



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

IAF Receives Final Airbus C-295; 40 More to Be Made in India



02-Aug-25

On August 2, 2025, the Indian Air Force received the 16th and final Airbus C-295 transport aircraft in a ceremony at the Airbus Defence and Space assembly line in Seville, Spain, completing the first phase of its landmark ₹21,935-crore deal to modernize its transport fleet. The handover took place two months ahead of schedule, underscoring the robust partnership between India and Spain and marking a key milestone for India's defense preparedness. With this delivery, focus now shifts to Tata Advanced Systems' facility in Vadodara, Gujarat, where 40 additional C-295 aircraft will be assembled as part of India's 'Make in India' initiative. This marks the first time a military aircraft will be manufactured in India by the private sector, with the first India-built C-295 expected to roll out in September 2026 and final deliveries by August 2031. The project not only replaces vintage Avro-748 aircraft, enhancing the IAF's strategic and logistical reach, but also involves significant technology transfer and participation from over 100 Indian suppliers, reinforcing India's goal of developing a self-reliant aerospace manufacturing ecosystem.

Philippines to Enhance Military Ties with India, Acquiring More Equipment



02-Aug-25

The Philippines is intensifying its defense partnership with India as it pushes forward its military modernization agenda, with recent developments highlighting a significant expansion in both defense procurement and naval cooperation. Over the past three days, Armed Forces chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. reaffirmed Manila's commitment to acquiring a range of advanced Indian-made military equipment. Central to this collaboration is the ongoing delivery of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile systems, with the second

batch shipped by sea in April and a third battery scheduled for delivery by December 2025. Negotiations are underway for additional BrahMos units, and Philippine officials are also evaluating other Indian platforms, including the Akash air defense system, Tejas Light Combat Aircraft, and Indian-built warships. This broadened interest coincides with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s visit to India, during which both nations agreed to launch a joint maritime exercise in the West Philippine Sea starting August 3, marking their first bilateral "maritime cooperative activity." The arrival of Indian Navy ships INS Mysore, INS Kiltan, and INS Shakti in Manila signals deepening maritime ties and operational planning aimed at bolstering regional security. These efforts underscore the Philippines' determination to strengthen its deterrence amid tensions in the South China Sea, while India advances its role as a trusted defense supplier and strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific.

LAT Aerospace Developing 24-Seater STOL Aircraft to Boost Regional

Connectivity



02-Aug-25

LAT Aerospace, co-founded by Zomato's Pankaj Chaddah and Deepinder Goyal, has accelerated work on its 24-seater Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) aircraft, targeting underserved routes and regional airports under India's UDAN scheme. Announced this week, the initiative positions LAT's new aircraft above the NAL Saras Mk2, which has a 19-seat capacity and is still in pre-production testing. LAT Aerospace's vision is to make air travel as accessible as bus travel by leveraging more than 450 underutilized Indian airstrips—most of which currently see no commercial flights. The company has already secured \$50 million in seed funding and set up a propulsion research center in Bengaluru to develop India's first indigenous flight-ready gas turbine engines. LAT's aircraft will be designed for civil use and special missions, featuring modern materials and hybrid-electric systems for higher efficiency. Goyal clarified in July that LAT remains focused solely on regional aviation and is actively

recruiting aerospace engineers for this ambitious project. The government's recent emphasis on expanding regional air routes and self-reliance in aerospace has provided strong momentum for LAT's efforts, with the startup aiming to transform regional connectivity across India.

Brightcom Group to launch defense tech division focusing on AI.



02-Aug-25

Brightcom Group Limited has announced the launch of a new division focused on aerospace intelligence and autonomous aerial defense software, aiming to leverage its artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities in the defense sector. The move comes as the company resumes daily stock trading from July 14, 2025, following the revocation of a year-long suspension by stock exchanges due to previous regulatory breaches. Brightcom's chairman, Suresh Reddy, highlighted the significance of building a leadership team with strong defense and aerospace backgrounds. However, the company's expansion arrives amid a backdrop of ongoing controversies, including a ₹34 crore regulatory penalty imposed by SEBI for misrepresenting financial statements and manipulating records between 2014 and 2020. Investigations revealed misreporting of expenses, inflated profits, and concealment of financial details, leading to penalties for top executives and a substantial loss of investor confidence. Brightcom's corporate journey began in 1994 with USAGreetings.com, later transitioning to Ybrant Digital, and subsequently acquiring Lycos Internet in 2010 before adopting its current name in 2018. Despite its turbulent history, Brightcom now seeks to establish a new footing in defense technology with its latest strategic initiative.

Pakistan Inducts Z-10ME Attack Helicopter to Modernize Army Aviation



02-Aug-25

Pakistan has inducted the Z-10ME attack helicopter into its Army Aviation service as part of its modernization efforts. This advanced platform enhances the Army's capability for precision strikes and incorporates sophisticated radar and electronic warfare systems, allowing it to effectively engage various aerial and ground threats. The induction, highlighted by a firepower demonstration, signifies a substantial improvement in Pakistan's military response capabilities. While the addition of such advanced equipment may raise regional tensions, India continues to strengthen its own defense strategies and

technological advancements, ensuring it maintains a strategic edge in the evolving landscape of regional security and warfare dynamics.

