rafale fighters, underscoring its commitment to maintaining strategic dominance. This evolving military landscape prompts India to consider further enhancing its indigenous defense capabilities to counterbalance Bangladesh's advancements, reflecting an increasingly competitive security environment in South Asia.

## OODA Weekly: Disruptive tech impacts defense strategies and regional stability. SHARE

02-Nov-25

Recent developments at the OODAcon highlighted the acceleration of disruptive technologies in defense and

geopolitics. Notably, the U.S. is focusing on drone integration and 3D printing in military procurement, while Taiwan strengthens its defense spending amid pressure from China. Concurrently, advances in AI and quantum technologies are reshaping the strategic landscape, emphasizing speed in defense innovation as a critical advantage. The significance of these trends lies in their potential to enhance national security and alter power dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, with countries like India needing to bolster their own technological and defense capabilities to maintain regional stability and competitiveness against emerging threats.

## US, China restore military hotlines to reduce conflict risks. SHARE

02-Nov-25

The United States and China have agreed to restore military hotlines to prevent misunderstandings and reduce conflict risks, as announced by US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth following discussions with Chinese Defence Minister Admiral Dong Jun in Malaysia. This decision comes amidst rising tensions in the South China Sea, where Hegseth criticized China's aggressive actions. He emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation among ASEAN nations to develop joint capabilities for maritime security. This development signifies a strategic shift towards structured defense dialogues aimed at maintaining regional stability, reflecting both nations' recognition of the need for communication to manage tensions effectively. The restoration of these channels is crucial for mitigating risks in an increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape.

## Trump clarifies no current plans for military strikes in Venezuela. SHARE

02-Nov-25

President Donald Trump has clarified that he is not currently considering military strikes within Venezuela, despite previous statements indicating potential actions against drug-related targets in the country. The U.S. has significantly increased its military presence in the Caribbean, preparing for expanded operations as the USS Gerald Ford aircraft carrier strike group arrives. While Trump authorized the CIA for covert operations, the exact nature and timing of any land strikes remain uncertain, drawing mixed reactions from Venezuelan opposition leaders and raising concerns among some U.S. lawmakers about compliance with laws of war. This developing situation underscores the complexities of U.S.-Venezuela relations, particularly amid

accusations of drug trafficking that have intensified tensions in the region.

## Military Operations

### India conducts major military drill as Pakistan issues warnings. SHARE

02-Nov-25

India's recent 'Trishul' military exercise, being conducted from October 30 to November 13, across Gujarat and Rajasthan, exemplifies a strategic doctrinal shift emphasizing integrated offensive readiness tailored to regional tensions, particularly near Sir Creek. This large-scale tri-service drill involves over 40,000 troops, extensive naval and air assets, and numerous cutting-edge capabilities like cyber and space warfare, focusing on amphibious operations and coordinated cross-domain combat scenarios. The timing and scope of Trishul reflect India's resolute commitment to strengthening joint operational synergy, driven by lessons learned from Operation Sindoor in May 2025, which showcased India's resolve and capability in counter-terrorism and border defense. Significantly, the exercise demonstrates India's intent to keep Sir Creek—a critically sensitive maritime buffer—under firm strategic control, asserting sovereignty amidst ongoing regional disputes. Conversely, Pakistan issued a navigational warning for concurrent naval drills, signaling a pattern of escalation, but expert analyses suggest that coordinated efforts are likely to prevent any incident. Overall, Trishul signifies a firm message of deterrence, strategic preparedness, and evolving doctrinal focus on integrated multi-domain warfare along India's western border.

### Southern Command conducts major drone warfare readiness exercise in Rajasthan. SHARE

02-Nov-25

The Indian Army conducted a significant drone and counter-drone exercise, 'Vayu Samanvay-II', from October 28-29, 2025, in the forward areas of the Rajasthan desert sector under the Southern Command. This comprehensive drill aimed to enhance India's preparedness for next-generation warfare by integrating various aerial and ground assets within a multi-domain command and control framework. Notably, the exercise followed Operation Sindoor, in which Indian forces neutralized nearly 70 Pakistani drones, underscoring the urgency for advanced counter-drone capabilities. Senior Army officials emphasized that this large-scale

exercise served as a "reality check," assessing the operational readiness, interoperability, and technological integration of troops in contested environments. The focus on indigenous technologies reflects India's growing self-reliance in unmanned systems, with the Army actively inducting domestically developed drones under the 'Make in India' initiative. The successful execution of this exercise not only reinforces the Army's commitment to modernizing its operational capabilities but also highlights its strategic foresight in adapting to the evolving nature of aerial threats, ensuring readiness to counter challenges across all domains. The implications of such advances resonate beyond mere operational preparedness; they signify a transformative approach that bolsters India's defense posture in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, ensuring that the armed forces remain agile and capable of dominating future battlefields.

