



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### DRDO's VSHORAD System Successfully Validated in Flight Trials [SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted three consecutive flight trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) system on February 1, demonstrating its effectiveness against low-altitude targets. The system, capable of engaging threats from 250 metres to 6,000 metres and up to 12,000 feet, is crucial for enhancing the Indian Armed Forces' air defense capabilities. The trials showcased the system's precision and unique ability to neutralize drones, reinforcing India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology. The successful tests were praised by senior officials, highlighting the collaborative efforts between DRDO, the military, and the defense industry in fostering indigenous development.

### India's Defense Production Triples, Exports Surge Tenfold in a Decade [SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

India's defense sector has seen a remarkable transformation since 2014, evolving from import dependency to achieving self-reliance, with defense production tripling and exports soaring tenfold over the last decade. The domestic defense production reached a record Rs 1.27 lakh crore in FY 2023-24 and aims for Rs 3 lakh crore by 2029, while exports increased to Rs 21,083 crore, driven by strategic policy reforms and innovation. Key export destinations include the USA, France, and Armenia, highlighting India's expanding role in the global defense market. This impressive growth underscores India's commitment to becoming a reliable defense partner and a global manufacturing hub for advanced military technologies.

### Premier Explosives Secures ₹26.4 Crore BrahMos Propellant Deal [SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

Premier Explosives Limited (PEL) has secured a Rs. 26.40 crore contract with BrahMos Aerospace to supply propellant casting and booster assembly for the BrahMos missile over the next two years. This collaboration emphasizes PEL's expanding role in India's defense sector, reinforcing the country's push for indigenous capabilities. The BrahMos missile, known for its speed and precision, is vital to India's defense strategy and is deployed across various platforms. PEL's commitment to innovation and its strategic partnerships highlight its potential for growth, contributing substantially to India's self-reliance in defense production and enhancing national security.

### Agra Air Force Station Welcomes First C-295, Boosting IAF Capability [SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated a significant milestone with the induction of its first C-295 medium transport aircraft at Agra Air Force Station, enhancing the operational capabilities of the Central Air Command. This aircraft boasts a long range, impressive payload capacity, and advanced self-protection features, making it ideal for various roles, including training elite units like para commandos. The induction signifies a major step in IAF modernization, aligning with India's strategic focus on airpower to address security challenges, particularly along its northern borders. The event underscored the IAF's commitment to operational readiness with the rallying slogan "Har Kaam Desh Ke Naam."

### Ninth LSAM Barge Launched, Strengthening Indian Naval Power [SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

The launching of the ninth Ammunition Cum Torpedo Missile Barge, LSAM 23, on January 31, 2025, marks a significant enhancement of Indian naval capabilities.

Built by Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd in collaboration with an Indian ship design firm, these barges support the Indian Navy's operational needs by facilitating the transportation and handling of ammunition. With eight barges already delivered, this initiative exemplifies the success of the Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat programs, underscoring India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing and strengthening its maritime operations. The ongoing development of indigenous naval assets reflects India's strategic focus on enhancing its naval readiness and operational effectiveness.

## Safran's 110kN Engine Enhances AMCA and Rafale Combat Power SHARE

02-Feb-25

French aerospace firm Safran has proposed a 110kN engine for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), which could also be integrated into the existing Rafale jets, significantly enhancing their combat capabilities. This engine promises compatibility with the current M-88, reducing integration costs and maintenance challenges for the Indian Air Force and Navy. The increased thrust will improve maneuverability, loiter time, and payload capacity, critical for air superiority. However, the project entails investment and time considerations, along with maintaining engine life and efficiency. Overall, this initiative represents a significant leap forward in bolstering India's defense capabilities and enhancing its position in the global aerospace landscape.

## GTRE Expands Workforce to Boost AMCA Engine Development SHARE

02-Feb-25

The Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) is set to expand its workforce significantly to support the development of an indigenous engine for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program. Currently employing 227 staff, GTRE aims to recruit specialized talent in critical aerospace areas to enhance self-reliance in defense technology. Collaborations with foreign partners like Safran, Rolls-Royce, and General Electric are anticipated, facilitating expertise exchange and essential training. This initiative underscores India's commitment to achieving greater aerospace independence and establishing itself as a formidable player in the global defense sector, particularly in developing advanced fighter jet capabilities.

