



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

AI and Big Data: Empowering the Indian Army for Future Warfare



04-Apr-25

The Indian Army is transforming its operational capabilities through the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data, aiming to enhance decision-making speed and accuracy on the battlefield. With over 50 AI projects in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited, the Army is focusing on advanced surveillance systems, drone technology, and cyber operations, aligning with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative to foster indigenous innovation. This modernization effort is crucial for maintaining sovereignty, operational readiness, and preparing for future multi-domain warfare, positioning the Indian Army among the world's technologically advanced forces, ultimately ensuring resilience and combat readiness for 2047 and beyond.

DRDO and Indian Army Achieve Four Successful MRSAM Flight Tests



05-Apr-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army successfully conducted four flight tests of the Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, demonstrating its operational capabilities against various aerial threats. The MRSAM, developed in collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries, features advanced specifications including a range of up to 100 km and high maneuverability, making it adept at intercepting diverse threats such as drones and supersonic missiles. The successful tests validate the missile's deployment across two army regiments, enhancing India's air defense strategy significantly. The integration of indigenous technology and joint development underscores India's commitment to bolstering its defense capabilities while reducing dependency on foreign systems, positioning the

MRSAM as a critical asset for safeguarding national airspace and responding effectively to evolving aerial threats.

Launch of HANSA-3(NG) Trainer Aircraft Boosts India's Aviation Industry



05-Apr-25

India's aviation industry takes a significant leap with the launch of the indigenous HANSA-3(NG) trainer aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing, as announced by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh. This initiative, aimed at fostering collaboration with the private sector, is expected to create a robust training ecosystem to address the growing demand for pilots, projected at 30,000 in the next 15-20 years. The aircraft features advanced technology, including a digital cockpit, and supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative by promoting local manufacturing and employment. Additionally, successful flight tests of the Army's Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile by DRDO and the Indian Army underscored India's commitment to strengthening its defense capabilities.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

India Boosts Military Strength with Major Defense Investments



05-Apr-25

The Indian government is significantly increasing military spending, including plans to procure 26 Rafale-Maritime strike fighters and three diesel-electric submarines, enhancing naval capabilities and conventional deterrence in the Indian Ocean Region. This emphasis on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' reflects India's proactive strategy in response to China's infrastructure developments along the Line of Actual Control. The defense budget for 2025-2026 has risen by 9.5% to 6.81 lakh crore, focusing on modernizing forces and bolstering indigenous production, despite concerns over funding allocation for new acquisitions. The Modi administration's commitment to military capacity

building is evident, with over 1,096 contracts signed since 2014, addressing operational gaps in critical defense areas.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

U.S. urges wealthier nations, including India, to aid Myanmar quake SHARE

05-Apr-25

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized the need for wealthier nations, including India and China, to contribute to humanitarian efforts, particularly after the recent earthquake in Myanmar. India swiftly acted under Operation Brahma, deploying significant relief materials and personnel, showcasing its commitment as a first responder. With 442 metric tonnes of food aid and various supplies sent through naval and air routes, India's proactive stance reinforces its Neighbourhood First and Act East policies. The collaboration among Quad nations in providing over USD 20 million in humanitarian assistance highlights a collective effort to address the crisis, reflecting India's strategic role in regional stability and support during emergencies.

India and Russia Strengthen Naval Ties with INDRA 2025 Exercise SHARE

05-Apr-25

India and Russia successfully concluded the 14th edition of Naval Exercise INDRA 2025, featuring rigorous drills that highlighted their combined combat capabilities, including anti-air and anti-submarine warfare operations. The exercise took place in two phases: a Harbour Phase in Chennai and a Sea Phase in the Bay of Bengal, with both nations deploying advanced naval assets. This exercise reinforces the long-standing strategic partnership between India and Russia, fostering cooperation in addressing common maritime challenges such as piracy and terrorism. Ultimately, INDRA 2025 underscores the commitment of both countries to maintaining maritime order and global stability, enhancing joint operational synergy in defense strategies.

