



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

Indian Navy Welcomes Eighth Indigenous Missile Barge, LSAM 11

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The Indian Navy celebrated the induction of the eighth Missile Cum Ammunition Barge (MCA), LSAM 11, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, marking the completion of a contract with SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd. These barges, designed with indigenous inputs, play a crucial role in enhancing operational commitments by facilitating the transportation of ammunition and other supplies to naval platforms. This initiative aligns with India's Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat programs, showcasing the Navy's commitment to support MSMEs and bolster indigenous defense capabilities. The successful delivery of all eight barges underscores a significant achievement in strengthening India's maritime logistics and self-reliance in defense manufacturing.

Indian Defence Ministry Secures \$248M for T-72 Tank Engines

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The Indian Ministry of Defence has signed a \$248 million deal with Rosoboronexport for the procurement of advanced 1,000 HP engines for T-72 tanks, enhancing their battlefield mobility and offensive capability. The engines will be supplied in various conditions to support both immediate operational needs and future domestic production at Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited in Chennai, under a transfer of technology agreement. This initiative aligns with India's "Make in India" strategy, aimed at reducing dependence on foreign suppliers and modernizing military infrastructure, especially in light of supply chain disruptions due to the Ukraine conflict. While T-72 tanks have undergone several upgrades, this deal represents a significant advancement in India's push to strengthen its defense manufacturing sector while maintaining strategic partnerships.

India Can Rapidly Produce Su-57 Jets Using Su-30MKI Lines

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India is poised to rapidly adapt its existing Su-30MKI production lines to manufacture the Su-57E fifth-generation fighter jet, as claimed by Russian arms exporter Rosoboronexport. This initiative aligns with India's goal to modernize its air force amidst competing offers from both Russia and the United States, particularly with the F-35 proposal during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Washington. Notably, domestically produced Su-57Es would mitigate risks of Western sanctions. While India initially withdrew from a joint fifth-generation project with Russia in 2018, the current developments signify a renewed opportunity for enhancing indigenous defense capabilities, thereby strengthening India's strategic autonomy in military technology.

Stryker IFV Trials in Ladakh Prompt Shift Towards Indigenous Solutions

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The recent high-altitude trials of the U.S.-made Stryker Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) in Ladakh revealed significant deficiencies, prompting Indian Army leadership to reconsider its procurement amidst operational shortcomings. While some officials advocate for continued collaboration with General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada for upgrades, skepticism is rising due to the Stryker's inadequate performance compared to the DRDO-developed Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP), which excelled in similar conditions. The WhAP's superior power-to-weight ratio and tailored design for India's unique operational needs position it as a more viable alternative, raising concerns about prioritizing geopolitical considerations over operational effectiveness. The growing preference for indigenous solutions underscores India's commitment to enhancing combat readiness with domestically developed technology.

Air Chief AP Singh: Caution Needed on F-35 Acquisition



08-Mar-25

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh clarified that India has not received a formal offer for the F-35 fighter jets, emphasizing the need for careful analysis before any acquisition, especially considering costs and operational concerns. While the F-35 is technologically advanced, logistical challenges and the Indian Air Force's (IAF) ageing fleet necessitate urgent replacements. The stalled MRFA program and bureaucratic delays hinder India's fighter jet modernization, pushing the IAF towards potential off-the-shelf purchases while maintaining long-term goals for indigenous development like the Tejas and AMCA. Ultimately, India may prioritize building its own capabilities rather than rushing into expensive foreign purchases amidst regional threats.

Pakistan Eyes New F-16s Amid Delays in Chinese Jets and India's F-35

Interest

08-Mar-25

Pakistan is reportedly seeking to acquire 18-36 additional F-16 Block 50/V jets from the U.S. as its air force modernization efforts face challenges amid delays in procuring advanced Chinese fighters like the J-35A. This move is driven by concerns over India's potential acquisition of F-35A stealth fighters and the aging F-16 fleet, with many aircraft nearing the end of their operational life. While Pakistan diversifies its defense partnerships, the F-16 remains crucial due to its established infrastructure and integration capabilities. The strategic competition in the region emphasizes the importance of maintaining an effective deterrent against India's expanding air power, especially following its acquisition of Rafale fighters and development of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft.

Ariane 6 Successfully Launches CSO-3 Satellite for French Military



08-Mar-25

Arianespace successfully launched the Airbus-built CSO-3 satellite for the French military, marking Ariane 6's first commercial flight. The CSO-3, part of a three-satellite fleet under the MUSIS program, enhances France's intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities with high-resolution imaging. This satellite complements its predecessors and strengthens operational support for the French Ministry of Armed Forces, showcasing Europe's collaborative capability in advanced aerospace technology. The achievement

highlights the strategic importance of satellite systems in modern defense, reflecting France's commitment to enhancing its military capabilities through innovative solutions and international collaboration, which could serve as a model for India's own defense strategies and space capabilities.