### Army Commander reviews operational readiness at LAC in Eastern Ladakh. SHARE

02-Nov-25

Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma recently visited forward areas along the Sino-Indian border in Eastern Ladakh to assess operational and defense preparedness, emphasizing India's commitment to maintaining a robust military presence in the region. During his visit on October 30, 2025, he observed Exercise AstraShakti, which showcased the readiness and innovative capabilities of the Northern Command in high-altitude conditions. Following a detailed briefing on the security landscape, Lt. Gen. Sharma praised the troops for their professionalism and resilience, which significantly boosted morale among the personnel stationed in challenging environments. This visit underscores India's proactive approach to safeguarding its territorial integrity and enhancing defense readiness along the Line of Actual Control amidst ongoing geopolitical tensions.

### Ukrainian special forces deploy to stabilize Pokrovsk amid Russian advances. SHARE

02-Nov-25

Ukrainian special forces recently landed in the embattled city of Pokrovsk, aiming to stabilize the area amid ongoing Russian advances, which have reportedly breached city defenses. The operation, conducted under the oversight of military spy chief Kyrylo Budanov, involved a Black Hawk helicopter landing in the contested region, where at least 200 Russian troops have infiltrated. President Volodymyr Zelenskiy



emphasized the importance of countering Russian attacks, stating, "We continue to destroy the occupier." This development is significant as the capture of Pokrovsk, a key supply line hub, could facilitate further Russian incursions into the eastern Donetsk region, underscoring the ongoing volatility and strategic stakes in the conflict.

## Ukrainian drone strike ignites oil tanker at Tuapse port, Russia claims. SHARE

02-Nov-25

A Ukrainian drone attack on the Black Sea port of Tuapse has damaged an oil tanker and port infrastructure, as reported by local authorities in Krasnodar. The incident involved UAV debris striking the vessel, leading to a fire that prompted crew evacuation. This port is crucial for Russia's crude and refined product exports, making it a strategic target amid Kyiv's intensified campaign to disrupt Russian military logistics and fuel supplies. The attack reflects Ukraine's retaliation against ongoing Russian assaults on its power grid, underscoring the escalating conflict's impact on regional stability and energy security. Such developments signal a significant escalation in the conflict, with broader implications for global energy markets and military strategy in the region.

## Drone strike in Quetta injures civilians, sparks outrage and internet blackout. SHARE

02-Nov-25

A drone strike in the Chiltan Mountain range near Quetta, Pakistan, has left at least nine civilians critically injured, sparking outrage and calls for accountability. Witnesses reported that the victims were families enjoying a picnic at Hazarganji-Chiltan National Park, contradicting the military's claim of targeting "terrorists." Local residents criticized the operation's execution in a populated area and emphasized the need for an independent investigation. Following public outcry, the provincial administration imposed an internet blackout, raising concerns over civil liberties and freedom of information in Balochistan. This incident underscores the ongoing tension in the region and highlights the challenges of balancing counter-terrorism efforts with the protection of civilian rights.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### India's Security Strong Despite Jammu and Kashmir Terrorism Challenges SHARE

02-Nov-25

India's national security remains robust despite persistent terrorism challenges in Jammu and Kashmir, as highlighted by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval in his Sardar Patel Memorial Lecture on October 31, 2025. Doval emphasized that terrorism has been effectively countered across the country since 2013, with the last major incident outside Jammu and Kashmir occurring in 2013, while the region continues to face proxy warfare orchestrated by Pakistan. Recent operations, including Operation Sindoor in May 2025, demonstrated India's decisive response to cross-border terrorism, eliminating over a hundred terrorists and neutralizing retaliatory strikes. The government's focus on self-reliance, indigenous defence production, and technological innovation has strengthened deterrence, while internal security gains have sharply reduced left-wing extremism and improved stability in previously affected areas. India's security doctrine now combines proactive military action with developmental governance, ensuring resilience against both traditional and hybrid threats.

### Lashkar-e-Taiba delays Lahore convention due to Exercise Trishul's impact. SHARE

02-Nov-25

Lashkar-e-Taiba has reportedly postponed its Lahore convention due to intelligence warnings about threats to its leadership, a decision approved by chief Hafiz Saeed. This postponement coincides with India's ongoing Exercise Trishul 2025, a significant tri-service military drill involving the Army, Navy, and Air Force, which has raised alarms in Pakistan's security circles. Analysts observe that the exercise, aimed at enhancing rapid mobilization and cross-domain synchronization, has induced notable anxiety within Pakistan, evidenced by increased airspace restrictions and navigational warnings for live firing exercises in the Arabian Sea. This scenario underscores the heightened tension and persistent mistrust between India and Pakistan, revealing how military posturing can influence the operational environment of non-state actors in the region.