India and Sri Lanka forge pivotal defense pact to boost ties. SHARE

05-Apr-25

India and Sri Lanka have formalized a landmark defense cooperation pact, marking a significant milestone in their bilateral relations and reflecting mutual security interests. Prime Minister Modi's

ceremonial welcome at Colombo's Independence Square, a first for any foreign leader, underscores the deepening ties. The pact emphasizes that the security of both nations is interlinked, with Sri Lanka assuring Modi that its territory will not be used against India's interests. Additionally, various agreements were signed to enhance energy cooperation and support Sri Lanka's recovery from its economic crisis, which included India's considerable financial assistance. The visit is a pivotal moment in India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, showcasing its commitment to regional stability and development while fostering a strategic partnership in defense and other critical sectors.

Centre Engages Meitei and Kuki Leaders for Peace Talks in Delhi SHARE

05-Apr-25

The Indian government has intensified efforts to mediate peace between the warring Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur, following violence that resulted in over 250 deaths since May 2023. Recent talks in Delhi involved representatives from both communities, with a focus on restoring trust and cooperation while maintaining law and order. The Centre, under President's rule since February, aims to address ongoing tensions, with Home Minister Amit Shah highlighting a commitment to peace despite challenges, including displaced persons living in relief camps. Additionally, key pre-conditions from the Kuki leadership regarding inter-district movement were raised, indicating ongoing complexities in negotiations. The proactive engagement from the central government reflects a strategic approach to stabilize the region and restore normalcy.

Allies Urge Putin for Quick Response on Ukraine Truce Proposal SHARE

05-Apr-25

Ukraine's allies, including Canada and European nations, are pressing Russian President Putin for a swift response to a US proposal for a partial ceasefire, which Kyiv has accepted. French and UK officials criticized Russia for its ongoing strikes despite prior agreements, emphasizing the urgency for Moscow to clarify its position. The call for a united front against Russia arises as NATO foreign ministers convene, with US Secretary of State Rubio suggesting the timeline for peace is narrowing. Additionally, a significant majority of EU members support inviting the UK and Canada to join a proposed defense spending fund, highlighting a strategic shift toward collective security amidst ongoing geopolitical tensions.

Taiwan Spots 12 Chinese Aircraft and 6 Naval Vessels Nearby SHARE

05-Apr-25

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence reported the detection of 12 Chinese aircraft sorties and six naval vessels near its territory, with nine of the sorties crossing into its Air Defense Identification Zones (ADIZ). This follows a previous incident where 16 Chinese sorties and several naval vessels were similarly noted. The US and EU reiterated their disapproval of China's unilateral actions in the Taiwan Strait, emphasizing the need for peace and stability in the region. The increasing military maneuvers by China highlight the rising tensions in the area, prompting international concern about regional security and the potential for conflict, which underscores the importance of India's vigilance and strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.

Trump Shares Airstrike Video, Promises to Protect US Ships SHARE

05-Apr-25

US President Donald Trump posted a video on social media claiming it showed a successful American airstrike against Houthi fighters in Yemen, amid escalating tensions and heightened military presence in the region. This follows a surge in US-led airstrikes, responding to Houthi attacks on commercial and military vessels in the Red Sea, which the Houthis justify as resistance to Israeli actions in Gaza. With the deployment of additional forces, including two aircraft carriers, the US aims to safeguard global shipping routes and assert regional stability. This scenario underscores the complexities of military engagement and the humanitarian impact amid ongoing conflicts in Yemen.