Lockheed Martin to Launch LM 400 Tech Demo on March 15



08-Mar-25

Lockheed Martin's LM 400 technology demonstration is slated for launch on a Firefly Aerospace Alpha rocket around March 15, aimed at showcasing its multi-mission satellite bus capabilities. This initiative highlights Lockheed's commitment to enhancing resiliency in space architectures, crucial for military and commercial applications. With the LM 400's adaptability for various missions, including remote sensing and communications, it underscores the growing demand for flexible space solutions. This launch will also serve as a training opportunity for the U.S. Space Forces, emphasizing collaborative efforts to advance space technology readiness, which is vital for maintaining strategic advantages in an evolving geopolitical landscape.

Magellan and Aequs Partner to Establish Aerospace Casting Facility in India



08-Mar-25

Magellan Aerospace and Aequs Private Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore the development of a 50/50 joint aerospace sand casting facility in the Belagavi Aerospace Cluster, Karnataka. This initiative aims to enhance India's aerospace capabilities, addressing the growing demand for sand casting in both commercial and defense sectors. With limited aerospace-qualified NADCAP facilities in India, this venture will bolster local manufacturing, aligning with government initiatives like Make in India. The collaboration builds on their past successes, emphasizing advanced technologies and manufacturing processes, which are crucial for meeting the stringent standards of the aerospace industry and supporting India's burgeoning aviation market.

Indian Army Faces ATGM Shortage Amidst Urgent Modernization Needs



08-Mar-25

The Indian Army faces a significant shortfall in anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs), with an alarming 85% deficit in missiles and 50% in launchers, jeopardizing operational readiness against threats from Pakistan

and China. To address this, the Army has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for modern ATGMs, while indigenous solutions like the MPATGM and Nag missile are in trial phases. The reliance on outdated second-generation systems like the Milan-2T and Konkurs highlights the urgency for modernization, yet procurement complexities under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative may necessitate interim foreign acquisitions. Strengthening these capabilities is crucial for maintaining effectiveness in contemporary warfare.

India's 5kW Fiber Laser Set for Production by SFO Technologies



08-Mar-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully progressed its 5kW Continuous Wave Fiber Laser towards production, a significant development in India's directed energy weapons (DEWs) program. SFO Technologies has been chosen to manufacture this advanced system, which promises to enhance India's capabilities in countering aerial threats with precision and minimal collateral damage. The laser's successful trials indicate its potential for high power output and operational efficiency, paving the way for further advancements in DEW technology. This initiative not only strengthens India's defense posture but also fosters job creation and technological innovation within the defense sector.

MBDA and IAF Discuss Meteor Missile Integration for Tejas Jets



08-Mar-25

MBDA is in discussions with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to integrate the Meteor missile into more Indian-made fighter jets, primarily the Tejas Mk1A and the upcoming Tejas MkII. This integration aims to enhance India's air superiority by equipping indigenous platforms with a leading beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile, bridging capability gaps with neighboring forces. Additionally, there are talks of establishing a local production line for the Meteor missile in India, aligning with the Make in India initiative and promoting self-reliance in defense. This move could significantly strengthen Indo-European defense relations and solidify India's air combat strategy for the future.

L&T Plans Fighter Jet Production to Address IAF's Urgent Shortfall



08-Mar-25

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) is positioning itself to address the Indian Air Force's (IAF) critical fighter jet shortage by potentially establishing a production line for

indigenous aircraft, particularly the Tejas. With the IAF facing a shortfall of nearly 200 jets and operational squadrons well below sanctioned strength, the urgency for accelerated production and procurement has intensified. However, challenges such as HAL's production monopoly, capacity constraints, and the current limbo over the MRFA tender could hinder progress. L&T, with its recent revenue surge and existing component supply role, could significantly enhance India's defense capabilities if hurdles in investment and workforce development are successfully navigated.

HTL Limited Wins Rs. 44.36 Crore Army Contract for Tactical Fiber Optics



08-Mar-25

HTL Limited has secured a significant contract worth Rs. 44.36 crore from the Indian Army for Tactical Optical Fiber Cable Assemblies (TFOCA), emphasizing the critical role of advanced communication systems in modern warfare. These assemblies are designed for rapid deployment in harsh environments, ensuring reliable communication essential for operational readiness. Their unique hermaphroditic design simplifies logistics, while rugged durability and superior optical performance enhance battlefield effectiveness. This contract highlights HTL Limited's contribution to India's defense manufacturing ecosystem, reinforcing the importance of secure and high-speed data transmission in military operations, which is vital for situational awareness and decision-making on the battlefield.

