



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Aero India 2025

Raksha Mantri to open Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on Feb 10



09-Feb-25

The 15th edition of Aero India, Asia's largest aerospace and defense exhibition, will be inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on February 10, 2025, at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru. With participation from over 90 countries and more than 900 exhibitors, the event aims to showcase India's growing defense capabilities and encourage international collaborations in line with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Key highlights include the introduction of advanced platforms like the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas and discussions on enhancing defense cooperation through investment and joint ventures. The presence of global fifth-generation fighters, such as the Su-57 and F-35, underscores India's strategic importance in global defense collaboration.

U.S.-India Defense Cooperation Shines at Aero India 2025



09-Feb-25

The United States is set to prominently participate in Aero India 2025, showcasing advanced defense technologies and reinforcing its strategic partnership with India amid a complex Indo-Pacific security landscape. The event will feature over two dozen American exhibitors, presenting innovations in unmanned aerial systems, fighter aircraft, and advanced avionics. U.S. officials emphasized the importance of deepening defense ties through enhanced interoperability, training exercises, and expanded cooperation in maritime security and counter-terrorism. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to regional stability and economic prosperity, positioning both nations as key players in addressing evolving security challenges in the region.

Throttle Aerospace to Launch TAVAS UAS at Aero India 2025



09-Feb-25

Throttle Aerospace Systems is set to present its innovative TAVAS UAS, specifically the ALV_TACT model, at Aero India 2025. This lightweight and versatile small unmanned aerial system excels in endurance and payload capacity, featuring an advanced dual EO/IR payload for comprehensive surveillance in various conditions. With a flight time of 55 minutes and the ability to operate beyond visual line of sight, it promises to enhance reconnaissance capabilities. The system's user-friendly design allows for single-person deployment, ensuring agility in operations while adhering to Indian aviation regulations, reflecting India's commitment to advancing its defense technology and capabilities.

CEMILAC to Issue RMTC for ASTRA Missile and HTT-40 at Aero India 2025



09-Feb-25

CEMILAC is set to announce the issuance of the Restricted Military Type Certificate (RMTC) for the ASTRA Beyond Visual Range missile and the HTT-40 aircraft at Aero India 2025, marking a significant advancement in India's indigenous defense capabilities. The ASTRA missile enhances air superiority and operational effectiveness for the Indian Air Force, while the HTT-40 promises to modernize pilot training by replacing outdated trainer aircraft. These developments reflect India's commitment to bolstering its defense technology and operational readiness, showcasing the capabilities of the DRDO and HAL in delivering cutting-edge military solutions that enhance national security.

Dynauton to Unveil PATANG Tethered UAV at Aero India 2025



09-Feb-25

Dynauton Systems is set to unveil its PATANG Tethered UAV System at Aero India 2025, promising to enhance real-time operational surveillance significantly. This innovative UAV utilizes a tether system for continuous

power supply, enabling long-duration missions without the constraints of battery life. Its adaptability to carry various payloads like high-resolution cameras and thermal imaging makes it suitable for both military and civilian applications. With capabilities to provide live feeds regardless of weather conditions, the PATANG represents a cost-effective solution for India, particularly beneficial for its extensive and diverse border security needs. This showcases India's commitment to advancing its defense technologies and enhancing situational awareness.

Russia Proposes R-37M Missile Deal with Local Production for India

09-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Russia has offered India the R-37M long-range air-to-air missile, along with a local production license, significantly enhancing the Indian Air Force's (IAF) aerial combat capabilities. The R-37M, with a range of 200 kilometers and advanced targeting systems, offers a considerable upgrade over the current R-77 missiles used in the IAF's Su-30MKI fleet. This missile's ability to engage high-value targets from a distance not only improves operational effectiveness but also strengthens India's air defense strategy, providing strategic depth and deterrence against potential threats. Overall, this development marks a pivotal step in India's military modernization efforts.

Su-57 Impresses with 10-Second Takeoff at Aero India 2025

09-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, the Russian defense industry showcased the AL-41 engine's capabilities powering the Su-57 fighter jet, which successfully executed a stunning 10-second takeoff on a mere 0.8 km runway. This demonstration emphasizes the engine's exceptional thrust-to-weight ratio and maneuverability, highlighting the Su-57's short takeoff and landing (STOL) capabilities that enhance operational flexibility, particularly in areas with limited infrastructure. The cost-effectiveness of the Su-57's performance suggests that modern air forces could revolutionize mission planning and execution without the need for extensive airfield investments, making it an attractive option for diverse combat scenarios.