Indian Army Integrates Upgraded L-70 Guns with Drone Jammer



02-Aug-25

The Indian Army has advanced its air defense strategy with the integration of upgraded L-70 air defense guns and the AVGARDE DIWAR All-Band Drone Jammer, a development confirmed on August 2, 2025. Originally developed in Sweden in the late 1940s and inducted into India's arsenal in the early 1960s, the L-70 guns have been progressively modernized since 2017 with upgrades including digital fire control systems and automated target tracking. The recent addition of the DIWAR jammer, engineered by Bengaluru-based AvGarde Systems, brings AI-driven detection and all-band disruptive capabilities, ensuring effective countermeasures against frequency-hopping drones and UAVs. This integration has proven vital during operations like Operation Sindoor in May 2025, where these systems successfully neutralized multiple cross-border drone incursions. By combining rapid kinetic response with advanced electronic warfare techniques, the Indian Army underscores its commitment to modernizing legacy platforms and countering emerging aerial threats, leveraging both indigenous innovation and adaptive doctrine to safeguard its airspace amid evolving regional security dynamics.

HAL Successfully Conducts First Run of Upgraded PTAE-7 Engines for CATS Warrior UCAV



02-Aug-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully completed the first ground run of the upgraded PTAE-7 engines, developed for the indigenous CATS Warrior unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV). The PTAE-7 engine, originally developed in partnership with Safran Helicopter Engines of France during the 1980s, has been extensively upgraded by HAL to meet modern performance requirements. The recent tests, conducted in late July 2025, demonstrate improved thrust and fuel efficiency, critical for the CATS Warrior's operational capabilities. This advanced UCAV, designed under the Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) program, is intended to operate seamlessly alongside manned fighter jets of the Indian Air Force, offering enhanced surveillance and combat support. The developmental timeline sets the first flight of the CATS Warrior by late 2025 or early 2026. This achievement aligns with India's

strategic emphasis on indigenous defense technology development and self-reliance under the Make in India initiative, marking a crucial step in reducing dependence on foreign systems and boosting domestic aerospace manufacturing capabilities.

ARDE Confirms ALTGS Production to Start in 5 Years SHARE

02-Aug-25

The Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) has confirmed that the Advanced Light Towed Gun System (ALTGS) is set to enter production within five years, designed to meet the Indian Army's needs for a lightweight, mobile artillery system. The ALTGS will weigh around 15 tons, featuring smaller chambers for enhanced maneuverability while maintaining firepower, making it suitable for rapid deployment in challenging terrains, particularly along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Its advanced design prioritizes logistical flexibility and operational agility, crucial for potential two-front conflicts, thereby complementing the existing Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) and enhancing India's defense capabilities.

India's Bharat Small Reactors Gain Advantage from UK Trade Deal SHARE

02-Aug-25

India's Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) are gaining a competitive edge in the global nuclear market following a UK-India trade deal that removes import duties on Indian reactors, making them over 50% cheaper than South Korea's small modular reactors. This strategic move aligns with India's National Nuclear Energy Mission, aiming for 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047. While BSRs promise cost efficiency and flexibility for decarbonizing industries, challenges such as regulatory hurdles and infrastructure limitations remain. With plans to deploy 40-50 BSRs by 2032 and operationalize five by 2033, India is poised to capture a significant share of the anticipated \$295 billion SMR market by 2040.

HAL Successfully Tests Indigenous Auto-Pilot for LUH Helicopter SHARE

02-Aug-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has marked a major technological leap with the successful test flight of its indigenous Automatic Flight Control System (AFCS) integrated into the Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) this week. The achievement, reported on August 2, 2025, demonstrates a crucial step forward for India's

self-reliance in aviation under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The AFCS, which was jointly developed by HAL's in-house R&D centers—Rotary Wing Research & Design Centre (RWR&DC), Mission Control Systems R&D Centre (MCSRDC), and additional collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)—brings advanced autopilot and flight stability capabilities tailored for the LUH's high-altitude, multi-mission roles. This indigenous system, replacing costly imported solutions, is vital to the Army's efforts to replace its aging Cheetah and Chetak fleets. Alongside the AFCS, the LUH features the Shakti-1U engine, co-developed by HAL and Safran of France, as well as locally designed integrated avionics and display systems. Recent months have seen HAL address performance refinements, such as an RFQ for noise attenuation, reinforcing operational reliability and comfort. The AFCS test marks a pivotal moment as the Indian Army advances procurement negotiations for 126 LUHs, with mass induction planned to boost operational deployment in challenging Himalayan and Siachen terrains while emphasizing India's growing defense manufacturing capacity.