Philippine Soldiers Equipped with Advanced MKU Kavro Helmets



08-Mar-25

Philippine soldiers are now equipped with advanced Kavro helmets produced by Kanpur-based MKU Limited, marking a significant advancement in Indo-Philippine defense collaboration. This transaction, valued at approximately \$20 million, demonstrates India's growing prowess in global defense manufacturing and its commitment to the Make in India initiative. The helmets, including the ACH-125T and HCH-133B variants, incorporate advanced protection technologies and cater to both standard infantry and special operations units. This partnership not only enhances the operational effectiveness of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in counter-insurgency efforts but also signifies a shared interest in addressing regional security challenges, particularly amid China's assertive activities in the Indo-Pacific.

Russia Proposes BTR-22 88 APC to Fulfill Indian Army's Needs

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Russia has proposed its BTR-22 88 Armored Personnel Carrier to meet the Indian Army's need for wheeled infantry combat vehicles, positioning it as a strong contender against alternatives like the U.S. Stryker. The BTR-22 boasts advanced mobility, protection, firepower, and electronic warfare capabilities tailored for India's diverse terrains, including high-altitude regions. Its features, such as a 30 mm automatic cannon, amphibious capability, and cutting-edge targeting systems, enhance operational effectiveness, especially against drone threats. While the offer underscores Russia's commitment to strengthening defense ties with India, concerns about the vehicle's performance in extreme altitudes could influence India's procurement decisions.

Airbus Eyes "Wingman" Drone Collaboration with India After Eurodrone Inclusion

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Airbus seeks collaboration with India on the "Wingman" drone program following India's inclusion in the Eurodrone project. This initiative aims to enhance manned combat aircraft capabilities with uncrewed systems, enabling safer high-risk missions. India's expanding defense industry presents a promising partnership opportunity, with Airbus potentially offering technology transfer and co-development to align with the "Make in India" initiative. However, local competitors like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and NewSpace Research & Technologies are also developing similar systems, which indicates a burgeoning indigenous capability and competitive landscape, ultimately strengthening India's defense sector.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

UK Army Chiefs Warn Aid Cuts Threaten National Security

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07-Mar-25

Former Army chiefs in the UK have criticized proposed cuts to the aid budget, arguing that such reductions jeopardize national security by undermining stabilization efforts in fragile states. Lord Dannatt emphasized the need for increased defense spending, potentially funded through taxation or borrowing, while Lord Richards pointed out that aid is vital for preventing

conflicts and enhancing security. They contend that a balanced approach involving military, diplomatic, and developmental strategies is essential for effective intervention and long-term stability. The criticism highlights the importance of maintaining a robust aid budget to diminish the potential for future conflicts and related costs.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Boosts Ties with Thailand

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The First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy, comprising INS Sujata, INS Shardul, and ICGS Veera, successfully concluded its visit to Phuket, Thailand, enhancing bilateral naval relations. The squadron engaged in coordinated tactical manoeuvres and professional exchanges with the Royal Thai Navy, focusing on regional security and joint training exercises. Activities included interactions with naval leadership, yoga sessions, and sports fixtures, showcasing India's commitment to maritime cooperation under the SAGAR initiative. This visit not only reinforced the friendship between the two navies but also improved interoperability, highlighting India's proactive approach in strengthening ties with its Southeast Asian neighbors for regional stability.

North Korea reveals first nuclear-powered submarine, raising regional security alarms.

📱 SHARE

08-Mar-25

North Korea has unveiled its first nuclear-powered submarine under construction, raising significant security concerns for South Korea and the U.S., as it could carry nuclear-capable missiles. Experts suggest that North Korea might be receiving technological assistance from Russia to develop this capability in exchange for military support amid the Ukraine conflict. The submarine's potential operational launch in the next couple of years adds to worries about North Korea's underwater missile launch capabilities, complicating early detection efforts by rivals. This development underscores the urgency for India to enhance its own maritime capabilities and strengthen strategic partnerships in the region to counter evolving threats in the Indo-Pacific.

Navy Chief: Russia-Ukraine War Highlights Need for Long-Term Strategies SHARE

08-Mar-25

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, emphasized at the India Today Conclave 2025 that the Russia-Ukraine conflict has proven modern wars can be prolonged, dispelling the myth of quick resolutions due to technological advancements. He highlighted the importance of resilience, self-reliance (Atmanirbharta), and rapid technological adaptation for India's naval strategy, stressing that dependency on external resources during crises poses vulnerabilities. The Navy is actively fostering innovation through initiatives like the Navy's Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation, which has engaged with startups to boost indigenous capabilities. This approach is vital for enhancing battlefield readiness and accelerating technology induction in the defense sector.

India and Japan Enhance Defense Ties in 7th Army Talks SHARE

08-Mar-25

India and Japan conducted the 7th Army-to-Army Staff Talks in New Delhi, focusing on enhancing defense cooperation, including the annual Defence Cooperation Plan and joint military exercises like Dharma Guardian. With the current edition of Dharma Guardian underway in Japan, the exercises emphasize counter-terrorism in urban environments and simulated UN peacekeeping operations, promoting interoperability between forces. Additionally, discussions included collaboration in niche technologies and military education, highlighting the commitment of both nations to bolster their strategic partnership. This cooperation is vital given the current geopolitical landscape, where strong defense ties can enhance regional stability and collective security.