BIMSTEC: A Key Link for South and Southeast Asia, Says Modi SHARE

05-Apr-25

Prime Minister Modi emphasized the role of BIMSTEC as a crucial link between South and Southeast Asia, highlighting a strategic roadmap for a prosperous Bay of Bengal region. He proposed integrating India's UPI with BIMSTEC payment systems and establishing various Centres of Excellence in disaster management, agriculture, and traditional medicine. The launch of the "BODHI" initiative aims to train young individuals from member countries, alongside plans for cultural exchanges like the inaugural BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival. Modi's vision aligns with India's commitment to inclusive development, with

Bangladesh set to assume the BIMSTEC Chair, fostering regional cooperation and solidarity for a secure future.

Military Operations

Indian Army Demonstrates Advanced MUM-T Capabilities in SARVSHAKTI SHARE

05-Apr-25

The Indian Army's Trishakti Corps successfully validated Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T) during Exercise SARVSHAKTI, showcasing effective collaboration between manned platforms and drones, which is crucial for modern Multi-Domain Operations (MDO). This exercise enhances battlefield awareness and decision-making through advanced technologies like AI and autonomous systems. Additionally, the Fleur-De-Lis Brigade tested a revolutionary First Person View (FPV) drone featuring kamikaze anti-tank munitions, marking a significant milestone in tactical drone warfare. These developments highlight the Indian Army's commitment to evolving capabilities, enhancing operational readiness, and integrating cutting-edge technology, positioning it as a formidable force in contemporary warfare dynamics.

Defence Minister launches joint India-Nepal Army expeditions to Everest and Kanchenjunga. SHARE

04-Apr-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently inaugurated joint expeditions by the Indian and Nepal Armies to Mount Everest and Kanchenjunga, highlighting the collaboration between the two nations. The Indian Army's Everest expedition consists of 34 climbers led by Lt. Col. Manoj Joshi, while 18 climbers from both armies will attempt Kanchenjunga, led by Col. Sarfaraz Singh. A joint NCC expedition, featuring ten cadets and led by Col. Amit Bisht, is also set to take place, aiming for summit achievements by May 2025. This initiative not only fosters national pride but also strengthens the military ties and camaraderie between India and Nepal, reinforcing regional stability and cooperation.

Defence Minister launches INS Sunayna to boost Indian Ocean security SHARE

05-Apr-25

On April 5, 2025, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the Indian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel,

INS Sunayna, as part of the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR initiative at the Karwar Naval Base, emphasizing India's commitment to maritime security and regional cooperation. The mission, involving 44 personnel from nine friendly nations, aims to enhance interoperability and collective security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Singh reiterated India's stance against dominance in the IOR, advocating for a rules-based maritime order that protects the sovereignty of all nations. The event coincided with the inauguration of advanced facilities under Project Seabird, valued at over Rs 2,000 crore, which will bolster India's naval capabilities and support long-term strategic interests in the region. This initiative reflects India's vision of mutual growth and cooperative security in the IOR, reinforcing its role as a guardian rather than a dominator in maritime affairs.

Kim Jong Un Showcases New Sniper Rifle During Troop Visit SHARE

05-Apr-25

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently test-fired a newly developed sniper rifle during a visit to special forces, highlighting their enhanced combat readiness. He described the intense training of these units as crucial for ensuring victory in potential conflicts, amidst claims by South Korea's spy agency that North Korea has deployed troops to support Russia in the Ukraine war. Concurrently, political turmoil in South Korea has emerged following President Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment, which experts suggest could lead to a more conciliatory approach towards North Korea. This situation reflects the ongoing complexities in the Korean Peninsula, influenced by both internal and external political dynamics.

Israel Intensifies Ground Operations in Gaza Amid Hostage Crisis SHARE

05-Apr-25

Israeli forces intensified their military operations in Gaza, sending additional ground troops to pressure Hamas for hostage releases, resulting in over a dozen fatalities from airstrikes, including a tragic incident in Khan Younis. Israel has begun ground activities in northern Gaza, aiming to create a new security corridor, and recently reported the elimination of a top Hamas commander in Lebanon. This escalation reflects Israel's commitment to its security objectives amidst a complex and volatile regional landscape, highlighting the ongoing struggle between national security interests and humanitarian concerns in the conflict.