NewSpace to Launch SHESHNAAG Swarming Drones at Aero India

2025  SHARE

09-Feb-25

NewSpace Research and Technologies (NRT) is set to unveil its SHESHNAAG Swarming Unmanned Air Systems (SUAS) at Aero India 2025, marking a significant advancement in defense technology. Inspired by the mythological Sheshnaag, these drones will operate in swarms for precision strikes and electronic warfare, capable of engaging targets within a range of 15 km to over 1000 km. Their collaborative autonomy allows for minimal human intervention while maximizing operational effectiveness, enabling rapid decision-making and adaptability in dynamic combat scenarios. This innovative system is integral to India's evolving defense strategy, enhancing the military's capacity for swift and decisive multi-domain operations, crucial for addressing future warfare challenges.

Aero India 2025: Tejas Mk1A Unveils Advanced Jamming Pod

09-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, India's defense capabilities were highlighted with the showcase of the Advanced Self Protection Jamming Pod (ASPJ) for the Tejas Mk1A, developed by DRDO's DARE. This electronic warfare system enhances the survivability of aircraft by jamming enemy radar and missile threats, thus improving operational flexibility in contested environments. Key features include a 16-element Active Electronically Scanned Array, an air-cooled system for reliability, and electronic phase shifting for adaptable jamming. Following successful trials on Tejas Mk1, the pod is set to undergo testing with the Indian Air Force, further solidifying India's advancements in indigenous defense technologies.

Archer-NG UAV Completes Taxi Trials Ahead of Aero India 2025

09-Feb-25

The Indian defense sector is abuzz with the unveiling of the Archer-NG Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance UAV, which has successfully completed taxi trials, marking a pivotal step toward its first flight expected in February 2025, ahead of Aero India 2025. This weaponized UAV boasts a 1,750 kg MTOW, 1,000 km operational range, and the ability to carry up to 300 kg of precision-guided munitions, enhancing India's surveillance and strike capabilities. The Archer-NG's innovative twin-boom pusher design promises improved stability and

operational efficacy, positioning it as a significant upgrade over its predecessor, the TAPAS-BH-201, and highlighting India's commitment to advancing its indigenous defense technology.

Aero India 2025: Balancing Foreign Lobbying and Self-Reliance



09-Feb-25

Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru highlights India's defense procurement strategy amid significant international lobbying from the US and France. While India aims for self-reliance through initiatives like Make in India, it faces pressure to purchase advanced military platforms, including the Rafale-M aircraft and Scorpene submarines from France, and drones from the US. The Indian government is balancing these foreign expectations with its own defense import reduction policies. The strategic choice of partnering with either the US or France for crucial defense technologies, particularly in aero engines, is critical for India's future military capabilities and self-sufficiency.

Defense Business and Industry

Indian Navy Contracts Startup for Advanced Naval Combat Drone "Abhimanyu"



09-Feb-25

The Indian Navy has awarded Bengaluru-based startup NewSpace Research & Technologies (NRT) a contract to develop a Naval Collaborative Combat Air Vehicle (N-CCAV) named "Abhimanyu," marking a significant milestone in military collaboration with local startups. This unmanned platform is designed to enhance existing fighter jets' capabilities, acting as a force multiplier in naval operations. The N-CCAV aims to modernize India's combat capabilities through indigenous technology, with a focus on cost-effectiveness and rapid production. By emphasizing innovation in autonomous military technology, the initiative strengthens India's defense posture and strategic autonomy, potentially leading to greater military self-reliance against adversaries like China.

Maruti Suzuki Bolsters ITBP with 60 Off-Road Jimnys for Borders



09-Feb-25

Maruti Suzuki has delivered 60 units of its SUV Jimny to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), marking a significant enhancement in border operations in

challenging regions like Leh-Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. This induction reflects Maruti Suzuki's commitment to supporting Indian Armed Forces, continuing the legacy of the Gypsy. The Jimny's robust off-road capabilities are ideal for extreme Himalayan conditions, with temperatures plummeting to minus 45 degrees Celsius. This partnership not only bolsters India's frontier capabilities but also emphasizes the importance of reliable vehicles for forces operating in difficult terrains, reinforcing national security and operational readiness in critical areas.