## French Report Spurs India to Fast-Track AMCA Against Stealth Threats SHARE

02-Feb-25

A report from the French Institute of International Relations highlights the Rafale fighter jet's limitations against advanced stealth aircraft, raising concerns for the Indian Air Force (IAF) amidst growing threats from China's J-20 and Pakistan's potential J-35A. In response, India may fast-track the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program, enhancing its indigenous fifth-generation capabilities. Additionally, the IAF could pursue upgrades to Rafale's avionics and electronic warfare systems, possibly in collaboration with France, to maintain air superiority. This situation underscores the need for India to evolve its aerial capabilities in light of advancing stealth technologies and shifting geopolitical dynamics.

## GE and HAL Near \$1.5 Billion Engine Deal for Advanced Fighter Jets SHARE

02-Feb-25

General Electric (GE) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) are finalizing a landmark \$1.5 billion deal for 99 F414-GE-INS6 engines, marking a significant technological leap with an 80% transfer of technology, up from 56% in a previous agreement. This deal, expected to conclude by March 2025, will facilitate the manufacturing of engines for Tejas MkII, Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) MkI, and the Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF), contributing to India's defense self-reliance. The F414-GE-INS6, featuring advanced control systems and reliability enhancements, will bolster India's aerospace capabilities, crucial for sustaining long-term defense strategies and achieving technological sovereignty.

## India Deploys Agni-V with MIRV: A Leap in Nuclear Deterrence SHARE

02-Feb-25

India has successfully deployed the Agni-V missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology, enhancing its nuclear deterrence capabilities significantly. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized this deployment's strategic implications, asserting India's preparedness to defend its sovereignty and complicate enemy defense strategies. With a range exceeding 5,000 kilometers, the Agni-V can target multiple locations simultaneously, improving India's deterrence posture amid regional tensions, particularly with China and Pakistan. This achievement aligns with India's broader defense strategy and showcases its technological

advancements, placing it among a select group of nations possessing MIRV capabilities, thereby recalibrating the strategic landscape in South Asia.

## India's Warship Construction Needs Urgent Acceleration and Reforms



02-Feb-25

A recent analysis highlights that India's warship construction pace significantly lags behind regional counterparts, with an average of 85 months for commissioning compared to Japan's 27 months and France's 46 months. Factors contributing to this delay include outdated technology, reliance on imports, design changes, bureaucratic hurdles, and a need for skill development. While this slow pace poses challenges to the Indian Navy's modernization and operational readiness, the government is implementing reforms under the Make in India initiative to bolster local manufacturing, encourage private sector participation, and invest in new technologies. The commissioning of the INS Vikrant, though delayed, serves as a potential catalyst for improving future shipbuilding efficiency.

## HAL to Boost Tejas Mk1A Production Despite Engine Delays



02-Feb-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is set to increase production capacity for the Tejas Mk1A Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) to 30 units per year in response to delays in F-404 engine supplies from GE Aviation. Currently, HAL has an order for 73 units, with expectations of an additional 97, totaling 170 aircraft. To meet these demands, HAL plans to produce 16 units annually in Bangalore and 5 from Nashik initially, with potential to scale up production further. This proactive strategy supports India's defense modernization efforts and positions HAL to transition to Tejas MkII production by 2029, reflecting a strong commitment to domestic aerospace capabilities.

## BrahMos Aerospace Unveils Long-Range Variant to Enhance Strike Power



02-Feb-25

BrahMos Aerospace has initiated the development of the BrahMos-LR (Long Range) variant, enhancing the missile's range to 800km while maintaining supersonic speeds of Mach 3. This advancement overcomes the previous restrictions imposed by the Missile Technology Control Regime, facilitated by software modifications and increased fuel capacity. The BrahMos-ER is being designed for compatibility with

existing launchers, which will expedite deployment and reduce costs. With the Indian Army prioritizing ground-based operations and the IAF likely to utilize the air-launched version, this development significantly bolsters India's offensive capabilities, allowing for deep strike missions while effectively countering enemy air defenses.