Guided Pinaka Achieves 23m CEP, Exceeding Army Standards SHARE

02-Aug-25

The Director of the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), A. Raju, announced that the Guided Pinaka rocket system has achieved an impressive Circular Error Probable (CEP) of 23 meters, surpassing the Indian Army's requirement of 40 meters. This advancement significantly enhances India's precision strike capabilities, making the Guided Pinaka one of the most accurate artillery systems globally. With a range of up to 75 kilometers and various warhead options, it serves as a cost-effective and mobile fire support solution for high-value targets, reflecting India's commitment to indigenous defense modernization amidst evolving warfare demands. The system's success could also lead to increased export opportunities, especially in Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.

ADA Extends AMCA FSED Bid Deadline to August 31, 2025 SHARE

02-Aug-25

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has extended the deadline for bids for the Full-Scale Engineering Development (FSED) of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) from August 16 to August 31, 2025, indicating strong industry interest. The

AMCA, a 25-tonne fifth-generation stealth fighter, aims to enhance the Indian Air Force's capabilities against advanced threats like China's J-20. The program, with an estimated cost of ₹1.2 lakh crore, includes key technological advancements and aims to develop indigenous engines and advanced sensor systems. The extension and amendments reflect ADA's commitment to fostering public-private partnerships and ensuring clarity in technical requirements, which is vital for overcoming past challenges in defense projects.

India's Project-77 Subs to Utilize Manned-Unmanned Teaming SHARE

02-Aug-25

India's landmark Project-77 continues to make headlines as the government accelerates development of indigenous nuclear-powered attack submarines featuring manned-unmanned teaming. Cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security in October 2024, Project-77 aims to deliver an initial two, expanding to a planned fleet of six submarines by the mid-2030s. Built by Larsen & Toubro and the Warship Design Bureau in Visakhapatnam, these 10,000-ton vessels will use cutting-edge technologies, such as advanced pump-jet propulsion and a 190MW reactor. Their defining feature will be their capability to operate as motherships for the JALKAPI-XLUUV, India's most advanced 20-ton unmanned underwater vehicle, able to autonomously patrol for up to 45 days. The integration of unmanned systems will offer expanded surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, and mine countermeasure capabilities, vital amid growing tensions in the Indian Ocean, where China's naval footprint continues to rise. Propelled by over 95% indigenous content, Project-77 is a cornerstone of India's self-reliant defense strategy, promising significant advances in stealth, endurance, and strike power, including the deployment of advanced BrahMos and future hypersonic missiles.

NAL Achieves Key Milestone in India's FUFA Program with Wind Tunnel Tests SHARE

02-Aug-25

The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) has marked a crucial advancement in India's Futuristic Unmanned Fighter Aircraft (FUFA) program by completing hinge moment calibration and wind tunnel model evaluations, a development announced on August 2, 2025. These precision tests, vital for refining control surfaces and achieving agile flight, position FUFA as a cutting-edge 5.5-generation unmanned combat aerial vehicle designed to operate alongside

manned Indian Air Force (IAF) assets. With its first flight envisioned for 2028 and induction targeted for 2035, the FUFA aims to conduct a range of tactical missions, such as suppression of enemy air defenses and electronic warfare. This milestone arrives amid a broader modernization drive, with India concurrently advancing the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and related unmanned systems, to counter regional threats and strengthen airpower. The wind tunnel tests underscore India's commitment to indigenous aerospace innovation, placing the nation in step with global leaders like the U.S. and China in the rapidly evolving domain of semi-autonomous air combat systems.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Indian-Origin Engineers Seek Policy Reforms to Join Jet Engine Programs SHARE

02-Aug-25

A group of Indian-origin aerospace engineers working abroad has renewed calls for policy reforms to allow their seamless integration into India's indigenous jet engine programs. Over the past three days, experts have highlighted that these experienced engineers face major roadblocks due to the requirement of entry-level competitive exams, which do not account for their global expertise in advanced propulsion technologies. The latest discussions were prompted by advocacy from noted former advisers to India's National Security Advisory Board, urging the government to urgently institute a new recruitment pathway that recognizes overseas professional experience. The proposal was initially brought forward in early 2025 during stakeholder meetings involving officials from the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the Gas Turbine Research Establishment, and academic leaders. The demand has grown more pressing as India pursues self-reliance in defense manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, particularly with critical milestones such as flight trials for the Kaveri derivative engine and expanded hiring in the AMCA and Ghatak programs set for later in 2025. Industry insiders emphasize that leveraging the expertise of the global Indian engineering diaspora could significantly accelerate progress toward India's strategic aerospace autonomy.

Politics

PM Modi Critiques Akhilesh Yadav's Remarks on Terrorism Response



02-Aug-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi criticized Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav for questioning the timing of action against Pahalgam terror attack perpetrators, suggesting that Yadav's party historically prioritized "votebank politics" and offered protection to terrorists. Modi emphasized the importance of decisive action against terrorism, stating that the recent success of Operation Sindoor was a direct response to the tragic loss of innocent lives. He attributed this success to the blessings of Mahadev and announced the inauguration of 52 development projects in Varanasi, highlighting the government's commitment to infrastructure improvement and community welfare. This reflects India's robust stance on counter-terrorism and development under Modi's leadership.