Rajnath Singh reviews Indian Navy's readiness and maritime security in Karwar conference. SHARE

05-Apr-25

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed the Indian Navy's operational readiness and maritime security during the Naval Commanders Conference in Karwar, emphasizing the need for modernization and reform amidst a changing geopolitical landscape. He highlighted India's responsibility in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific and acknowledged the Navy's significant role in enhancing national security. The conference also aimed to bolster synergy among the three services and promote indigenization aligned with the government's vision of Aatmanirbharta. Singh's call for collaborative reforms reflects the government's commitment to strengthening the Navy's capabilities and readiness in a rapidly evolving security environment.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Home Minister Amit Shah Calls on Maoists to Surrender for Peace SHARE

05-Apr-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his visit to Chhattisgarh's Bastar for the 'Bastar Pandum' festival, urged Maoists to surrender their arms and join the mainstream, emphasizing the government's commitment to achieving a Maoist-free India by 2026. He highlighted the positive changes in Bastar, such as increased access to education and healthcare, and announced a Rs 1 crore incentive for villages that help in the surrender of Naxals. Shah noted that 521 Naxals have surrendered in 2025, reflecting a shift towards peace and development, and underscored that the former cycle of violence is giving way to progress under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. With a vision for a prosperous Bastar, Shah expressed hope for a cultural renaissance and greater national recognition of the region's rich heritage through expanded festivals.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Govt Urges Social Media to Tackle Malicious Deepfakes SHARE

05-Apr-25

The Indian government is taking significant steps to combat the malicious use of deepfakes and misinformation facilitated by AI on social media platforms. The Ministry of Electronics and IT emphasized the importance of social media intermediaries adhering to the IT Rules, 2021, which mandate the removal of unlawful content and ensure user safety. Grievance Appellate Committees have been established to provide users with a mechanism to appeal against decisions made by intermediaries' Grievance Officers, enhancing accountability. The proactive engagement with industry stakeholders aims to foster a safer and more ethical digital environment in India, reflecting the government's commitment to protecting its citizens from emerging cyber threats.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Indian Army Hosts Recruitment Outreach in Dimapur, Nagaland SHARE

05-Apr-25

The Army Recruitment Office in Rangapahar conducted an outreach program in Dimapur, Nagaland, to boost recruitment for the Indian Army, specifically targeting categories like Officers and Agniveers. Over 83 students from the Nagaland Tool Room & Training Centre participated, where they received insights into the Agnipath recruitment scheme, including its benefits and opportunities after four years. The attendees were also informed about various entry schemes such as the NDA, IMA, OTA, and MNS, along with detailed application and selection processes. This proactive initiative reflects the Army's commitment to engaging with youth and enhancing recruitment efforts in the Northeast, strengthening national defense capabilities.

Miscellaneous

Indian Women's Armed Forces Team Sets Sail for Global Expedition SHARE

05-Apr-25

A team of 11 women officers from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force has embarked on a groundbreaking sailing expedition to circumnavigate the globe. This Tri-Services All Women Blue Water Sailing Expedition showcases the capabilities and empowerment of women in the Indian Armed Forces. The rigorous training involved mastering various sailing skills and overcoming significant physical challenges, emphasizing teamwork and resilience. This historic journey not only aims for a world record but also serves as an inspiring message of gender equality and empowerment, encouraging women to break barriers and pursue their dreams. Such initiatives reflect India's commitment to recognizing and uplifting women's roles in defense and society.

Indian Army Revives Polo as PBG Celebrates 75 Years SHARE

05-Apr-25

The Indian Army is revitalizing its polo initiatives as the Presidents Bodyguard (PBG) celebrates 75 years, marked by the inaugural Bodyguard Diamond Jubilee Invitation Cup Polo Championship. This event, alongside improved training programs and foreign exposure for players, aims to enhance competitiveness within military polo, historically dominated by the Army. Despite challenges from corporate-backed teams with superior resources, the Army remains optimistic, with plans for biannual tournaments and increased international participation, signaling a potential resurgence in Indian military polo. The PBG is leading these efforts, with strong institutional support to reclaim its prominence in the sport.