## IAF Seeks Five More C-17s to Boost Strategic Lift Capability



02-Feb-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) plans to request the purchase of five additional C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft from the United States Air Force (USAF) to enhance its strategic airlift capabilities, as it currently operates 11 C-17s, making it the second-largest global operator. The ageing Il-76 fleet, expected to be retired by 2035, poses challenges for long-haul cargo operations, emphasizing the need for more C-17s, which are critical for military and humanitarian missions. However, acquiring these aircraft may be difficult due to the USAF's own operational demands and limited availability amid global interest in the C-17's exceptional cargo capacity and reliability.

## PBS India Unveils Cutting-Edge Micro Engines at Aero India 2025



02-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, PBS India showcased advanced micro engines tailored for UAVs, target drones, and light aircraft, highlighting their efficiency and compact design. Notable engines included the AI-PBS 350, optimized for missiles, the lightweight TJ 40 for agile drones, and the powerful TJ 200, designed for significant defense applications. This event not only emphasizes India's growing aerospace capabilities but also its strategic focus on fostering indigenous defense technologies. The showcased innovations reflect a commitment to enhancing operational capabilities in both military and civilian sectors, reinforcing India's position as a key player in the Asian aerospace market.

## Indian Army to Enhance Defense with Advanced Indigenous Drones



02-Feb-25

The Indian Army is enhancing its drone capabilities by seeking advanced indigenous unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and precision strikes, particularly along its borders with China and Pakistan. This strategy is driven by recent global conflicts showcasing UAV effectiveness and aims to reduce reliance on foreign systems. The Army

currently operates around 50 medium-altitude long-endurance drones and is pushing for indigenous development through collaborations with private sector firms and the DRDO. Upcoming acquisitions include the MQ-9B Predator drones from the U.S., which will significantly boost the Army's operational capabilities and align with India's self-reliance goals in defense technology.

transparency will be critical in achieving these objectives.

## Union Budget Allocates ₹3,481.27 Cr to Combat Naxalism



02-Feb-25

The Union Budget has allocated ₹3,481.27 crore for enhancing security and infrastructure to combat Naxalism, with a goal to eradicate this insurgency by March 2026. Home Minister Amit Shah highlighted the increase in violence against security forces, leading to the establishment of 290 security camps since 2019, with 88 more proposed for 2025. This funding is part of a comprehensive strategy to improve internal security and stabilize Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, emphasizing the government's commitment to peace and stability in these regions. Overall, this proactive approach reflects a strong resolve to address internal threats and foster development in vulnerable areas.

## Tharoor Advocates for Increased Defense Spending for National Strength



02-Feb-25

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor emphasized the importance of increasing India's defense budget during the Jaipur Literature Festival, asserting that it communicates strength and deterrence against potential aggressors like China. He highlighted the necessity of bolstering naval capabilities due to India's extensive coastline and addressed concerns regarding a shortage of frontline officers, referencing lessons from the Kargil War. Tharoor's remarks align with the broader consensus on enhancing India's military readiness amidst evolving geopolitical challenges, reflecting a proactive stance on national security to ensure that India is perceived as a formidable power capable of safeguarding its interests.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### India's Defense Budget for FY 2025-26: ₹6.81 Lakh Crore, Up 9.53%



02-Feb-25

India's defense budget for FY 2025-26 has been set at Rs 6.81 lakh crore, marking a 9.53% increase from the previous year, with a significant portion dedicated to manpower costs and pensions. The budget allocates Rs 1.80 lakh crore for capital outlay aimed at modernizing the armed forces, including key upgrades in aircraft and naval capabilities, alongside a notable focus on domestic procurement to enhance self-reliance. Despite the increased allocation, analysts express concern that the capital outlay may still be insufficient to meet the urgent modernization needs, especially in light of geopolitical tensions with China. The slow pace of defense procurement processes remains a critical challenge, potentially hampering timely enhancements to India's military capabilities. Overall, while the budget reflects a commitment to strengthening national defense, its effectiveness will depend on improved execution and procurement efficiency.