India Remains Silent on Trump's Pakistan Oil Sale Comments



02-Aug-25

The Indian government remains noncommittal regarding U.S. President Trump's comments about potential oil sales from Pakistan to India, following his announcement of a trade deal with Pakistan and a 25% tariff on Indian goods. India emphasized that its energy purchases, particularly from Russia, are determined by market conditions and its longstanding relationship with Russia. The External Affairs Ministry expressed confidence in the enduring India-U.S. strategic partnership, highlighting shared interests and democratic values despite occasional challenges. This stance indicates India's commitment to maintaining its energy security while navigating complex international relations, underscoring its independent decision-making in geopolitics.

Only Israel Blames Pakistan for Pahalgam Attack, Aiyar Says



02-Aug-25

Senior Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar criticized India's diplomatic efforts following the Pahalgam terror attack, asserting that only Israel explicitly blamed Pakistan for the incident, while other nations refrained. He highlighted the ineffectiveness of high-profile diplomatic outreach, such as Operation Sindoor, questioning India's ability to present evidence that links

Pakistan to terrorism. Aiyar noted that the UN Security Council's condemnation of terrorism did not specify Pakistan's involvement, suggesting that India's narrative is not gaining traction internationally. This situation underscores the ongoing challenge for India in securing global acknowledgment of Pakistan's role in terrorism, emphasizing the need for more robust diplomatic strategies and evidence-based advocacy to strengthen its position.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Indian Naval Ships Reach Manila to Boost Ties with Philippines



02-Aug-25

Indian naval ships INS Delhi, INS Shakti, and INS Kiltan arrived in Manila, reinforcing the maritime cooperation between India and the Philippines. This visit, led by Rear Admiral Susheel Menon, aligns with India's ongoing operational deployment in Southeast Asia and underscores India's commitment to strengthening partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region. Notably, the two nations are set to conduct their first joint maritime exercises in the South China Sea, amidst rising concerns over China's assertiveness. This historic engagement includes operational planning discussions and bilateral exercises aimed at enhancing interoperability and mutual trust. The upcoming State Visit of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to India further highlights the deepening ties, marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The partnership is enhanced by India's BrahMos missile system export to the Philippines, showcasing a strong defense collaboration. Both nations face comparable security challenges and are committed to maintaining a free, open, and rules-based maritime environment. Overall, these developments reflect a significant pivot towards enhanced defense cooperation and regional stability, positioning India and the Philippines as pivotal partners in addressing shared security concerns in the Indo-Pacific.

India Confirms No Formal Talks on US F-35 Jet Purchase



02-Aug-25

India has clarified that no formal discussions have occurred regarding the purchase of the US F-35 fighter jets, as stated by Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh. This follows the announcement of a potential policy review by the US regarding advanced military exports to India, yet Indian officials have

expressed a clear preference for indigenous defense development over imports, emphasizing a self-reliance strategy. Reports indicate that India prefers joint development agreements, such as the GE-HAL deal for co-producing F414 engines and collaborations with France for advanced fighter engines, rather than immediate acquisitions like the F-35. The rejection of the F-35 aligns with India's focus on enhancing local manufacturing capabilities and maintaining strategic autonomy, despite pressures from Washington to bolster defense imports. Analysts note that while the decision reflects India's commitment to its Make in India initiative, it also poses risks, particularly in countering China's military modernization. The relationship between India and the US remains robust, with ongoing cooperation in various domains, but recent trade tensions, including increased tariffs imposed by the US, have complicated bilateral negotiations. Thus, India is navigating a complex geopolitical landscape, prioritizing long-term sovereignty and self-reliance in defense procurement over short-term acquisitions, ultimately aiming for a balanced and independent defense strategy.

India Reaffirms Ongoing Russian Oil Purchases Despite Trump Claims



02-Aug-25

India has clarified that it has not halted purchases of Russian oil, despite claims by former US President Donald Trump. Government sources emphasize that India's energy sourcing is driven by national interests and market conditions. Although some Indian refiners have reportedly turned to alternative supplies from the Middle East and West Africa, the Ministry of External Affairs reaffirmed a strong, longstanding partnership with Russia. This situation highlights India's strategic approach to energy security and its ability to navigate complex geopolitical dynamics while maintaining its ties to both Russia and the United States, reflecting a balanced diplomatic stance.

US Tactics: How Pakistan Was Used to Weaken India's Position



02-Aug-25

In the latest escalation of geopolitical maneuvering, the United States has intensified its use of Pakistan as a regional counterweight to India, culminating in President Donald Trump's announcement of a 25% tariff on all Indian imports effective August 1, 2025. The move is widely perceived in New Delhi as a coercive tactic following India's refusal to rush a trade agreement on Washington's terms and its continued

acquisition of Russian energy. Simultaneously, Trump has openly courted Pakistan with promises of cooperation on developing oil reserves and increased defense ties, further unsettling India after high-profile meetings with Pakistani leaders at the White House. This strategic tilt comes amid U.S. frustration over India's growing alignment with Russia and assertive participation in forums like BRICS. Indian officials, wary of America's attempts to pressure New Delhi and re-balance South Asian alliances, have emphasized the importance of maintaining strategic autonomy and deepening relationships with other global partners. Analysts point out that while the U.S.-India partnership remains vital, Washington's transactional turn has exposed India's limited leverage relative to China or Europe, at a time when India's trade deficit with China remains at record levels. The standoff highlights a pivotal moment for Indian diplomacy, with the country urged to boost its economic resilience and assertiveness, while resisting pressure to compromise its long-term strategic goals in the face of shifting superpower priorities.