## ISI trains 1,000 ISKP militants, raising fears of threats to India. SHARE

02-Nov-25

Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI, has reportedly established four dedicated training camps for Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) militants, with over 1,000 terrorists being trained to target the Afghan Taliban and potentially pose a serious security threat to India. These camps reportedly provide military training to fighters from various extremist groups, including Al-Qaeda and Uyghur militants. ISKP, active in Afghanistan and Pakistan, has a growing presence with an estimated strength of several thousand militants. Indian intelligence agencies have warned that ISKP operates with ISI support, recruiting militants from India, especially Kerala, through online interactions and personal meetings facilitated in the Gulf before sending recruits to Pakistan for training. The group has carried out attacks like the 2020 Kabul gurdwara attack targeting Indian interests. ISKP's increasing strength and access to training and funding in Pakistan, alongside their intent to destabilize the region, raise significant concerns for India's security. The alliance of ISKP with other terrorist groups under ISI patronage, including a covert alliance with Lashkar-e-Taiba, further intensifies the threat landscape facing India, highlighting the urgency for heightened surveillance and counterterrorism measures.

### Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

## Indian Navy seminar addresses cyber attack impacts on maritime security. SHARE

02-Nov-25

The Indian Navy hosted a seminar on the Impact of Cyber Attacks on the Maritime Sector at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi on October 16, 2025, aiming to enhance understanding of cyber threats and improve national cybersecurity. Chief of Naval Staff Adm Dinesh K Tripathi emphasized the government's commitment to cybersecurity within the maritime domain, aligned with initiatives like Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and PM Gati Shakti. Key discussions involved stakeholders from various ministries and organizations addressing global cyber threats and the importance of civil and military partnerships. This seminar underscores the vital role of cybersecurity in safeguarding India's maritime interests, reflecting the

growing acknowledgment of cyber resilience as crucial to national security and economic development.

## Operant AI reveals "Shadow Escape," a zero-click attack on AI systems. SHARE

02-Nov-25

Operant AI has unveiled "Shadow Escape," a significant zero-click cyberattack exploiting the Model Context Protocol (MCP) used by AI agents, including popular platforms like ChatGPT and Claude. This attack allows malicious actors to exfiltrate sensitive data without user interaction, leveraging the trust inherent in AI connections. The attack unfolds in stages: infiltration, discovery, and exfiltration, potentially compromising vast amounts of personal identifiable information (PII). As enterprises increasingly adopt agentic AI, the threat posed by Shadow Escape underscores the urgent need for enhanced cybersecurity measures, including comprehensive audits and real-time defensive technologies to secure MCP configurations. This development highlights the critical importance of safeguarding AI systems in industries handling sensitive data, such as healthcare and finance, amid rising cybersecurity risks.

### Mil Personnel & Veterans

## Vice Admirals Gurcharan Singh and B. Sivakumar Assume Key Personnel and Materiel Leadership Roles in Indian Navy SHARE

02-Nov-25

Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh, AVSM, NM has officially assumed the position of Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy as of November 1, 2025, bringing with him a wealth of experience from his distinguished career since his commissioning in 1990. He has held significant roles, including Commander of the Eastern Fleet and Commandant of the National Defence Academy, and has received multiple commendations for his leadership and performance in operational effectiveness, particularly in anti-piracy operations. Concurrently, Vice Admiral B Sivakumar, AVSM, VSM has taken charge as the 40th Chief of Materiel, also effective November 1, 2025. A seasoned Electrical Officer, he has over 38 years of service and has held key positions, enhancing the Navy's technical readiness and capabilities. Both admirals represent a significant generational leadership transition within the Indian Navy, focusing on enhancing personnel welfare and

operational efficacy. Their appointments come at a critical time when the Indian Navy aims to bolster its strategic capabilities amid evolving regional security dynamics. Their leadership is expected to drive the modernization efforts of the Navy, ensuring that it remains combat-ready in an increasingly complex maritime environment. These developments underscore the Navy's commitment to maintaining operational readiness and advancing indigenous capabilities, strategically positioning India within the regional and global maritime frameworks.

## Vishvajit Sahay appointed as Controller General of Defence Accounts, enhancing financial oversight. SHARE

02-Nov-25

On November 1, 2025, Shri Vishvajit Sahay assumed the role of Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), bringing with him over three decades of experience in defence finance and public administration. A 1990-batch officer of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), he has held key positions within the Government of India, including Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser in the Department of Science and Technology. Concurrently, Shri Raj Kumar Arora, also a 1990-batch IDAS officer, took over as Financial Advisor (Defence Services) [FADS]. With extensive expertise in defence acquisition and financial management, Arora's previous roles include Controller General of Defence Accounts and positions within the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Finance. The appointments of Sahay and Arora signify a strategic move to enhance financial oversight and administration within the Indian Defence sector. Their extensive backgrounds and experience are expected to contribute significantly to improving efficiency and transparency in defence financial management, which is crucial for India's national security framework amid evolving geopolitical challenges. The leadership transition within the Defence Accounts Department not only reflects continuity in institutional knowledge but also aims at fostering a proactive approach to meet the demands of modern defence operations in India.