Indian Navy delivers 442 tonnes of food aid to quake-stricken Myanmar. SHARE

05-Apr-25

India's Navy delivered 442 tonnes of food aid to earthquake-hit Myanmar following a devastating 7.7-magnitude quake that resulted in over 3,300 deaths. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized India's commitment to assisting Myanmar during a rare meeting with junta chief Min Aung Hlaing, highlighting the need for a democratic process and a resolution to ongoing conflicts. This timely humanitarian aid

underscores India's strategic interest in fostering regional stability and supporting its neighbors in crises, contrasting with previous military regimes in Myanmar that have historically shunned foreign assistance. India's proactive stance reinforces its role as a responsible regional power in South Asia.

Pune Police Arrest Army Deserter, Recover 162g Stolen Gold



05-Apr-25

The Wanowrie police in Pune have successfully apprehended Amarjeet Vinod Kumar Sharma, a deserter from the Indian Army, in connection with a burglary at the residence of Army Havildar K.M. Vadivellu, where gold and silver ornaments valued at approximately ₹14 lakh were stolen. The police utilized extensive CCTV footage and digital tracking to trace Sharma across multiple states before arresting him on March 30. Following interrogation, they recovered 162 grams of melted gold he had sold to jewellers in Delhi and Himachal Pradesh. The quick response and cooperation among law enforcement highlight the effectiveness of investigative techniques, reinforcing trust in the police's ability to protect military personnel and their families within secure residential areas. This incident serves as a reminder of the need for robust security measures in military housing to prevent similar breaches.

Pro-Monarchist Protests in Kathmandu Demand Leader Releases



05-Apr-25

Pro-monarchist protests in Kathmandu have escalated, resulting in two deaths and over 100 injuries, as demonstrators demand the release of arrested leaders and the restoration of a constitutional monarchy. This unrest is fueled by broader dissatisfaction with Nepal's federal republic system established in 2008, amid political instability and economic challenges. The Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) advocates for a ceremonial monarchy to stabilize the nation and preserve its cultural identity, with recent surveys indicating significant public support for reinstating a Hindu state. The movement highlights ongoing tensions within Nepal regarding governance and national identity, reflecting a deep yearning for stability and tradition in turbulent times.

China Imposes Tariffs on U.S. Goods Amid Trade Tensions



05-Apr-25

China has announced reciprocal tariffs on U.S. goods, escalating trade tensions following the Trump administration's imposition of tariffs exceeding 54% on Chinese imports. China's response includes a wider range of U.S. products, the addition of 11 American companies to its "unreliable entity list," and export controls on dual-use items and rare-earth minerals. The market reacted negatively, with significant declines in U.S. and European stocks. This situation reflects China's strategic miscalculation in responding to U.S. tariffs, showcasing the complexities of global trade dynamics and the potential for long-term geopolitical ramifications as both nations navigate these confrontations.

PM Modi Gifts Culturally Significant Items to Thailand's Leaders



05-Apr-25

During his visit to Thailand, PM Modi presented culturally significant gifts, including a Dokra Brass Peacock Boat symbolizing India's rich tribal heritage, and gold-plated cufflinks with intricate Meenakari work to the spouse of the Thai PM. He also gifted a brass statue of Sarnath Buddha and a brocade silk shawl to Thailand's royal family. This exchange exemplifies India's commitment to cultural diplomacy and strengthening ties with Southeast Asia, particularly through initiatives like the BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030. By fostering collaboration and showcasing India's craftsmanship, Modi's gifts underline India's role as a key regional player dedicated to enhancing bilateral relations in the region.