Indian Army Chief Highlights Pakistan-China Threat and Preparedness SHARE

08-Mar-25

Indian Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi acknowledged the "high degree of collusivity" between Pakistan and China, signaling a realistic two-front threat to India. He emphasized the need for military preparedness in light of this evolving situation, while also highlighting a significant reduction in terrorist activities along the Line of Control since 2018, with 60% of neutralized terrorists being of Pakistani origin. The General advocated for a diplomatic approach to manage tensions, promoting coexistence and cooperation rather than conflict. He noted positive developments in military relations with Bangladesh and underscored the importance of

women's roles in the Army and the success of the Agnipath scheme, which is attracting high-quality recruits. Overall, the Indian Army remains vigilant and assertive in safeguarding national security amidst complex regional dynamics.

Europe's Defense Future: Investment, Autonomy, and DEFEA 2025 SHARE

08-Mar-25

The European Union is poised to invest nearly 800 billion euros over four years to enhance defense autonomy and support Ukraine, reflecting urgent geopolitical challenges. This includes activating an escape clause for increased defense spending and developing key military capabilities, with a focus on co-production opportunities for member states like Greece, which is restructuring its defense industry. The upcoming DEFEA 2025 exhibition in Athens will showcase this momentum, bringing together global defense stakeholders and facilitating significant partnerships. As the EU strives for strategic autonomy, the emphasis on domestic capabilities amidst collective security efforts highlights the evolving landscape of European defense collaboration.

India and Bhutan Review Boundary Work to Strengthen Cooperation SHARE

08-Mar-25

Indian and Bhutanese officials convened in New Delhi on March 6-7 to review boundary-related field work, discussing collaboration on technological and capacity-building initiatives. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress made by survey teams and established a work plan for the next three field seasons. This meeting reflects the cordial and cooperative relationship between India and Bhutan, highlighted by recent high-level exchanges, including Bhutan's Prime Minister's visit in February. Such dialogues underscore the commitment of both nations to uphold their special partnership, rooted in mutual trust and shared values, while effectively addressing boundary issues.

PoK Residents Eager to Join India, Says Rajnath Singh SHARE

08-Mar-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated that residents of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) are increasingly interested in assimilating into India, citing economic development and India's rising global stature as motivating factors. He emphasized that the people of PoK consider themselves part of India, contrary to Pakistan's designation of them as foreigners. Singh

reinforced that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and noted recent incidents, such as the removal of Pakistani flags in PoK, as signs of growing discontent with Pakistan's governance. His remarks align with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's assertion that the ultimate resolution of the Kashmir issue hinges on reclaiming PoK, highlighting India's commitment to integrating the region.

Trump Reaches Out to Iran's Leader for Urgent Nuclear Talks SHARE

08-Mar-25

President Trump has reached out to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei via letter, seeking to negotiate a new nuclear deal amidst escalating tensions over Iran's uranium enrichment, which is nearing weapons-grade levels. Trump expressed a preference for a diplomatic resolution over military action, although he emphasized the urgency of the situation. While the U.N. welcomed the diplomatic overture, Iran's historical reluctance to engage under pressure raises doubts about Khamenei's response. The backdrop of ongoing regional conflicts, economic struggles in Iran, and threats from Israel complicate the landscape, suggesting that while diplomacy is a priority, military options remain on the table.

Rajnath Singh Highlights Unified Approach to Evolving Security Threats SHARE

08-Mar-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the DRDO-MHA Collaboration Conference on Advanced Technologies for Internal Security, emphasizing the need for a unified approach to evolving security challenges that blend internal and external threats. He highlighted DRDO's crucial role in enhancing India's defense capabilities and stressed the importance of leveraging technology for both security and disaster management. The event showcased technological advancements and included the Transfer of Technology for the ASMI Machine Pistol, aligning with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Singh called for public involvement in disaster preparedness and tailored conferences to address region-specific security issues, reinforcing India's commitment to a self-reliant and technologically advanced security framework.

China Seeks Stronger Ties with India Amid U.S. Tensions SHARE

08-Mar-25

China is seeking to enhance bilateral cooperation with India amid rising tensions with the U.S., as highlighted

by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who emphasized mutual support over competition. This diplomatic outreach follows a period of strained relations post-Galwan clashes, but recent troop disengagements in eastern Ladakh and high-level talks signal a thawing in ties. Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar's initiatives to revitalize relations include resuming pilgrimages and direct flights. Both nations aim to bolster the Global South and address boundary issues constructively, showcasing a significant shift towards collaboration that could stabilize regional dynamics and promote mutual economic growth.