India Boosts Naval Defense with \$340M MRSAM Contract



09-Feb-25

India has signed a \$340 million contract for the Israeli-designed MRSAM systems, set to enhance the Indian Navy's capabilities against various aerial threats, including aircraft and missiles, with an operational range of 70 kilometers. This initiative aligns with India's "Made in India" policy, promoting local production and expected to generate around 350,000 workdays. The MRSAM system, which includes advanced radar and interceptors, is already operational across multiple branches of the Indian armed forces, including the navy's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. This contract not only strengthens India's defense capabilities but also emphasizes indigenous development through collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries and DRDO.

India Considers Su-57 Amid Push for Fifth-Generation Fighters



09-Feb-25

India is considering the procurement of fifth-generation fighter aircraft amid delays in its MRFA and LCA-TEJAS programs, with Russia offering its Su-57 for joint production. The Su-57 will debut at Aero India 2025, underscoring the deepening defense ties between India and Russia, especially as India's IAF faces modernization pressures due to regional advancements, particularly from China. While India previously exited the FGFA program linked to the Su-57 in 2018, Russia's renewed offer for partnership could strengthen India's air combat capabilities. The IAF may also explore alternatives like Lockheed Martin's F-21 as it seeks to enhance its fleet readiness.

Trump's \$8B Arms Deal with Israel Skips Congressional Review

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09-Feb-25

The Trump administration is moving forward with over \$8 billion in arms sales to Israel, bypassing Congress's informal review process. This decision follows a recent meeting between President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu, with sales including 3,000 Hellfire missiles and various bombs. Critics, including Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, argue this undermines congressional authority and challenges the balance of power within the government. While the administration asserts the legality of its actions, this approach raises concerns about transparency and oversight in international arms sales, emphasizing a contentious relationship between executive decision-making and legislative prerogatives.

Stryker's Success in Ladakh Trials Highlights Javelin's Gaps

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09-Feb-25

The Stryker armored infantry combat vehicle successfully completed high-altitude trials in Ladakh, showcasing its double-V hull's effectiveness in challenging terrains crucial for India-China border operations. While the Stryker performed well, the Javelin ATGM did not meet expectations, prompting India to request a repeat demonstration to ensure its reliability in high-altitude conditions. The Indian Army considers the Stryker as a potential replacement for its aging BMP-2 vehicles, highlighting its strategic importance in enhancing military capabilities. Successful integration of the Javelin with the Stryker could significantly bolster the Indian Army's firepower, reinforcing its operational readiness in the region.

HAL Prepares to Deliver Tejas Mk1A Jets to IAF, Awaiting Engines

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09-Feb-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is set to deliver three Tejas Mk1A fighter jets and four Mk1 Trainer aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF), pending the arrival of GE F-404 engines, expected soon. This delivery marks a crucial milestone for the Tejas program, which is integral to the IAF's efforts in modernizing and replacing aging aircraft. Despite delays in engine supply attributed to General Electric, HAL has improved its production processes, ensuring quality. The enhanced capabilities of the Tejas Mk1A, including upgraded avionics and increased weapon capacity, underscore India's commitment to defense self-reliance and its growing aerospace prowess, promising to significantly boost the IAF's operational readiness.

Indian Navy to Upgrade Kalvari-Class Subs with Indigenous System

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09-Feb-25

The Indian Navy will replace the French-supplied DCNS SUBTICS combat management system on its Kalvari-class submarines with an indigenous system developed by Bharat Electronics Limited. This decision addresses operational limitations stemming from the lack of access to the source code, which hindered upgrades and strategic autonomy. The new system will be initially deployed on the next three Scorpene submarines and retrofitted onto the existing fleet, enhancing operational flexibility and responsiveness. This initiative aligns with India's goal of increasing self-reliance in defense technology and reducing dependence on foreign suppliers, strengthening the domestic defense industry and capabilities.

Indian Navy to Enhance Reach with New 4,000-Ton AIP Submarines

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09-Feb-25

The Indian Navy is advancing its capabilities through Project-76, which intends to indigenously construct six diesel-electric submarines featuring an Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP) system, enhancing underwater endurance. Expected to displace between 3,000 and 4,000 tons, these submarines will improve operational flexibility and power projection in the Indian Ocean Region. The design phase is set to conclude by 2028, incorporating advanced technologies from the nuclear submarine program, notably the quiet pump-jet propulsion system. This initiative underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense and enhances its strategic maritime presence, crucial for safeguarding national interests and ensuring regional stability.

