



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

India's DRDO Launches Advanced BM-04 Short-Range Ballistic Missile [SHARE](#)

02-Mar-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has unveiled the BM-04 Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM), featuring advanced technology for precision strikes and a range of 400-1,500 km. Its design incorporates two-stage solid propulsion, fixed wings, and control fins to enhance maneuverability, suggesting a capability to counter enemy anti-access strategies. With a conventional payload of 500 kg and a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of less than 30 meters, the BM-04 positions itself as a vital asset for India's Integrated Rocket Force, enhancing strategic deterrence and operational flexibility in diverse mission scenarios. This development reflects India's commitment to advancing its defense capabilities through indigenous technology.

Defence Minister Highlights Role of Advanced Technologies in Warfare [SHARE](#)

02-Mar-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the importance of critical and frontier technologies in modern warfare during the National Science Day celebrations. He urged the youth to engage in scientific education to address technological challenges, highlighting the shift from hardware to software in warfare. Singh acknowledged the role of the New Education Policy in fostering a dynamic education system and called for a collaborative effort to prepare future generations for global challenges. He also visited the DRDO's missile complex and praised the successful Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile project, expressing confidence in India's defense capabilities, aiming to position the country among the top three economies by 2027.

India's Matsya-6000 Submersible Passes Wet Testing Milestone [SHARE](#)

02-Mar-25

India's Matsya-6000 deep-sea submersible has successfully completed wet testing, marking a significant milestone in underwater exploration. Designed to reach depths of 6,000 meters, it features advanced safety and operational systems, including a robust titanium alloy hull, life support, and communication technologies. The indigenous development under the Samudrayaan mission showcases India's growing capabilities in deep-sea engineering, positioning the nation among a select group of countries with similar submersibles. The successful tests bolster confidence in India's ambitions for deep-sea exploration and resource harnessing, further contributing to its self-reliance in advanced underwater technologies.

DRDO's CABS Pioneer Indigenous Radome Tech for AWACS [SHARE](#)

02-Mar-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation's Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) has achieved a significant milestone by developing indigenous radome technology for Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS), enhancing India's self-reliance in defense capabilities. This breakthrough in radome design ensures minimal radar signal distortion and optimal aerodynamic performance, thereby strengthening India's operational sovereignty in a geopolitically sensitive region. The use of advanced materials and a robust manufacturing ecosystem not only reduces dependence on foreign technologies but also reinforces the domestic defense industrial base. This strategic development positions India to enhance its surveillance and command capabilities in modern warfare, showcasing a proactive approach to national security.

Russia's 177S Engine: Key to Strengthening India's Fighter Jets SHARE

02-Mar-25

Russia has offered India the Product 177S engine, aimed at enhancing the IAF's Super-30 upgrade program and the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) MkII. This advanced engine promises improved thrust, stealth features, and longevity, but flight testing is pending until an international customer commits, potentially pressuring India for a decision. While the engine aligns with India's defense goals, it poses a risk by relying on unproven technology in a critical phase of modernization. The 177S could significantly bolster the MKIs against adversaries like Pakistan and China, highlighting the strategic importance of India's timely commitment to upgrade its air power capabilities amidst ongoing geopolitical challenges.

India's Submarine Program Set to Integrate Advanced U.S. Sensors SHARE

02-Mar-25

India's nuclear attack submarine program is set for a significant upgrade with potential access to advanced U.S. sensor technology, enhancing its maritime defense capabilities against rising threats, particularly from China. The U.S. appears ready to lift restrictions on sharing sophisticated undersea systems, which could integrate cutting-edge American sensor packages into India's indigenous SSN fleet. This collaboration aligns with the deepening Quad alliance and aims to bolster India's deterrence in the Indo-Pacific. While India's Project 77 maintains over 90% indigenous content, challenges remain regarding cost and political factors that could impact negotiations. Overall, this development represents a pivotal shift in Indo-U.S. defense relations.

Arjun Mk1A Tank Delivery Pushed to 2028-2029 Amid Engine Shift SHARE

02-Mar-25

The Indian Army's induction of the Arjun Mk1A Main Battle Tank has been delayed to late 2028 or early 2029 due to engine production issues with German firm MTU. Instead, the Army has chosen to integrate the indigenous DATRAN 1500hp engine, developed with Bharat Earth Movers Limited, marking a commitment to self-reliance despite potential setbacks in modernization plans. While the DATRAN engine promises improved performance, its production won't begin until 2028, necessitating extensive testing and modifications. This decision underscores India's strategic shift towards indigenous capabilities, even as

it faces immediate operational challenges related to armored fleet enhancements along its borders.