Russian lawmaker claims Russia's subs can counter US nuclear moves



02-Aug-25

A Russian lawmaker has asserted that Russia possesses sufficient nuclear submarines to counter any US deployments in response to tensions, downplaying the significance of recent comments from former President Trump regarding US submarine movements. He emphasized that Russian submarines outnumber American ones and deemed the situation as manageable, calling for a fundamental agreement to prevent escalation into conflict. Meanwhile, analysts suggest that Trump's remarks should not be taken seriously, viewing them as impulsive rather than indicative of imminent military action. Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov echoed the sentiment of avoiding direct confrontation, highlighting a shared understanding between the US and Russia on this critical issue.

Slovenia first EU country to ban arms trade with Israel over Gaza



02-Aug-25

Slovenia has become the first EU nation to impose a comprehensive ban on arms trade with Israel due to the ongoing Gaza conflict, citing humanitarian concerns and the need for responsible state action amidst EU disunity. This embargo includes all forms of military weapon transactions and follows Slovenia's previous measures against far-right Israeli ministers. While

several countries are moving toward recognizing Palestinian statehood, Israel continues to reject these actions, viewing them as concessions to Hamas. The situation underscores the complex geopolitical dynamics in the region, highlighting the contrast between Slovenia's stance and the unwavering support Israel receives from allies like the United States.

India's Response to Turkey's Pakistan Support: 37% Tourism Drop SHARE

02-Aug-25

Indian tourist arrivals to Turkey have plunged by 37% in June 2025 compared to the previous year, with only 24,250 Indians visiting, down from 38,307. This dramatic decline follows Ankara's overt support for Pakistan during Operation Sindoor and revelations of Turkish-made drones being used against India, actions that fueled a widespread travel boycott and business backlash. Major Indian travel agencies have ceased promoting Turkey, resulting in booking cancellations surging by up to 250%. The short-term impact is severe: Indian tourists, who spent nearly \$350–400 million in Turkey in 2024, have pulled out en masse, causing immediate losses to hotels, airlines, event planners, and local businesses reliant on this market. Beyond tourism, Indian traders and companies have halted imports of Turkish products, notably affecting sectors like apple and marble trade and threatening investments by Indian firms in Turkey's manufacturing and services. Analysts warn that unless bilateral relations improve swiftly, Turkey could continue to lose vital tourist revenue and trade opportunities from the world's fastest-growing travel market, compounding economic damage well into the future.

SCO Members Discuss Security Centre to Tackle Threats Ahead of 2025 Summit SHARE

02-Aug-25

In the lead-up to the 2025 SCO Summit in Tianjin, China, member countries are discussing the establishment of a comprehensive security centre to enhance collaboration against various security challenges, particularly focusing on cyber threats, transnational crime, and narcotics. This initiative, driven by China's presidency, aims to foster a tighter-knit SCO community and reinforce collective regional security. India, actively participating in the process, underscores its commitment to multilateral cooperation. The summit is poised to shape the SCO's future, positioning it as a significant player in addressing both traditional and

emerging security issues in Eurasia, thus reflecting a unified stance on critical global challenges.

Piyush Goyal: India to Take All Steps Against US Tariff Impact SHARE

02-Aug-25

The recent announcement of a 25% blanket tariff on Indian exports by the Trump administration has raised significant concerns for India, marking a major shift in US trade policy. This tariff, effective from August 2025, could severely impact Indian exports—projected to drop by up to 30%—and puts India at a competitive disadvantage compared to countries like China. Indian officials, led by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, are committed to exploring all avenues to protect national interests and negotiate a resolution. This trade escalation underscores broader US trade tensions and highlights India's need for strategic responses to safeguard its economic and diplomatic standing.

MEA Affirms Growth Potential of India-US Defense Partnership SHARE

02-Aug-25

The MEA spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, emphasized the resilience and potential growth of the India-US defense partnership, notwithstanding recent criticisms from President Trump regarding India's defense and energy ties with Russia. He affirmed that India's sourcing decisions are based on national security and market realities, while reiterating the steady nature of India-Russia relations. Jaiswal highlighted India's commitment to diversifying its defense procurement and moving forward with a balanced trade agreement with the US. The MEA's diplomatic stance reflects confidence in the long-term prospects of the India-US relationship, focusing on constructive engagement rather than public disputes, thereby reinforcing India's sovereign rights in defense and energy sourcing.