India and China Seek to Stabilize Relations, Says S. Jaishankar SHARE

08-Mar-25

India is actively engaging with China to stabilize their bilateral relations following the resolution of troop disengagement along the Line of Actual Control. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar highlighted discussions on resuming pilgrimages, direct flights, and journalist exchanges, while also addressing shared river issues that had stalled due to tensions since 2020. The dialogue marks a significant step towards mending ties after the deadly clashes in Galwan Valley. With high-level meetings between Indian and Chinese leaders, there is cautious optimism for a more predictable partnership, which could enhance regional stability and foster cooperation on various fronts, reflecting India's commitment to diplomatic engagement.

Pakistan's Fatah-II: A Strategic Challenge to India's S-400? SHARE

08-Mar-25

Pakistan's Fatah-II Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) is presented as a strategic counter to India's S-400 air defense system, marking an escalation in South Asia's arms race. With a 400-km range and advanced avionics, it targets high-value assets, including military bases and air defense installations. While Pakistan claims the Fatah-II can overcome India's defenses through saturation tactics, India's multi-layered air defense, including the S-400's proven capabilities, poses significant challenges. The Fatah-II's introduction may alter the regional strategic landscape, prompting India to reassess its defense posture and enhance its capabilities against emerging threats.

Astra Mk3 Induction Could Transform India-Pakistan Air Dynamics SHARE

08-Mar-25

The impending induction of India's Astra Mk3, known as Gandiva, into the Indian Air Force is anticipated to significantly alter the aerial dynamics between India and Pakistan, according to a Pakistani analyst. With a range of 340 km and speeds up to Mach 4.5, the Astra Mk3 may outclass Pakistan's current BVRAAM capabilities, particularly the AIM-120C and PL-12 missiles. This new missile could compel the Pakistan Air Force to seek advanced alternatives like Turkey's GOKHAN and China's PL-21. The strategic implications are profound, potentially enhancing India's air dominance and complicating Pakistan's defense posture amid its smaller fleet size.

Military Operations

Army Chief: AFSPA Revocation Premature Amid Ongoing Security Efforts SHARE

08-Mar-25

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi stated that the conditions in Jammu and Kashmir are not yet conducive for the revocation of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), emphasizing that such decisions rest with the local government and Union Ministries. He highlighted improvements in regions like Doda, Rajouri, and Kishtwar but noted the deployment of 15,000 additional troops to combat terrorism. Union Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated the government's commitment to a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on zero infiltration and the dismantling of terror networks, showcasing a strong resolve to enhance security and stability in the region under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Indian Navy Wraps Up Major TROPEX Exercise in Indian Ocean SHARE

08-Mar-25

India has successfully concluded a three-month-long theatre level exercise, TROPEX, in the Indian Ocean, involving over 65 warships, 10 submarines, and 80 aircraft, amidst increasing Chinese maritime activities. This exercise, spanning from the Strait of Hormuz to the Sunda and Lombok Straits, was designed to evaluate the operational preparedness and material readiness of the Indian Navy, reinforcing its commitment to being a "combat-ready, credible, cohesive, and future-ready force." Notably, the exercise

showcased exceptional operational synergy among the Indian Navy, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard, highlighting India's strategic readiness to address emerging regional challenges while enhancing inter-service collaboration.

Army Chief Reviews Strike One Corps: India's Two-Front War Readiness SHARE

08-Mar-25

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi's recent review of the One Corps (Strike -1) highlights India's ongoing commitment to enhancing military preparedness for potential two-front conflicts, particularly with Pakistan and China. With a strong historical role in major conflicts, the Corps is now equipped for rapid, high-intensity operations, especially in high-altitude warfare along the LAC. The reassignment of the Corps to Northern Command reflects a strategic shift responding to increased threats from China. Recent deployments, including over 500 tanks and 50,000 troops, emphasize India's focus on offensive deterrence, ensuring that any aggression is met with a swift response, reinforcing national security in a volatile regional landscape.

Indian Army's Ops in Manipur Yield Weapons and Destroy Bunkers SHARE

08-Mar-25

In a coordinated series of intelligence-based operations, the Indian Army and Assam Rifles, under the Spear Corps, successfully recovered a total of 114 weapons, including firearms, improvised explosive devices, and ammunition across various districts in Manipur, while also destroying several bunkers. Operations were conducted in Bishnupur, Senapati, Thoubal, and others, showcasing effective collaboration with local police and other central forces. This proactive approach not only enhances security in the region but also demonstrates the commitment of Indian forces to neutralize threats and maintain peace. Such operations reflect the strategic importance of intelligence-driven initiatives in counter-insurgency efforts within India's challenging security landscape.

Indian Army Concludes 7-Day ATGM Drill, Showcasing Combat Readiness SHARE

08-Mar-25

A week-long anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) firing exercise by the Indian Army's eastern command concluded at the Teesta range, showcasing precision and tactical coordination among infantry and mechanised units in simulated combat conditions. This

exercise emphasized the strategic importance of the Siliguri corridor, a critical transit route connecting northeastern India with the rest of the country, especially amid heightened geopolitical tensions with China and changes in Bangladesh. Regular military drills in this region enhance the armed forces' operational readiness and adaptability, reinforcing India's commitment to safeguarding its borders and ensuring national security through well-coordinated warfare capabilities.