Bharat Forge's Kalyanis Urge Indigenous Production of K-9 Vajra SHARE

02-Mar-25

In a significant call for self-reliance in defense manufacturing, Bharat Forge's leadership, Baba and Amit Kalyani, have challenged the continued import of the K-9 Vajra self-propelled howitzer from South Korea, asserting that India has the necessary technology and expertise to produce an indigenous equivalent. They emphasize that India's advancements, particularly in 155mm barrel technology, enable the nation to meet its artillery needs domestically. With over a decade of investment in indigenous systems, the Kalyanis argue that reliance on imports is a missed opportunity, advocating for a shift towards homegrown solutions to enhance India's artillery capabilities and foster the defense industry's growth.

Indian Army and DRDO Sign MoU for Indigenous Cryocooler Production SHARE

02-Mar-25

The Indian Army and DRDO have signed a significant MoU for the indigenous production of 0.5 Watt Stirling Cryocoolers, critical for enhancing thermal imaging capabilities essential for night vision and surveillance. This collaboration, part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, marks a shift from reliance on imports, allowing the Army to maintain greater control over inventory and reduce costs. The 509 Army Base Workshop in Agra will receive technical expertise from DRDO, enabling it to produce these systems domestically, thereby improving operational readiness and resilience against global supply chain disruptions. This development represents a transformative step towards self-reliance in defense technology for India.

ALH-Dhruv Faces Design Challenges with Swash Plate Reliability Issues SHARE

02-Mar-25

The Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv, a vital asset for India's armed forces, is facing scrutiny over its swash plate assembly, crucial for rotor blade movement. Recent incidents, including crashes attributed to fractured swash plates and previous failures of aluminum control rods, raise concerns about material durability and design integrity. HAL's transition to steel rods intended to enhance reliability may have inadvertently increased stress on the swash plate,

exacerbating existing issues. As the ALH has logged significant operational hours, the combination of fatigue and potential design flaws requires urgent attention from HAL to ensure the safety and reliability of this essential helicopter.

Tata and Airbus to Launch India's First H125 Helicopter Assembly Line in Bangalore



02-Mar-25

Tata Group and Airbus Helicopters are set to establish India's first private-sector helicopter assembly line for the H125 rotorcraft in Bangalore, marking a significant milestone for the country's aerospace industry and aligning with the Make in India initiative. The facility will integrate key components and cater to both domestic and export markets, positioning itself against HAL's Light Utility Helicopter and capitalizing on India's underutilized helicopter market. With the first deliveries expected by 2026, this venture is poised to enhance local manufacturing capabilities, create jobs, and leverage Bangalore's robust aerospace ecosystem, while also meeting growing demands in civil and defense sectors.

India Approves Jig for LCA Mk2's In-Flight Refueling Upgrade



02-Mar-25

The Indian government has approved the manufacturing of an assembly jig for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk2, facilitating the integration of a retractable in-flight refueling probe. This advancement enhances the Mk2's combat radius and mission endurance, positioning it as a competitive multirole fighter against adversaries like Pakistan's JF-17 and China's J-20. The jig will utilize advanced design tools, reflecting a shift towards a more efficient modular construction process, with the first flight anticipated by late 2025 or early 2026. This decision underscores India's commitment to indigenous defense capabilities, aiming for a robust 4.5-generation fighter with significant upgrades and operational potential by 2028.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Germany mulls €900 billion for defense and infrastructure boost



02-Mar-25

Germany is reportedly considering the establishment of two special funds totalling up to 900 billion euros for

defense and infrastructure as part of coalition government talks involving the CDU, CSU, and SPD. The urgency for enhanced spending follows a significant meeting between U.S. and Ukrainian leaders, emphasizing the need for Germany to bolster its own defense capabilities amid ongoing geopolitical tensions. This potential financial commitment reflects a broader recognition of the importance of defense readiness in Europe, which indirectly supports India's strategic interests in a stable and secure regional environment, as increased European defense spending could lead to greater collaboration and support for collective security efforts.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

UK and France Unite with Ukraine to Forge Peace Plan Against Russia



02-Mar-25

British PM Keir Starmer announced that the UK and France are collaborating with Ukraine to devise a plan aimed at ending the ongoing conflict with Russia, amidst concerns over U.S. support for NATO. This initiative follows a tense meeting between Ukrainian President Zelensky and U.S. leaders, where disagreements over terms for peace were evident. The UK extended a £2.26 billion loan to bolster Ukraine's defense capabilities, emphasizing the need for a strong, unified Western stance against Russian aggression. Starmer highlighted the importance of collective efforts in securing a just peace that prevents any rearming of Russia.