### DRDO Receives 12.41% Budget Boost to Enhance Defense R&D



02-Feb-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has received a notable budget increase of 12.41%, amounting to 26,816.82 crore for FY 2025-26, underscoring the Indian government's commitment to enhancing indigenous defence capabilities. With a focus on capital expenditure and R&D, nearly half of the budget is allocated to fostering advanced technologies like missile systems, electronic warfare, and cybersecurity. This strategic investment aims to modernize defence infrastructure and stimulate collaboration with the private sector, streamlining the path towards a self-reliant defence ecosystem. While expectations are high for DRDO to deliver innovative solutions swiftly, efficient fund utilization and

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### Manipur CM: Strong Commitment to Secure India-Myanmar Border



02-Feb-25

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh emphasized the government's commitment to fencing the India-Myanmar border to control immigration and enhance security, as the state grapples with a 398 km unfenced border. He highlighted initiatives like the One Family One Livelihood scheme to support displaced families



and vowed to combat drug issues while promoting ethnic harmony for future generations. The Chief Minister called for public cooperation in overcoming challenges, asserting the importance of maintaining identity and dignity in Manipur. Singh's multifaceted approach reflects a robust strategy to address both internal and external security concerns while fostering community resilience and identity.

## **Bhutanese Army Chief Visits India to Strengthen Military Ties**



02-Feb-25

The visit of the top Bhutanese Army commander to India aims to enhance military relations between the two nations, which is vital amidst evolving regional security dynamics, particularly regarding China's military infrastructure development along the Line of Actual Control with India. This visit underscores the longstanding strategic partnership, with high-level meetings anticipated to discuss security cooperation. Strengthening ties with Bhutan is a crucial step for India in bolstering regional stability, reinforcing its commitment to a secure neighborhood, and countering potential threats effectively. Overall, this visit reflects India's proactive defense diplomacy in the region, fostering goodwill and collaboration with key neighbors like Bhutan.

## **Zelenskyy Calls for Global Action Against Russia's Ongoing Attacks**



02-Feb-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned Russia's recent missile and drone strikes, which included a barrage of 50 missiles and over 660 drones targeting Ukrainian cities, urging global intervention to halt what he termed "brutal and unprovoked aggression." He highlighted the necessity for enhanced air defense systems and long-range weapons for Ukraine's protection. Zelenskyy also accused Russia of bombing its own civilians, exemplified by an attack on a boarding school during evacuation preparations. As Russia continues its assault, Ukraine's air force claimed to have intercepted numerous drones, showcasing ongoing efforts in its defense strategy amidst escalating hostilities.

## **Iran Reveals New 1,700 km Ballistic Missile Amid Tensions**



02-Feb-25

Iran has unveiled a new ballistic missile, named Etemad, with a stated range of 1,700 kilometers, amid rising concerns from Western nations about Iran's

missile advancements potentially destabilizing the Middle East. The missile's introduction coincides with Iran's national aerospace day and reflects its ongoing efforts to bolster defense capabilities amidst international sanctions and historical military challenges. Iranian officials claim this development is vital for national security, aiming to deter foreign attacks. With the backdrop of ongoing tensions and a willingness to negotiate over its nuclear program, this move underscores Iran's commitment to military self-sufficiency following decades of arms embargoes.

## **BLA Disputes Pak Claims, Boasts Tactical Success in Kalat Attack**



02-Feb-25

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has rejected claims from the Pakistani military regarding a recent operation in Kalat, asserting they inflicted significant casualties, including 25 Pakistani soldiers, and destroyed military assets. The BLA's statement highlights their successful guerrilla tactics, seizing military camps, and maintaining civilian safety during the assault. They criticized the Pakistani military's narrative and emphasized their commitment to Baloch self-determination amid rising tensions in Balochistan. This situation underscores the ongoing conflict between the BLA and Pakistani authorities, reflecting the region's complex geopolitical landscape and the challenges faced by the Pakistani state in maintaining control over Balochistan.