Russia Proposes Co-Production of Su-57E Jets and Tech Transfer to India

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09-Feb-25

Russia has proposed a significant partnership with India, offering to co-produce the Su-57E stealth fighter jets along with technology transfer, thereby enhancing India's air defense capabilities. The offer comes from Rosoboronexport, highlighting a commitment to assist in developing an indigenous fifth-generation fighter. This collaboration could bolster India's defense industry, reducing reliance on foreign suppliers and positioning India as a key player in the global fighter jet market. The Su-57's advanced capabilities, including stealth and supersonic speed, make it a formidable option against competitors like the F-35 and J-20,

showcasing the strategic depth of India-Russia defense relations.

French Defense Community Weighs In on India's TEDBF and Rafale Links

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09-Feb-25

The Indian Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has confirmed the design of the Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF), which has drawn comparisons to the French Rafale, eliciting mixed reactions from the French defense community. Some commentators express concern over potential intellectual property issues, while others suggest that the similarities reflect admiration for Rafale's engineering. Notably, the TEDBF incorporates unique features like Diverterless Supersonic Inlets (DSI) absent in the Rafale. The Indian Navy's intention to procure at least 80 of these aircraft underscores India's commitment to advancing its indigenous defense capabilities, indicating a strategic move towards self-reliance in military aviation.

Solar Group Advances UAV Development with Indian Armed Forces

🕒 SHARE

09-Feb-25

Solar Group has received approval to develop a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) drone, enhancing India's defense capabilities through advanced surveillance and reconnaissance. The Indian Army and Air Force will collaborate on defining the drone's technical specifications, with Solar Group also looking to leverage the expertise of the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) for technology transfer. This partnership aims to integrate existing technologies to streamline the development process, ensuring the final product meets the Indian Armed Forces' specific operational requirements. Overall, this initiative signifies a crucial step in bolstering India's indigenous defense industry and optimizing its military readiness.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

India's Defense Shift: Choosing Between France and the U.S.

🕒 SHARE

09-Feb-25

India's defense procurement landscape is shifting as reliance on traditional partner Russia declines, dropping from 76% to 36% of arms imports due to geopolitical tensions and delays. France has emerged as a key supplier, with 33% of imports in 2019-2023, fostering

collaborations on projects like submarines and helicopters. While India values "strategic autonomy," there are concerns about becoming too dependent on the U.S., especially amidst the complexities of the Quad and AUKUS alliances. India seeks technology transfers and domestic manufacturing partnerships with France to strengthen its defense capabilities and ensure self-reliance in advanced technologies, ultimately enhancing its strategic position in the Indo-Pacific.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India Assures Sri Lanka of Defence Support in Key Meeting

🕒 SHARE

09-Feb-25

Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha recently met Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Sampath Thuyacontha, focusing on strengthening long-standing defence ties between the two nations and enhancing regional security and maritime cooperation. The discussions emphasized India's unwavering support for Sri Lanka in areas such as counter-terrorism, maritime security, and disaster response, with Thuyacontha expressing gratitude for India's continuous assistance. Additionally, Secretary Thuyacontha is set to attend Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru, showcasing ongoing collaboration in defense exhibitions. The cordial meeting, which included the exchange of mementoes, highlights the critical role of defense partnerships in ensuring regional stability and security, reinforcing the deep-rooted bilateral ties between India and Sri Lanka, vital for countering common security challenges.

Kim Jong Un Promises Expansion of North Korea's Nuclear Arsenal

🕒 SHARE

09-Feb-25

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to enhance the country's nuclear capabilities in response to the trilateral military collaboration among the U.S., Japan, and South Korea, which he argues escalates regional tensions. He criticized U.S. nuclear deployments and military exercises, asserting that they disrupt the military balance in the region. Kim also expressed solidarity with Russia amid its conflict with Ukraine and indicated that North Korean military activities would respond decisively to perceived aggressions from South Korea and its allies. This situation poses a challenge for regional security, necessitating vigilance from neighboring nations, including India, as geopolitical dynamics evolve.

Trump Reveals Talks with Putin on Ending Ukraine Conflict



09-Feb-25

U.S. President Donald Trump has revealed he spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin about ending the ongoing war in Ukraine, expressing a desire to see the conflict resolved quickly to prevent further loss of life. He mentioned a potential meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss peace efforts and noted his longstanding positive relationship with Putin. Trump underscored the urgency of the situation, indicating he has a concrete plan to facilitate peace, though he refrained from sharing specific details. His comments come as the war approaches its third anniversary, highlighting the pressing need for diplomatic resolutions in the region.