Global Leaders Rally Behind Ukraine Amid U.S. Tensions



02-Mar-25

European leaders expressed strong solidarity with Ukraine following a heated exchange between President Zelenskyy and U.S. officials, emphasizing Ukraine's resilience against Russian aggression. Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reiterated their commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and the necessity of a just peace, condemning Russia's invasion as illegal. Other European leaders echoed these sentiments, stressing the importance of supporting democratic values and international law. Amid this backdrop, a significant deal regarding joint U.S.-Ukraine investments in rare-earth minerals was slated for signing, highlighting the geopolitical implications of Ukraine's resources in the ongoing conflict.

India Monitors China's Growing Naval Activity in Indian Ocean

🔗 SHARE

02-Mar-25

China's increasing naval presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) poses challenges, as highlighted by Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, who affirmed that India is effectively monitoring these developments. With 6-8 PLA Navy ships routinely present, India employs advanced maritime domain awareness including satellite tracking and international collaborations to counteract potential threats. Despite China's claims of anti-piracy efforts, Admiral Tripathi emphasized that their real activities include unregulated fishing and military support to Pakistan, especially in submarine capabilities. India remains vigilant and committed to safeguarding its maritime interests, ensuring that Chinese movements are contained within acceptable limits, thereby maintaining regional stability.

USS Carl Vinson docks in South Korea amid North Korean missile tests.

🔗 SHARE

02-Mar-25

A U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, has arrived in South Korea as a demonstration of military solidarity following North Korea's recent cruise missile tests. This deployment aims to enhance U.S.-South Korean interoperability and send a stark message to North Korea regarding its military provocations. Experts believe that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is unlikely to engage in diplomacy with President Trump in the near future, as he focuses on military support for Russia amid ongoing tensions. This situation underscores the complexities of regional security dynamics and the importance of strong alliances in countering North Korean threats.

Rubio Unveils \$4 Billion Military Aid to Israel, Reversing Biden's Hold

🔗 SHARE

02-Mar-25

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced a significant \$4 billion military aid package to Israel, reversing a partial arms embargo imposed by the Biden Administration. Rubio emphasized the strong US-Israel alliance, noting that the Trump Administration has approved nearly \$12 billion in Foreign Military Sales to Israel since taking office. The decision reflects a commitment to Israel's security, particularly in the face of threats from Iran and its proxies. This move also rescinds conditions set by Biden that required written commitments from arms recipients regarding the use of military aid, reinforcing America's traditional support for Israel amidst ongoing regional tensions.

Philippines Needs C4ISR Upgrades to Maximize BrahMos Potential

🔗 SHARE

02-Mar-25

The Philippines' recent acquisition of BrahMos missiles from India represents a significant advancement in its defense capabilities against China, yet experts warn that without enhanced Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) infrastructure, these missiles may be less effective. The current Philippine defense budget is markedly lower than China's, which compromises the development of necessary military systems. While India expresses confidence in BrahMos' capabilities, the Philippines must invest in real-time targeting technologies to fully utilize its advantages. Ultimately, the deal symbolizes growing ties between India and the Philippines but highlights the need for comprehensive military modernization to achieve strategic objectives in the contested South China Sea.

Military Operations

Amit Shah Orders Forces to Guarantee Safe Movement in Manipur

🔗 SHARE

02-Mar-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has directed security forces in Manipur to ensure the free movement of people and take strict action against obstructions, amidst ongoing ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives since May 2023. Following the imposition of President's Rule, Shah emphasized the need for rapid completion of border fencing and dismantling drug trafficking networks. He also noted the public's response to a weapons surrender initiative, with over 300 arms surrendered recently. Shah's proactive measures and the appointment of Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla aim to restore peace and normalcy in the troubled northeastern state, highlighting the government's commitment to security and stability.