## **Netanyahu to Meet Trump to Strategize Against Hamas and Iran**



02-Feb-25

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is set to meet with U.S. President Trump to discuss strategies for achieving victory over Hamas, addressing Iranian influence, and enhancing diplomatic ties with Arab nations. As negotiations for a ceasefire continue, tensions persist, with Hamas demanding conditions for hostages' release. Concurrently, Israeli military actions intensify in the West Bank amidst ongoing violence, raising concerns about instability. Netanyahu's government faces internal pressures regarding the continuation of the conflict and potential electoral consequences, indicating a crucial moment for Israel's future strategy and regional relations. The outcomes of these discussions could significantly impact Middle Eastern geopolitics and security dynamics.

## Netanyahu to Discuss Next Steps for Gaza Ceasefire in Washington



02-Feb-25

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is set to initiate talks in Washington regarding a second phase of the Gaza ceasefire, following a recent hostage-prisoner exchange. During the first phase, Hamas released three Israeli hostages in exchange for over 180 Palestinian prisoners. The ongoing negotiations aim to secure the release of remaining captives and potentially establish a more lasting peace, though there is opposition within Netanyahu's government. The complexity of the situation highlights the delicate balance needed to address humanitarian concerns while navigating the volatile geopolitical landscape in the region. The outcome of these discussions could significantly impact future Israeli-Palestinian relations and regional stability.

### Military Operations

## India's Amphex 2025: A Landmark Tri-Services Amphibious Drill



02-Feb-25

The Indian Armed Forces successfully concluded Amphex 2025, their largest tri-services amphibious exercise, held from January 12 to 31 at Karwar. This exercise showcased the exceptional synergy and combat readiness of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, featuring various amphibious operations, including live drills by elite units like MARCOS and the 91 Infantry Brigade. Senior military leaders, including the Vice Chiefs of all three services, participated in observing the exercises, which underscored the significance of integrated mission planning and maritime joint operations in India's defense strategy. The successful execution of such complex operations highlights India's commitment to enhancing its military capabilities and ensuring national security.

## Soldier Goes Missing While Returning to Duty in J&K



02-Feb-25

A soldier, Rifleman Abid Bhat, has gone missing while returning to duty in Jammu and Kashmir after holidays. He was traveling from his home in Chittergul, Anantnag district, to report to his camp in Rangreth but failed to arrive, prompting local officials to file a missing persons complaint. This incident highlights ongoing security challenges in the region, where the safety of personnel

is critical amid the broader context of counter-terrorism efforts and operational readiness of the Indian Armed Forces. The search for the soldier underscores the complexities faced by security forces in maintaining operational integrity in a sensitive area.

### Terrorism and Counterterrorism

## 8 Maoists Killed, 10 Surrender in Chhattisgarh



02-Feb-25

In a recent series of operations in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, Indian security forces have intensified their counterinsurgency efforts against Maoist insurgents, resulting in the deaths of eight Maoists in an encounter and the surrender of ten others. The gun battle, which took place in the Gangaloor police station area, involved multiple security units, including the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF), Cobra 202, and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and was initiated following intelligence reports regarding armed Naxalites' presence in West Bastar Division. Authorities recovered significant weaponry, including an INSAS rifle and a barrel grenade launcher, underscoring the operational success against the insurgents. The state government has reaffirmed its commitment to eradicating Maoist influence while promoting development in affected areas, highlighting that 48 Maoists have been killed in various encounters since the start of the year, indicating a sustained and systematic approach to tackling insurgency. Additionally, the surrender of ten Naxalites, some of whom held high-ranking positions within the Maoist hierarchy, marks a noteworthy shift, as it demonstrates the effectiveness of ongoing operations and the potential for further dismantling of the Maoist infrastructure in the region. This concerted effort by Indian defense forces not only showcases their tactical capabilities but also reflects a broader strategy aimed at restoring peace and stability in conflict-affected areas, ultimately contributing to national security and development goals.