Russian missile attack on Ukraine kills 14, injures 37 in Dobropillia.

[!\[\]\(2bdfe261b986065ee0ac76460d6528c9_img.jpg\) SHARE](#)

08-Mar-25

A recent missile and drone assault by Russian forces on Ukraine resulted in at least 14 fatalities and numerous injuries, particularly in the eastern city of Dobropillia, where residential buildings and vehicles were heavily damaged. Reports indicate the use of Iskander ballistic missiles and a total of 145 drones, with Ukrainian air defenses successfully intercepting one cruise missile and 79 drones. This escalation underscores the ongoing instability in Ukraine and highlights the efficacy of Ukrainian countermeasures against Russian aerial attacks. The situation remains dire, with civilians bearing the brunt of the conflict, thereby necessitating continued international support for Ukraine's defense capabilities.

IAF Elevates Strategic Airlift with Historic C-17 Landing in Kargil

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08-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) achieved a significant milestone by successfully landing a C-17 Globemaster-III at the high-altitude Kargil airfield, enhancing its strategic airlift capabilities near the Line of Control with Pakistan. This operation, the first of its kind for such a large aircraft at Kargil, underscores the IAF's growing proficiency in challenging environments, allowing for the rapid deployment of up to 35 tonnes of cargo. Future plans include night landings to further bolster tactical flexibility. This enhanced logistical capability reflects India's commitment to fortifying its military presence and operational readiness along its northern frontier, ensuring a robust deterrent against regional threats.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Tribal Activists Attack Buses in Manipur Amid Service Resumption

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08-Mar-25

Two inter-district state transport buses in Manipur were attacked by tribal activists shortly after the resumption of services post a 20-month hiatus. Despite being escorted by Central Armed Police Forces, the buses faced stone-pelting and blockades, prompting security personnel to use tear gas and lathi-charges to control the situation. The resumption of services was directed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, emphasizing the government's commitment to restoring peace in the region, which has been marred by ethnic tensions. The state is striving to ensure safe transportation and prosecute those obstructing services, showcasing a proactive approach to governance in the face of challenges.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

DISA Launches 2025-2027 Strategy to Boost Cybersecurity and AI

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08-Mar-25

The Defence Information Systems Agency (DISA) has unveiled its 2025-2027 data strategy aimed at enhancing cybersecurity, leveraging AI, and fostering a data-driven culture within the U.S. military. This strategy shifts focus from data architecture restructuring to effective data utilization, emphasizing strong governance and advanced analytics. Key objectives include establishing robust data governance, integrating AI for improved decision-making, and developing workforce capabilities in data literacy. By prioritizing these goals, DISA seeks to improve operational effectiveness and maintain a competitive edge, underscoring the importance of data as a strategic asset in modern defense operations.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Women Empower India's Defense: Rajnath Singh Celebrates Trailblazers SHARE

08-Mar-25

On the eve of International Women's Day, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the two women officers, Lt Cdr Dilna K. and Lt Cdr Roopa A., from the Navika Sagar Parikrama II expedition, which is a significant milestone for women's empowerment in the Indian Navy. Their journey aboard INSV Tarini has showcased their courage and resilience as they navigate challenging waters, reinforcing the government's commitment to gender inclusivity in the armed forces through initiatives like permanent commissions and increased opportunities for women. The Indian Navy recognized their exceptional endurance and skill, viewing this expedition as a powerful symbol of "Nari Shakti." Both officers expressed their gratitude for the support from women in their lives, reinforcing the message of empowerment, resilience, and the importance of breaking stereotypes. This initiative not only highlights the evolving role of women in India's defense but also serves as an inspiring example for future generations.

Agniveer 02/24 Batch Celebrates Passing Out Parade at INS Chilka SHARE

08-Mar-25

On March 7, 2025, INS Chilka witnessed the Passing Out Parade of 2,966 trainees, including 402 women Agniveers, marking a significant achievement in the Indian Navy's drive for inclusivity and modernization. The event, reviewed by Vice Admiral V Srinivas, celebrated the successful culmination of 16 weeks of rigorous training aimed at preparing these individuals for future challenges. Emphasizing a gender-neutral approach, the Navy aims to foster a combat-ready and technologically adept force. Notable awards were presented to outstanding trainees, reinforcing the Navy's commitment to excellence and the upholding of national honor as they embark on their new roles.