Tri-Service Exercise Desert Hunt 2025 Enhances Combat Readiness in Jodhpur

🔗 SHARE

02-Mar-25

An integrated Tri-Service Special Forces exercise, Exercise Desert Hunt 2025, was conducted at Jodhpur from February 24 to 28, enhancing interoperability among elite units of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. This high-intensity drill tested combat readiness through scenarios like airborne insertion, hostage

rescue, and urban warfare, emphasizing joint operational capabilities. Additionally, the 3rd Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE took place in Rajasthan earlier, fostering military ties with Egypt through shared tactics and training. Together, these exercises underscore India's commitment to strengthening national security and showcase the effectiveness of seamless inter-service collaboration in addressing emerging security challenges.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Home Minister urges crackdown on networks aiding illegal intruders



02-Mar-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has directed authorities to intensify efforts against networks facilitating the illegal entry and settlement of Bangladeshi and Rohingya intruders in India, emphasizing the national security implications of the issue. During a high-level meeting with Delhi officials, Shah called for strict identification and deportation of these intruders, and highlighted the need for a robust approach to dismantle interstate gangs and enhance police performance. He also proposed measures for public safety, including appointing special prosecutors for swift legal proceedings and establishing security committees in vulnerable areas, thus reinforcing the government's commitment to a secure and developed Delhi.

NIA Arrests Maoist Linked Leader in Chhattisgarh Terror Case



02-Mar-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested Raghu Midiyami, a key leader of the banned Moolwasi Bachao Manch (MBM), for his involvement in a Chhattisgarh terror funding case linked to the CPI(Maoist). Midiyami was identified as a pivotal figure in the collection and distribution of funds for anti-India protests orchestrated by Maoist groups. The arrest follows prior detentions by Chhattisgarh Police, who had seized Rs 6 lakh in cash from other MBM members. This operation underscores India's commitment to countering terrorism and dismantling Maoist networks that threaten national security and public safety.

Harvard's removal of Indian student's article on Khalistani terrorism sparks accusations of yielding to pressure.



02-Mar-25

Harvard University faced backlash for removing an article by Indian student Zyna Dhillon on Khalistani terrorism, which highlighted its impact on Indo-Canadian relations. The Harvard International Review's editors were accused of yielding to pressure from pro-Khalistani groups, leading to accusations of silencing critical voices through intimidation. Dhillon refused to alter her work, asserting the removal was a reactive decision influenced by radical factions, including Sikh organizations. This incident underscores the growing concerns over freedom of expression on global platforms, particularly when confronting sensitive geopolitical issues, and reflects the challenges faced by academic institutions in upholding editorial independence in the face of external pressures.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Fake SIMs from forged IDs pose security threat along Bengal-Bangladesh border.



02-Mar-25

Mobile SIM cards obtained through forged Indian identity documents have emerged as a significant security challenge along India's border with Bangladesh, particularly in Murshidabad. Criminals are exploiting loopholes by using fake identities to procure pre-activated SIMs, often without the original registered users' knowledge. This alarming trend not only facilitates illegal activities but also points to the complicity of some local mobile service dealers who misuse genuine consumers' documents. As security agencies grapple with these growing risks, it underscores the urgent need for stricter regulatory measures and enhanced surveillance to safeguard national security against cross-border criminal activities.

Miscellaneous

BSF Returns Body of Smuggler After Clash, Seizes Drugs and Arrests SHARE

02-Mar-25

The Border Security Force (BSF) recently handed over the body of a Bangladeshi smuggler, Mohammad Alamin, to the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) after he was killed during a clash in Tripura. The incident occurred when a group of smugglers attacked BSF personnel, injuring a jawan who acted in self-defense. In related operations, the BSF seized over 100 kg of cannabis and apprehended three suspected drug peddlers, highlighting its commitment to counter cross-border smuggling and maintain security. Additionally, 15 Bangladesh nationals were arrested for illegal entry into India, along with three Indian facilitators, reinforcing the BSF's resolve to protect India's borders and combat transnational crime.

Bangladesh Delegation Arrives for Ganga Water Treaty Talks SHARE

02-Mar-25

An 11-member Bangladeshi delegation is set to arrive in India for discussions on the renewal of the Ganga Water Treaty, originally signed in 1996. The delegation, led by Muhammad Abul Hossen, will engage in a two-day visit to the joint observation site at Farakka before official meetings on March 6-7. This annual meeting under the India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission, established in 1972, emphasizes the importance of cooperation on shared water resources, given that the two nations share 54 rivers. The renewal of this treaty is crucial for maintaining harmonious relations and ensuring equitable water distribution between the neighboring countries.