India Dismisses UK Committee Report as Unfounded and Biased SHARE

02-Aug-25

India has firmly rejected a report by a UK parliamentary committee alleging its involvement in transnational repression, labeling the claims as baseless and stemming from dubious sources linked to anti-India entities. The Ministry of External Affairs emphasized the report's lack of credibility, particularly given its reliance on discredited information. Prime Minister Modi recently addressed concerns regarding the presence of Khalistani extremists in the UK, emphasizing the need to prevent the misuse of

democratic freedoms by extremist forces. This incident highlights ongoing tensions and the necessity for stronger international collaboration against terrorism while upholding democratic values.

enhancing the timely movement of defense equipment, personnel, and resources but are also strengthening India's hold and accessibility in a region of high geopolitical significance, reflecting a proactive approach to national security and border development.

Military Operations

IAF airlifts civilian with critical injury from Leh to Chandigarh.

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02-Aug-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully airlifted a civilian with a critical head injury from Leh to Chandigarh for advanced medical treatment in a swift nighttime operation, demonstrating its capability to operate under challenging weather and terrain conditions. This mission was initiated following a request from the civil administration of Leh, highlighting the IAF's vital role in providing urgent life-saving assistance not only to military personnel but also to civilians in remote areas. The Chandigarh air force station, a crucial operational base, underlines the IAF's strategic importance in supporting both national security and the well-being of residents in high-altitude regions like Ladakh.

BRO to build tunnels for all-weather access in eastern Ladakh

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02-Aug-25

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has unveiled advanced plans to construct multiple tunnels and high-altitude passes in eastern Ladakh to guarantee all-weather road connectivity, a move crucial for military logistics and strategic infrastructure near the Line of Actual Control with China. These developments, spearheaded by Project Himank, employ the latest technologies to accelerate project execution in challenging terrain where construction is only feasible for a limited part of the year. On August 2, 2025, Col. Deepak Palande, Director of Works and Resources, Project Himank, announced that the projects are at a very advanced stage, with tunnel alignments nearing approval and final surveys underway. Detailed project reports are expected soon and each tunnel, including those on key routes such as Baralacha and Tanglang passes, will have bespoke construction timelines ranging from five to seven years depending on geological conditions. The BRO has also made significant progress with road connectivity, with the construction of a new 130-km road to the Daulat Beg Oldie outpost expected to be fully operational by late 2026. These infrastructure initiatives are not only

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Three terrorists killed in Kulgam district during ongoing operation

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02-Aug-25

Three terrorists were killed during an ongoing security operation in Akhal forest area of Kulgam district, South Kashmir, in the early hours of August 2, 2025. The joint operation by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, and CRPF was launched late Friday night after specific intelligence indicated the presence of militants in the dense forest. The encounter began when the hiding terrorists opened fire as the search team approached. After an extended exchange of gunfire that continued through the night, security forces cornered and neutralized the terrorists. One of those killed has been identified as Haris Nazir Dar, reported to be affiliated with the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba group. The ongoing combing operation was intensified in the morning to ensure no terrorists were left in the area. This marks the third major anti-terror operation in the region within the past week, following similar encounters in Poonch and near Srinagar, where multiple militants linked to cross-border infiltration and previous terror attacks were also eliminated. The authorities have described these coordinated operations as a significant success for security forces in curbing militant activity in the valley. The situation in Kulgam remains under control, with additional reinforcements continuing searches to secure the area and safeguard civilians.

Five Maoists Arrested with Explosives in Sukma, Chhattisgarh

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02-Aug-25

In a significant anti-Naxal operation in Chhattisgarh, security forces arrested five active Maoists and seized explosives, including grenade launcher shells and IED components, during a coordinated search near Achakat village in Sukma district. This operation underscores the commitment of Indian security forces to dismantle Maoist networks and enhance civilian safety in the insurgency-affected Bastar region. Additionally, a recent encounter led to the death of a Maoist and injuries to three District Reserve Guard personnel, illustrating the

ongoing challenges faced by security forces. Overall, these operations highlight the progress made in counter-insurgency efforts, with over 225 Maoists neutralized this year, reflecting a proactive approach in ensuring regional stability.

NIA charges three Hizb ut-Tahrir operatives with conspiracy in India SHARE

02-Aug-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has charged three operatives of the banned terrorist group Hizb ut-Tahrir (HuT) for conspiring to establish an Islamic Caliphate in India. The accused, Kabeer Ahmed Aliyar, Aziz Ahamed, and Bava Bahrudeen, reportedly sought military assistance from hostile forces and aimed to recruit youth into HuT's ideology. They organized an exhibition to showcase the military capabilities of Islamic nations, intending to incite violent jihad against the Indian government. This case highlights the ongoing threat of radicalization and the importance of the Indian government's proactive measures to combat terrorism and safeguard national unity.