400 Cadets Commissioned from Indian Army's Training Academies SHARE

08-Mar-25

Over 400 officer cadets, including 18 women, were commissioned into the Indian Army from the Officers Training Academies (OTAs) in Gaya and Chennai. The passing out parades, reviewed by senior military

officials, highlighted achievements such as the presentation of the Sword of Honour to outstanding cadets. The Gaya ceremony saw 161 cadets graduate, with Uttar Pradesh leading the tally, while the Chennai OTA commissioned 133 cadets, including foreign officer cadets from friendly nations. The emphasis on upholding the values of the Indian Army and the recognition of exemplary performances underscore the commitment to nurturing capable military leaders. These events not only reflect the growing inclusivity with women joining the ranks but also enhance India's strategic capability by bolstering its officer cadre.

Priya Jhingan: Trailblazing India's First Woman Army Cadet SHARE

08-Mar-25

Priya Jhingan, the first woman cadet in the Indian Army, has expressed her lifelong ambition to serve the nation, initially aspiring to join the Indian Police Service like her father. Despite her early dreams, the turning point came when she received a letter from the Chief of Army Staff which motivated her to pursue a military career instead of law. Her journey signifies a crucial step in breaking gender barriers in the Indian armed forces, highlighting both the evolving role of women in defense and the increasing opportunities for female participation in military service, aligning with India's broader commitment to inclusivity and empowerment in the defense sector.

Agniveer Scheme Attracts Top Talent, Says Army Chief SHARE

08-Mar-25

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi lauded the Agniveer scheme, affirming its success in attracting high-caliber recruits eager to learn and deliver for the Indian Army. He noted ongoing efforts to enhance the scheme, such as synchronizing leave policies with regular soldiers and potentially increasing the recruitment age to attract more technically qualified individuals. The plan aims to boost the retention rate of Agniveers from 25% to 50% by 2026. Introduced in June 2022, this short-term service initiative allows Agniveers to serve for four years, with a quarter being offered permanent positions post-service. The scheme reflects India's innovative approach to modernizing its defense forces while addressing manpower challenges.

Col Ponung Doming: A Trailblazer for Women in Indian Armed Forces



08-Mar-25

Col Ponung Doming, commanding the Border Roads Organisation's highest task force at 15,300 feet in Ladakh, exemplifies the growing role of women in the Indian Armed Forces, a sentiment echoed by the Ministry of Defence and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on International Women's Day. Her leadership in constructing roads at extreme altitudes showcases not only her resilience but also inspires young women to pursue careers in the military. Modi's acknowledgment of 'Nari Shakti' reinforces the government's commitment to women's empowerment, highlighting the significant contributions of women across various fields. Doming's achievements embody the spirit of determination and service to the nation, motivating others to dream big and strive for excellence.

IAF Chief ACM AP Singh Clarifies Misinterpretation of Remarks



08-Mar-25

Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh addressed a viral video controversy regarding his private remarks to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) officials, clarifying that the conversation was misrepresented and intended as a friendly dialogue. He emphasized the importance of a collaborative relationship between the IAF and HAL, especially as both work on critical projects like the Tejas Mk1A fighter and the Intermediate Jet Trainer. Singh also highlighted the need for India to develop cutting-edge technology and not merely chase it, citing the lessons learned from ongoing global conflicts about preparedness for prolonged warfare and the crucial control of airspace. He reiterated the significance of adapting to technological advancements to maintain an edge over adversaries while expressing concern about leaked private exchanges undermining internal discussions essential for national defense.

India's Trailblazing Female Fighter Pilots: Chaturvedi, Kanth, Singh



08-Mar-25

India's pioneering female fighter pilots, Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth, and Mohana Singh, have made history by breaking gender barriers in the Indian Air Force (IAF). They were among the first women to be inducted into the fighter pilot training program, with Mohana Singh becoming the first to join the elite 'Flying Bullets' squadron. Avani Chaturvedi became the first woman to fly the MiG-21 Bison solo, while Bhawana

Kanth made history as the first female fighter pilot to represent the IAF at the Republic Day parade. Their achievements signify a transformative step towards gender equality in India's armed forces and inspire future generations.

Miscellaneous

IAF AN-32 overshoots Bagdogra runway; no casualties reported.



08-Mar-25

An Indian Air Force (IAF) AN-32 transport aircraft overshoot the runway while landing at Bagdogra airport, located in north Bengal, on Friday. Fortunately, there were no casualties reported from the incident. The IAF has initiated an inquiry to investigate the circumstances surrounding the accident. Bagdogra airport operates as a civil enclave, allowing civilian aircraft to use a designated area within a military base, thus integrating military and commercial aviation operations. This incident highlights the importance of maintaining operational safety protocols within shared airspace, especially in areas where military and civilian operations intersect. Overall, the prompt response by IAF authorities and the absence of casualties reflect the commitment to safety and efficiency within India's defense operations.