PM Modi's Colombo Visit: Strengthening Regional Ties and Cooperation



05-Apr-25

PM Modi's recent visit to Colombo is pivotal as he engages with President Anura Kumara Disسانayake to strengthen cooperation in defense, energy security, digitalization, and trade, following his participation in the BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand. This marks Modi's fourth visit to Sri Lanka since 2015 and is significant against the backdrop of Sri Lanka's economic recovery aided by India. The Indian diaspora's enthusiasm underscores India's growing global influence and commitment to bolstering ties within the region. This visit not only highlights India's support for its neighbors but also consolidates strategic partnerships critical for regional stability and development.

ISRO's POEM-4 Successfully Re-Enters Atmosphere, Showcasing Sustainability



05-Apr-25

ISRO's POEM-4, the repurposed upper stage of the PSLV-C60 rocket, successfully re-entered Earth's atmosphere after completing its mission at a 475 km altitude, showcasing India's commitment to sustainable space operations. The mission, which carried twin SPADEX satellites and 24 payloads for scientific research, aligns with ISRO's Debris Free Space Mission (DFS-M) aimed at reducing space debris. The re-entry was meticulously monitored by ISRO's System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM) in collaboration with the United States Space Command, emphasizing ISRO's leadership in space sustainability and scientific exploration. This achievement not only reflects India's technological prowess but also its responsibility towards responsible space management.

India and EU Move Closer to Finalizing Free Trade Agreement



05-Apr-25

India and the EU are progressing towards a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with Prime Minister Modi and European Commission President von der Leyen urging their teams to finalize negotiations by year-end. This FTA aims to eliminate trade barriers and enhance economic ties, marking a significant step in bolstering India's role in global trade, especially amid rising protectionism. While challenges remain in sectors like agriculture and pharmaceuticals, the agreement is crucial for both parties, especially given the recent tariffs imposed by the U.S. on India and the EU. A successful FTA would strengthen the strategic partnership and mitigate economic risks linked to geopolitical tensions.

India-Russia Alliance Thrives Amid US Tariff Pressures



05-Apr-25

Russian officials, including Ambassador Roman Babushkin, have emphasized the resilience of India-Russia relations, describing them as "honest, time-tested, and immune from external negative influence," particularly in light of U.S. tariffs. The partnership is characterized by consistent growth in trade and

economic cooperation, free from double standards and rooted in shared values. Key milestones in bilateral relations have included industrialization projects and strategic agreements, reinforcing mutual trust and commitment. This enduring alliance underscores the significance of India-Russia cooperation in navigating geopolitical challenges, showcasing a united front despite external pressures.

Vice President Dhankhar calls for balanced AI regulation to protect citizens.



05-Apr-25

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has advocated for a balanced approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI) regulation, emphasizing the protection of citizens' rights alongside promoting innovation. He proposed the creation of a National Artificial Intelligence Authority to ensure a transparent regulatory framework that aligns with global standards while safeguarding India's cyber sovereignty. Dhankhar highlighted the risks of unregulated AI, such as deep fakes and diminished trust in judicial processes, while calling for enforceable rights for citizens in automated decision-making. His vision underscores the importance of ensuring technology serves the people rather than creating a digital dystopia, balancing public safety with the necessity for innovation.

Yunus Gifts Modi Throwback Photo, Strengthening India-Bangladesh Ties



05-Apr-25

During the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus presented Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a throwback photo from the 2015 Indian Science Congress, symbolizing the enduring relationship between India and Bangladesh. PM Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to a democratic and stable Bangladesh, emphasizing the importance of people-centric cooperation. The meeting marks their first face-to-face interaction following the recent shifts in Bangladesh's political landscape. Additionally, Modi's earlier discussions with Myanmar's Senior General highlighted India's proactive engagement in regional stability, reflecting its strategic diplomatic efforts within South Asia. This underscores India's role as a stabilizing force in the region amid evolving geopolitical dynamics.

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