IB Warns of New Terror Camps in PoK Post Operation Sindoor SHARE

02-Aug-25

Following India's targeted airstrikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) under Operation Sindoor on May 7, 2025, intelligence agencies have reported substantial shifts in Pakistan's terror strategies. After India's retaliatory strikes—which directly responded to the devastating April 22 attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that claimed 26 lives—Pakistan, with support from the ISI and military, is now constructing approximately 15 new terror camps and launch pads in PoK. These new camps, reportedly being erected near military installations, are intended to shield key assets from future Indian precision attacks. Despite suffering operational setbacks in the joint crackdown by Indian forces, groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) remain resilient, accelerating recruitment and training using encrypted communication tools and propaganda on social media platforms. Indian security forces recently eliminated top militants linked to the April 22 attack in high-profile operations, causing further friction among militant ranks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during recent public addresses including one today in Varanasi, underscored the nation's resolve to neutralize cross-border terror threats, while senior officials have emphasized India's restraint and commitment to civilian

safety. The evolving situation has heightened vigilance along the Line of Control, as infiltration attempts persist amidst intensified shelling and drone activity reported this week.

Kolkata Police Investigate Bangladeshi Model for Possible ISI Links SHARE

02-Aug-25

Kolkata Police are investigating Bangladeshi model Santa Paul, arrested for staying illegally in India with fake identity documents, to determine if she has connections to espionage, similar to Haryana YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, who was charged under the Official Secrets Act for allegedly sharing sensitive information with Pakistan's ISI. Paul, who operated a travel vlogging page, had traveled to sensitive border areas and used her modeling career to establish connections in India. The investigation aims to uncover the extent of her activities and any potential links to foreign intelligence operations, highlighting concerns about national security and the integrity of foreign nationals in India.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

BSF to analyze Chinese drone found near India-Bangladesh border SHARE

02-Aug-25

The Border Security Force (BSF) is set to analyze a Chinese-made drone discovered near the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura. Found by a local boy, the drone, which has two high-resolution cameras and weighs 915 grams, will undergo forensic examination before being handed over to the BSF for a comprehensive study. This incident highlights ongoing security concerns, particularly given the heightened vigil along the border following internal unrest in Bangladesh. The BSF's proactive measures, including intensified surveillance, aim to mitigate risks from cross-border crimes and infiltrations, ensuring the safety of the sensitive northeastern region.

US Defense Bill Targets Apple Display Supplier BOE Over Security Risks SHARE

02-Aug-25

On August 2, 2025, momentum built in Washington as the latest U.S. National Defense Authorization Act advanced proposals to scrutinize BOE Technology Group, a key Apple display supplier, for potential ties to the Chinese military. The bill, approved by congressional committees in July and expected to

become law later this year, instructs the Pentagon to assess whether BOE should be classified as a Chinese military company. Though this designation would not immediately disrupt BOE's commercial relationships, it could bar the company from the U.S. military supply chain and intensify pressure on tech firms like Apple to diversify suppliers. Experts have flagged concerns that China's state support for BOE has made U.S. technology and defense supply chains vulnerable, especially as China now produces over 70% of the world's display screens. Meanwhile, ongoing U.S.-China tariff negotiations remain tense, with the threat of tariffs as high as 50% on key electronics components looming if talks falter. BOE and Apple have not responded publicly to these developments, while industry reports argue the global display panel market remains competitive with no single supplier controlling critical supply.

Ransomware complexity surges in APAC, urging stronger defenses

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02-Aug-25

The Akamai SOTI report highlights a concerning rise in ransomware attacks in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region, with an alarming shift towards quadruple extortion tactics, which now include DDoS attacks and pressure on third parties. Critical sectors like healthcare and legal services are particularly vulnerable, with major groups like LockBit and emerging players targeting these industries. The report underscores the need for robust cyber defenses, such as Zero Trust architectures and microsegmentation, to combat evolving threats. The fragmented regulatory landscape further complicates compliance, making organizations more susceptible to attacks, emphasizing an urgent need for enhanced cyber resilience in APAC's fast-growing digital economy.

China demands Nvidia prove chip security to regain trust.

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02-Aug-25

China's state media has called for Nvidia to provide "convincing security proofs" regarding its chips, particularly following concerns over potential backdoor risks associated with its H20 AI chip. The commentary from People's Daily emphasizes that foreign companies must align with Chinese laws to regain market trust after a recent US export ban was lifted. Nvidia reassured that its chips do not contain backdoors, underscoring its commitment to cybersecurity. This situation highlights the ongoing tensions between the US and China over technology and security, reflecting

China's cautious stance towards foreign tech firms amid rising geopolitical concerns.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Army Vice-Chief Pays Tribute to Fallen Soldiers Before Taking Charge

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02-Aug-25

Lieutenant General Pushpendra Singh, before assuming his role as Vice-Chief of the Army, paid tribute to five soldiers who sacrificed their lives during an operation he led as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka in 1989. At the National War Memorial, he honored their memory alongside their families, reflecting on the significant sacrifices made by the Indian Army. The poignant ceremony highlighted the enduring legacy of bravery associated with the 4th Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, which played a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability in the region. Lt Gen Singh's homage underscores the Indian Armed Forces' commitment to honoring their fallen comrades while continuing their mission for national security.

Miscellaneous

Brent crude could reach \$80; Indian refiners face price challenges.