PM Modi to Attend Mauritius National Day, Strengthen Ties



08-Mar-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Mauritius on March 11-12 to attend the island nation's National Day celebrations as the chief guest, marking a significant diplomatic engagement. An Indian Navy ship will accompany him, showcasing the close ties between India and Mauritius, where approximately 70% of the population has Indian origins. This visit underscores India's strategic relationship with Mauritius, further strengthened by a notable increase in trade from USD 206 million in 2005-06 to USD 554 million in 2022-23. This collaboration reinforces India's commitment to enhancing its influence in the Indian Ocean region and supporting its allies.

Gen Anil Chauhan wraps up pivotal visit to Australia, boosting ties.



08-Mar-25

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan recently concluded a significant visit to Australia, from March

4-7, 2025, enhancing the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. His discussions with Australian military leadership focused on maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, joint exercises, and defence technology exchange. Gen Chauhan's visit included engagements at key military facilities and institutions, reinforcing professional military education and fostering deeper cooperation in strategic operations. Additionally, his tribute at the Australian War Memorial acknowledged the sacrifices of Indian soldiers, symbolizing the shared commitment to mutual respect and collaboration, thereby solidifying trust and strategic alignment between the two nations in addressing regional security challenges.

New Cyber Security Handbook Launched to Empower Women Online



08-Mar-25

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has launched the 'Cyber Security Handbook for Mahila Suraksha' to empower women by promoting essential cyber hygiene practices amid rising digital threats. This initiative coincides with the International Women's Day and aims to educate women on safeguarding their online presence. CERT-In has also been active in raising cybersecurity awareness through workshops and campaigns, reaching over 3 lakh beneficiaries across the country. The handbook represents a proactive measure to enhance India's cybersecurity framework and reflects the government's commitment to protecting citizens, particularly women, in an increasingly digital world.

ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 Reveals High Electron Density on Moon



08-Mar-25

ISRO's recent findings from the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter reveal unexpectedly high electron densities in the Moon's ionosphere, suggesting a significant influence of lunar crustal magnetic fields on plasma dynamics. The data, collected through innovative radio occultation experiments, indicated electron densities around 23,000 electrons per cubic centimeter, which could affect future lunar missions and habitat planning. This research not only enhances our understanding of the Moon's complex plasma environment but also positions India as a leading player in lunar science, especially as other nations prepare for their lunar explorations. Chandrayaan-2's contributions are pivotal for advancing knowledge in this emerging field, underscoring India's commitment to space exploration.

ISRO's Spark Torch Igniter Test Boosts Next-Gen Launch Vehicle



08-Mar-25

ISRO has successfully conducted an ignition trial of its spark torch igniter for the development of a LOX-Methane engine, crucial for the Next Generation Launch Vehicle featuring a reusable booster and two expendable upper stages. This advancement is pivotal for achieving multiple restarts in the booster stage and enhancing mission flexibility. The recent test, performed on March 3, 2025, demonstrated smooth ignition and normal engine parameters, marking a significant step in improving ignition reliability and ensuring cleaner combustion. With plans for further testing, this initiative reinforces India's growing capabilities in space technology and positions ISRO for future ambitious missions.

Colaba Police File Case Against Ajay Airproducts for INS Ranvir Blast



08-Mar-25

Mumbai's Colaba police have registered a case against Ajay Airproducts Pvt Ltd for allegedly supplying a flammable refrigerant that caused a deadly explosion aboard the INS Ranvir in January 2022, resulting in the deaths of three sailors and injuries to 11 others. The inquiry revealed that the company delivered Hydrofluorocarbon-152 instead of the contracted non-flammable Hydrochlorofluorocarbon-22, raising significant concerns about procurement protocols in the Indian Navy. This tragic incident underscores the necessity for stringent oversight in the supply chain for military operations, highlighting the importance of adhering to safety standards to prevent such calamities in the future. The case's registration marks a crucial step toward accountability for the loss of life and damage incurred.

Christian Michel Rejects Bail, Cites Security Concerns in AgustaWestland Case



08-Mar-25

Christian Michel James, an alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland case, expressed his refusal to accept bail in a Delhi court, citing safety concerns and claiming that his security is at risk in India. He offered instead to serve his sentence and leave the country. The court imposed bail conditions including regular attendance before investigating officers and prohibited contact with the media regarding the case. The AgustaWestland deal, signed in 2010, resulted in significant financial losses for India, with Michel allegedly receiving substantial kickbacks. This development underscores

ongoing challenges in addressing corruption and ensuring accountability within defense procurement processes in India.

India's Space Budget Soars Nearly 3x in a Decade, Minister Says



08-Mar-25

India's space budget has nearly tripled over the past decade, increasing from Rs 5,615 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 13,416 crore in 2025-26, as highlighted by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh. Under Prime Minister Modi's

leadership, India's space sector has evolved from a singular startup to over 300 companies, establishing itself as a global leader in satellite launches and generating significant revenue. The advancements in space technology are crucial for governance, agriculture, and national security, with neighboring countries increasingly relying on India's satellite systems. This transformative journey underscores India's shift from a follower to a trailblazer in the global space arena.

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