## Rear Admiral Sritanu Guru appointed to lead Gujarat Naval Area. SHARE

02-Nov-25

The Indian government has appointed Rear Admiral Sritanu Guru as the Flag Officer Commanding of the Gujarat, Daman and Diu Naval Area (FOGNA), with headquarters at INS Sardar Patel in Porbandar. Recently promoted to Rear Admiral, Guru previously served as

the Commodore (Training) at the Southern Naval Command. This appointment reflects India's commitment to bolstering its naval capabilities and enhancing maritime security in the strategically significant Western Naval Command region. The Gujarat Naval Area plays a crucial role in safeguarding India's maritime interests, particularly amid rising regional tensions and the need for robust naval readiness. Guru's leadership is expected to contribute significantly to the operational effectiveness of the Indian Navy in this vital area.

## HC rules soldier's death linked to service, grants pension benefits. SHARE

02-Nov-25

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that the death of soldier Pawan Kumar, who died in a civil hospital shortly after being treated at a military facility, is attributable to military service, allowing his family to receive a special pension. The court dismissed the central government's argument that the ailment was not service-related, emphasizing that Kumar's illness arose during his service and was recorded in military medical records. This decision reaffirms the commitment to ensuring that servicemen and their families are adequately supported, particularly in matters related to service-related health issues. The ruling underscores the importance of recognizing the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces and their entitlement to benefits, thus marking a significant step towards safeguarding their welfare.

## Miscellaneous

### 'Sekhon IAF Marathon' on Sunday SHARE

02-Nov-25

The Sekhon Indian Air Force Marathon 2025 (SIM-25) will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2025, as a grand tribute to Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon, the sole Indian Air Force officer awarded the Param Vir Chakra for his heroic sacrifice in the 1971 Indo-Pak War. The flagship event will be flagged off from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, simultaneously conducted at 60 Air Force stations across India, uniting over 93,000 runners nationwide. The marathon features multiple categories including a Half Marathon (21.097 km), 10 km, and 5 km races, promoting fitness, patriotism, and national unity under the theme "Run with Pride, Soar with Spirit." Supported by major organisations like Indian Oil Corporation, IDFC First Bank, HAL, and BEL, the event aligns with the

Government of India's Fit India Movement, encouraging wellness and community spirit. The marathon symbolises the IAF's values of courage, discipline, and unity, bridging civilians and air force personnel, and inspiring a culture of resilience and shared national pride across India.

## Indian Army's Spear Corps hosts marathon to honor Keping La Day. SHARE

02-Nov-25

In a significant display of patriotism and community spirit, the Indian Army's Spear Corps organized the Siang Open Mini Marathon in Tuting, Arunachal Pradesh, to commemorate Keping La Day on 17 November. The event attracted over 517 participants, including soldiers, local youth, and schoolchildren, who ran 2 km and 7 km through the scenic Siang Valley, symbolizing unity and civil-military harmony. This initiative not only honored the sacrifices of soldiers from the 1962 Battle of Keping La but also reinforced the Indian Army's commitment to nation-building and fostering relationships with border communities. The successful event underscores the importance of sports in promoting fitness and resilience in India's northeastern frontier, aligning with Operation Sadbhavana's broader goals of education and healthcare promotion.

## RBI directs banks to shift to .bank.in domains by 2025. SHARE

02-Nov-25

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated that all Indian banks transition their net banking website

addresses to the new exclusive domain .bank.in by October 31, 2025, as part of an initiative to enhance cybersecurity and bolster public trust in digital banking. Major banks, including State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank, have already begun this migration process. The RBI's directive aims to mitigate cyber threats and fraudulent activities, with operational support from the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT). This strategic shift underscores the RBI's commitment to secure financial services, marking a significant step in the evolution of India's digital banking landscape and reinforcing the integrity of online transactions.

## India to Host Maritime Information Sharing Workshop 2025 for Global Security Cooperation. SHARE

02-Nov-25

The Maritime Information Sharing Workshop (MISW 2025) will be hosted by the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram, India, from November 3-5, 2025. This pivotal event aims to enhance real-time coordination and information sharing among maritime security practitioners from 30 countries, focusing on countering transnational maritime threats such as piracy and drug smuggling. The workshop reflects India's commitment to its vision of mutual security and growth, promoting a cooperative maritime future. With the Indian Ocean being a critical hub for global commerce, the outcomes of MISW 2025 will play a significant role in strengthening maritime security frameworks essential for regional stability and geopolitical equilibrium.

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