Israeli Troop Withdrawal Begins in Gaza Amid Ceasefire Deal



09-Feb-25

An Israeli official has announced the commencement of troop withdrawal from the Netzarim corridor in Gaza as part of a fragile ceasefire agreement with Hamas, which includes the gradual release of Israeli hostages and humanitarian aid for Gaza. The ceasefire, currently at its halfway point, faces uncertainties regarding its extension, with negotiations appearing stagnant and low-level representatives from Israel sent to Qatar for discussions. The situation emphasizes the complexity of achieving a sustainable calm, with both sides needing to navigate hostilities while addressing humanitarian concerns. This development highlights the ongoing volatility in the region and the challenges faced in fostering long-term peace.

maintaining law and order, safeguarding national integrity, and addressing the threats posed by organized crime and insurgency in the region, ultimately enhancing stability in Manipur.

IAF Launches AN-32 Kargil Service, Airlifts 24 Stranded Passengers



09-Feb-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully airlifted 24 stranded passengers between Kargil and Srinagar, inaugurating the AN-32 Kargil courier service, which serves as a critical lifeline for the Union Territory of Ladakh during winter months when heavy snowfall often blocks the Srinagar-Leh national highway. On its first operational day, 12 passengers were transported each way, facilitating essential connectivity for those affected by the weather conditions. Local officials, including Kargil's Deputy Commissioner, conducted site inspections to ensure the service's efficient management. This initiative underscores the IAF's commitment to enhancing regional accessibility and support for the residents of Ladakh during challenging climatic periods.

India and Egypt to Conduct Joint Special Forces Drill in Rajasthan



09-Feb-25

India and Egypt are set to conduct joint military drills in Rajasthan, aimed at enhancing defense cooperation and interoperability of special forces in desert environments. The exercises will cover counter-terrorism operations, reconnaissance, and specialized missions, with an emphasis on combat skills and procedures for operating in challenging terrains. This collaboration, involving personnel from India's Parachute Regiment and Egypt's Commando Squadron, includes training on IEDs, urban combat, and hostage rescue scenarios, reinforcing diplomatic ties and military synergy. Ultimately, such initiatives not only strengthen bilateral relations but also contribute to regional stability by fostering a united front against terrorism.

Military Operations

Security Forces Discover Major Arms Cache in Manipur Operations



09-Feb-25

Security forces in Manipur seized a substantial cache of arms and ammunition during a search operation in Bishnupur district, including various firearms, grenades, and mortar shells. This operation highlights ongoing security challenges in the region, which has experienced ethnic violence since May 2023. The police previously uncovered significant arms and explosives in Churachandpur district, indicating a persistent issue with illegal arms trafficking and militancy. These efforts by security forces reaffirm India's commitment to

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

31 Naxalites Killed in Chhattisgarh, Total Rebel Deaths at 81



09-Feb-25

In a significant anti-Naxal operation in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, security forces eliminated 31 Naxalites,

raising the total fatalities to 81 this year. The operation involved over 650 personnel from various units, emphasizing the commitment to eradicate Naxalism by March 2026 under the leadership of PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma highlighted the strategic objective of restoring basic amenities to the region, while acknowledging the sacrifices of the security forces. This decisive action reflects India's ongoing effort to combat Left Wing Extremism and restore stability in affected areas, reinforcing the determination to enhance security and promote development in Chhattisgarh.

Gunmen Steal Weapons from Manipur Police Outpost, Prompting Security Response



09-Feb-25

Unidentified gunmen attacked an India Reserve Battalion outpost in Thoubal district, Manipur, looting six SLRs, three AK rifles, 270 rounds of ammunition, and 12 magazines. The incident occurred on Saturday night, with the armed assailants arriving in vehicles. In response, additional security forces have been deployed to the area to conduct search operations, and an investigation is underway. This incident underscores ongoing security challenges in the region, highlighting the need for enhanced vigilance and robust countermeasures by the Indian defense forces to prevent such breaches, ensuring the safety and integrity of the nation's security apparatus.