Kuki-Zo Community in Delhi Demands Separate Union Territory for Justice SHARE

02-Mar-25

The Kuki-Zo community in Delhi has demanded a separate Union Territory in Manipur, citing historical injustices and systemic exclusion. During a demonstration, they expressed dissatisfaction with the current administration, blaming former Chief Minister Biren Singh for ongoing ethnic violence, which has claimed over 250 lives in the past 21 months. They argue that a separate administration is essential for

protecting their cultural heritage and rights, and they insisted on government assurances for their safety before relinquishing arms. The protesters called for urgent political solutions and constitutional safeguards to ensure their dignity and rights within India.

India's \$1.3B LPG Pipeline Set for Completion by June 2024 SHARE

02-Mar-25

India is set to fully commission the world's longest liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) pipeline, a \$1.3 billion initiative, by June 2024, significantly enhancing fuel transportation efficiency and safety. The 2,800-kilometer pipeline, developed by a consortium of major refiners, will transport 8.3 million tons of LPG annually, covering 25% of the country's demand and reducing reliance on trucks, which pose safety risks. With local LPG consumption surging, this project aligns with the government's efforts to promote cleaner cooking fuels, mitigating reliance on polluting biomass. Despite delays due to the pandemic and material sourcing challenges from geopolitical tensions, the pipeline represents a transformative leap in India's energy infrastructure.

Proposed Assam-Bhutan railway to boost cross-border ties and trade SHARE

02-Mar-25

A new railway line from Kokrajhar in Assam to Gelephu in Bhutan has been proposed to enhance cross-border connectivity and strengthen India-Bhutan relations, aligning with Prime Minister Modi's Act East and Neighborhood First policies. The 69.04 km project, estimated at Rs 3,500 crores, will include six new stations and vital infrastructural developments, marking Bhutan's first railway link. This initiative is expected to transform Bodoland into a trade hub, promoting local businesses and cultural exchanges while supporting Bhutan's sustainable development efforts through the Gelephu Mindfulness City project. Overall, the railway line will significantly boost economic growth and connectivity in the region.

Keralite shot dead while trying to enter Israel from Jordan SHARE

02-Mar-25

A Keralite named Thomas Gabriel was shot dead while attempting to cross from Jordan into Israel, with his death confirmed via email to his wife after a period of no contact. Thomas, who had previously worked in Kuwait, traveled to Israel on a tourist visa as part of a tour with a relative. His companion, Edison, was injured

during the incident and later deported back to India. The family is facing financial difficulties and requires assistance to repatriate Thomas's body, prompting calls for government intervention to expedite the process. This tragic incident highlights the dangers faced by overseas travelers and the urgent need for support systems for Indian nationals abroad.

ISRO's Somanath: We Prioritize In-House Software Development SHARE

02-Mar-25

Former ISRO chief S. Somanath emphasized the agency's commitment to in-house software development, stating that critical software systems are not outsourced due to the need for deep integration between science and technology. Speaking at the Software Product Management Summit, he highlighted ISRO's evolution from environmentally focused missions to commercial systems, underscoring the importance of accuracy, security, and scientific rigor in software for satellite operations, data analysis, and climate monitoring. Somanath noted that ISRO aims to commercialize some tools for Indian institutions and industries, fostering innovation and ensuring India's leadership in space and technology through excellence in software development.

Indian Firms Help Russian Airlines Bypass Sanctions on Parts SHARE

02-Mar-25

A recent report reveals that Indian intermediaries, such as Aerotrust Aviation and Ascend Aviation, are

facilitating the supply of Western-made aircraft parts to Russian airlines, circumventing sanctions imposed due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Despite significant restrictions, these companies rerouted over \$50 million worth of components like batteries and navigation equipment to Russia, primarily benefiting Aeroflot. This situation not only raises questions about compliance by Western firms like Boeing and Airbus but also highlights India's unique position as a neutral intermediary amid ongoing geopolitical tensions, reflecting both opportunity and risk in the complex dynamics of international sanctions enforcement.

ISRO Launches Design Phase for Next-Gen Soorya Rocket SHARE

02-Mar-25

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated the design phase for its next-generation launch vehicle, Soorya, which aims to bolster India's space capabilities. This three-stage vehicle will utilize advanced technologies, including a recoverable first stage for improved sustainability. With a total budget of ₹8,240 crore, the project includes two versions tailored for different orbits, handling payloads of up to 23.4 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit and 9.6 tonnes to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit. This development underlines India's commitment to enhancing its position in space exploration and reflects a strategic move towards self-reliance in the aerospace sector.

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