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02-Aug-25

Brent crude oil prices are projected to rise to \$80 per barrel due to escalating tensions between the U.S. and Russia, particularly if Russian oil is removed from the global supply chain, potentially pushing prices to \$100-\$120. Indian refiners, while not facing immediate supply shortages due to diverse import sources, may struggle with rising consumer prices. The global oil market is sensitive to geopolitical uncertainties and limited spare production capacity, challenging immediate responses from OPEC and other producers. The interplay of U.S. sanctions, trade agreements, and currency fluctuations adds further complexity to the pricing landscape, with analysts anticipating continued volatility.

IAF airlifts 5.3 tonnes of relief supplies to landslide-hit Manipur

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02-Aug-25

In response to devastating landslides triggered by relentless monsoon rainfall, the Indian Air Force, in

coordination with local authorities and the Assam Rifles, successfully airlifted 5.3 tonnes of essential supplies—including rice and pulses—to isolated villages in Manipur's Churachandpur district on August 1 and 2, 2025. The joint relief operation, dubbed Operation Sahyog, was launched after hilly terrain and blocked roads had left these areas cut off for days. Hundreds of residents have been displaced, with many taking shelter in temporary camps as landslides and flash floods damaged infrastructure and submerged homes across the state. The ongoing relief efforts come as the government has released emergency funds for the northeastern states, and local leaders, including Henglep MLA Letzamang Haokip, have overseen aerial drops to ensure food security for affected communities. Authorities are racing against time to restore connectivity and provide assistance, as water levels in key rivers remain high and intermittent rainfall continues to pose threats to the recovery process.

All Seven Accused in 2008 Malegaon Blast Acquitted by NIA Court



02-Aug-25

In a landmark judgment delivered on July 31, 2025, a special NIA court acquitted all seven accused—including BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit—in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, citing lack of credible evidence after a nearly 17-year-long trial. The catastrophic blast on September 29, 2008, had killed six and injured over 100 in the Muslim-majority Malegaon town. The court criticized significant flaws in the investigation, highlighting erased evidence, ownership doubts over the motorcycle allegedly used in the attack, and questioning the application of UAPA. Multiple witnesses and even some accused asserted in court and media that confessions and testimonies were obtained under duress, with several claiming they were pressured to implicate high-profile leaders like PM Modi, Yogi Adityanath, and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. Retired officers have since alleged they were directed to arrest and frame top RSS functionaries to bolster a narrative of "Hindu terrorism," while numerous witnesses turned hostile during the extended legal proceedings. Former Maharashtra CM Prithviraj Chavan stated that if "terrorism" is attributed, it should not be religiously branded, igniting political debate. Meanwhile, NCP and other political leaders have demanded the Maharashtra government challenge the acquittal. The verdict, delivered after scrutiny of over 100,000 pages of evidence and testimony from 323 witnesses, also ordered compensation for victims' families and raised enduring questions about investigative integrity and the dangers of politicizing terror investigations. In a

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India Raises Concerns Over Bangladeshi Airline's Airspace Violation



02-Aug-25

On August 1, 2025, India officially raised concerns with Bangladesh over an inadvertent airspace violation by a Bangladeshi domestic airline that occurred in June. The incident was highlighted by Indian authorities to ensure measures are put in place to prevent such occurrences in the future. This comes amid heightened border vigilance, as the Border Security Force was placed on high alert due to recent unrest and an interim government taking charge in Bangladesh. Indian officials have also pointed to ongoing issues such as illegal border crossings and challenges posed by a porous border, with over 3,100km already fenced. Additionally, India condemned misleading social media remarks from an adviser in the Bangladeshi interim government, considering them infringements on its sovereignty.

ISRO Launches 10-Day Mission in Ladakh to Simulate Space Life



02-Aug-25

ISRO has initiated a 10-day analogue mission in Ladakh's Tso Kar Valley to simulate and study conditions for future space exploration, specifically targeting the Moon and Mars. This mission involves testing a compact, inflatable habitat designed for self-sustainability and includes activities like simulated spacewalks and biometric monitoring to assess human performance under stress. The insights gained will aid in refining life support systems and habitat designs crucial for India's interplanetary missions, including plans for a permanent extraterrestrial base and human lunar landings by 2040. This significant step enhances India's position in global space exploration efforts and contributes to its broader goals, such as the Gaganyaan program and the envisioned Indian Space Station.

Amrit Udyan Summer Annuals Open to Public: Aug 16 - Sep 14



02-Aug-25

The Amrit Udyan Summer Annuals exhibition will be open to the public from August 16 to September 14, 2025, operating daily from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. This year's event introduces the newly designed Babbling Brook area, offering a tranquil water feature amid the themed gardens. Special access days are designated for athletes and teachers, allowing early visits and exclusive programs. Entry remains free with convenient online booking options and additional self-service kiosks for walk-in visitors. Recent local updates as of late July emphasize enhanced visitor safety measures and eco-friendly practices throughout the exhibition. The event continues to attract nature enthusiasts and families, promoting outdoor recreation and environmental awareness during the summer season.

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