## Balochistan Violence: 18 Security Forces, 23 Militants Killed



02-Feb-25

In a recent escalation of violence in Balochistan, Pakistan's security forces reported the deaths of 18 personnel and 23 terrorists during ongoing clashes. Notable operations resulted in the neutralization of 11 militants in Harnai and thwarting attempts by terrorists

to establish roadblocks in Kalat. The Pakistani military vowed to continue its anti-terror operations, particularly in the context of rising violence linked to the Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan, which has emboldened groups like the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. The situation underscores the challenges Pakistan faces in stabilizing its border regions while combating a persistent insurgency, which has reached alarming levels in recent years.

for nuclear energy to contribute to a sustainable energy future is significant, as highlighted by industry leaders and experts advocating for a balanced approach that includes both nuclear and renewable sources.

## Karnataka's Last Naxalite Surrenders, Seeks Rehabilitation Aid

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02-Feb-25

Lakshmi, identified as Karnataka's last Naxalite, surrendered after 15 years, seeking amnesty under the state's rehabilitation program. She had been involved in multiple criminal cases related to Naxalite activities and expressed gratitude towards Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for the generous surrender package, which includes Rs 7 lakh and support for education and employment. The surrender reflects Karnataka's successful efforts to become a Naxal-free state, with 22 Naxals surrendering in 2025 alone. Authorities are now advocating for a unified trial process for surrendered Naxalites, emphasizing rehabilitation and reintegration into society, showcasing the state's commitment to addressing the Naxalite issue effectively.

## Indian Navy's First Half Marathon Inspires Health and Unity

[SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

The inaugural Indian Navy Half Marathon took place on February 2, 2025, in New Delhi, attracting over 10,000 participants across 21.1 km, 10 km, and 5 km categories. Flagged off by key dignitaries, including the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, the event aimed to promote health, fitness, and camaraderie, inspiring youth to consider a career in the Indian Navy. The successful participation showcased remarkable athletic performances, with winners like Kulbir Singh and Vrinda Bhandari exemplifying resilience. This event not only fostered community spirit but also highlighted the Navy's commitment to encouraging an active lifestyle among citizens, reinforcing its role in national pride and service.

## CDM Hosts Seminar on Strategic Leadership for Modern Warfare

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02-Feb-25

The College of Defence Management (CDM) in Secunderabad recently concluded its National Seminar on Military Leadership, focusing on developing strategic leadership in the context of modern warfare. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan highlighted the importance of adaptive leadership amid disruptive technologies and geopolitical shifts. Discussions led by

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### Union Budget 2025: 48% Boost for MeitY, Focus on AI & Cybersecurity

[SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

The Union Budget 2025 allocated over Rs 26,000 crore to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), marking a 48% increase aimed at bolstering the IndiaAI Mission and expanding production-linked incentives for semiconductors and electronics. Notably, the semiconductor fab scheme's budget increased significantly, while allocations for cybersecurity projects surged by 143%. Despite these advancements, some experts express concerns regarding the modest AI investment and lack of clarity on the India Semiconductor Mission, emphasizing the need for stronger support to maintain competitiveness against global powers like the US and China. The enhanced cybersecurity funding highlights the government's commitment to securing its digital landscape amid rising threats.

## Miscellaneous

### India Welcomes Private Investment in Nuclear Power for Future Growth

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02-Feb-25

India is set to open its nuclear power sector to private investment, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcing a Rs 20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission aimed at establishing five small modular reactors (SMRs) by 2033. This shift includes amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, intended to attract foreign technology and expertise to bolster India's nuclear capacity from the current 8.1 GW to 100 GW by 2047. While the initiative aims to support India's energy transition and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, concerns about environmental and safety implications persist. However, the potential

experienced military veterans and academicians emphasized the need for leadership strategies to align with national security objectives and integrate lessons from India's ancient knowledge systems. This seminar underscores CDM's pivotal role in shaping India's military future by addressing contemporary leadership challenges and promoting innovative military strategies essential for a future-ready armed force.

## ISRO Advances LME-1100 Engine for Next Gen Launch Vehicle [SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

ISRO is advancing the development of the LME-1100 methalox engine, crucial for the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), with preliminary designs completed and hot testing planned for this year. The LME-1100, featuring a thrust of 1156 kN and a specific impulse of 332 seconds, will enhance India's heavy-lift capabilities and support missions ranging from satellite deployment to human spaceflight, contributing to plans for a human-capable space station by 2035. This initiative not only aims for self-reliance in rocket technology but also emphasizes environmental sustainability and positions India as a significant player in global space exploration.

## Bengaluru Airport Adjusts Airspace for Aero India Show 2025 [SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru has announced revised airspace closure timings to accommodate the Aero India Show 2025, scheduled from February 5 to 14. The airspace will be closed at various intervals throughout this period, with specific timings outlined for each day, impacting flight schedules. Passengers are advised to check with airlines for updates. The Aero India Show is a significant event for India's defense showcase, enhancing the country's position in the global defense industry and highlighting advancements in military aviation technology. This event not only emphasizes India's commitment to strengthening its defense capabilities but also fosters international partnerships and collaborations.

## Restoring J-K Statehood Will Boost Development and Governance [SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

National Conference President Farooq Abdullah emphasized that restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) will accelerate development and improve governance in the region. He expressed confidence that

the Central government would fulfill its promise of statehood, enabling a democratically elected government led by Omar Abdullah to address public issues effectively. Abdullah noted significant administrative improvements since the establishment of the elected government, highlighting increased responsiveness to public concerns and better access to governance. This shift is poised to not only enhance development but also alleviate the long-standing suffering of the people in J-K, suggesting a stable and progressive future for the region.

## US Air Force Withdraws from Aero India 2025 Amid F-35 Crash Investigation [SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

The US Air Force has withdrawn from Aero India 2025, coinciding with the investigation of an F-35A crash, which raises concerns about US-India defense relations. This decision may reflect India's growing focus on domestic aviation projects like the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and alternative defense partnerships amid regional threats from China and Pakistan. Although disappointing, Aero India 2025 will still feature notable aerial displays and technology from various global manufacturers, including the Russian Su-57, potentially reshaping India's defense procurement strategies. This shift underscores India's ambition to enhance its indigenous capabilities in response to evolving geopolitical dynamics.

## USIBC Praises India's Union Budget 2025 for Economic Growth [SHARE](#)

02-Feb-25

The US-India Business Council (USIBC) welcomed India's Union Budget 2025, highlighting its focus on agriculture, MSMEs, investment, and exports as crucial for enhancing U.S.-India economic ties. Key reforms in taxation and regulatory frameworks were urged to facilitate foreign direct investment. The budget's tax relief for the middle class is expected to boost consumption, while the commitment to energy security through initiatives like the Nuclear Energy Mission for Small Modular Reactors is notable. USIBC's response indicates optimism about India's economic policies but emphasizes the need for more ambitious reforms to improve the trade environment and attract investments.



## Tragic Plane Crash in Philadelphia Claims 7 Lives, Injures 19



02-Feb-25

A tragic plane crash in Northeast Philadelphia resulted in the deaths of seven individuals, including a pediatric patient and her mother, all Mexican nationals. Nineteen people on the ground were injured due to the massive explosion, which also caused extensive property damage and ignited several fires. Local and federal authorities, including the NTSB, are investigating the incident, focusing on recovering the cockpit voice recorder for insights into the crash. Mayor Cherelle Parker noted that casualty numbers may change as investigations proceed, highlighting the city's efforts to support affected individuals and manage the ongoing situation.

## Jaishankar Lauds Union Budget for Boosting Employment and Growth



02-Feb-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar praised the Union Budget as 'employment-centric and growth-oriented,' commending Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for its focus on stimulating economic growth and job creation across sectors such as healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, and digitalization. This budget aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a developed India by 2047. Jaishankar's endorsement showcases the government's strategic approach to national development through fiscal policies aimed at enhancing employment and sustainable growth, reinforcing the commitment to robust economic reforms that will benefit the Indian populace. Such initiatives are crucial for strengthening India's position in a competitive global landscape.

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