Three Militants Arrested in Manipur, Showcasing Security Gains



09-Feb-25

Manipur Police successfully apprehended three militants in Imphal West district, including two members of the banned United National Liberation Front (UNLF-Pambei), who were involved in extortion and arms smuggling. They seized a .32 pistol and cash during the arrests. Additionally, a militant from the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA), also linked to extortion activities, was captured. This operation highlights the Indian government's persistent efforts to combat militancy and uphold law and order in the region, demonstrating a commitment to enhancing security and stability in Manipur amidst ongoing challenges. Such actions are crucial for maintaining peace and deterring further insurgency in Northeast India.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Lamp Lighting Ceremony Celebrates 29 Nursing Cadets in Delhi



09-Feb-25

On February 8, 2025, a lamp lighting ceremony was held for the 29 Nursing Cadets of the XI Batch at the College of Nursing, Army Hospital (Research & Referral) in Delhi. The event, attended by senior military and retired officers as well as representatives from civil nursing colleges, emphasized the importance of professional standards in nursing. Lt Gen Shankar Narayan motivated the cadets, while Maj Gen Sheena PD administered the Nurses Pledge. The ceremony symbolized the transfer of knowledge and skills, reinforcing that nursing is a noble profession dedicated to service and making a positive impact on lives. Such events highlight the Indian Army's commitment to nurturing skilled healthcare professionals.

Miscellaneous

Indian Navy Chiefs' Conclave 2025: Shaping Future Maritime Strategy



09-Feb-25

The Indian Navy Chiefs' Conclave 2025 took place in New Delhi, gathering former Naval Chiefs and current leadership to share insights and updates on operational advancements and policy initiatives. Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi emphasized the Navy's unwavering commitment to safeguarding India's maritime interests "anytime, anywhere, anyhow." A significant session named 'Manthan' fostered discussions on future warfare and maritime strategies, reflecting the Navy's adaptability in a dynamic geopolitical landscape. Additionally, the release of the book "Legacy of Leadership: Naval Chiefs through Time" showcased the inspiring journeys of former leaders, highlighting the importance of institutional continuity and the leveraging of past wisdom to shape India's maritime power. This conclave underscores the Indian Navy's proactive approach to maintaining national security and enhancing its strategic capabilities.

Jindal Nuclear to Invest Rs 1.80 Lakh Crore in 18GWe Power Expansion



09-Feb-25

Jindal Nuclear plans to invest Rs 1.80 lakh crore to develop 18GWe of nuclear power capacity in India over the next two decades, aligning with the government's goal of achieving 100GWe by 2047. This initiative is a significant step in India's transition to a low-carbon economy, emphasizing the role of the private sector in sustainable energy production. Jindal Nuclear aims to utilize advanced technologies like Bharat Small Reactors and Gen-IV Reactors while fostering collaboration with global tech leaders to ensure safety and efficiency. The project is expected to create thousands of jobs and contribute to economic growth while supporting community development around its sites.

Indian Consulate in Seattle faces unrest over alleged visa issues



09-Feb-25

The Indian Consulate in Seattle faced a law and order situation when individuals, including former city council member Kshama Sawant, unlawfully entered its premises and exhibited aggressive behavior due to alleged visa denials. Sawant claimed political retaliation linked to her past resolutions against India's Citizenship Amendment Act, asserting her visa rejection stemmed from being on a "reject list." The Consulate highlighted its need to involve local authorities and initiate action against the trespassers. This incident underscores the tensions surrounding visa policies and perceived political motivations, reflecting broader geopolitical dynamics and the importance of maintaining diplomatic decorum amid such disputes.

Rashtrapati Bhavan's Guard Ceremony to Debut Exciting New Format



09-Feb-25

The Rashtrapati Bhavan will introduce a new format for the change of guard ceremony starting February 22, featuring increased seating capacity and a dynamic visual and musical performance. This ceremony showcases the formal military drills of the President's Bodyguard (PBG) and the Ceremonial Guard Battalion, complemented by the Ceremonial Military Brass Band. President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the revamped event on February 16. The PBG, established in 1773, is the senior-most regiment of the Indian Army, reflecting India's rich military tradition and commitment to ceremonial excellence, which enhances public engagement and appreciation of the armed forces.

ISRO Aims to Enhance Flight Restart for Gaganyaan Mission



09-Feb-25

ISRO has successfully conducted an ignition trial of the indigenous CE20 cryogenic engine, crucial for India's Gaganyaan mission, at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. This test, simulating the vacuum conditions of space, aims to enhance the engine's restart capabilities during flight, with ISRO exploring innovative approaches such as initiating turbopumps in bootstrap mode. The Chairman of ISRO, V Narayanan, addressed concerns regarding glitches in the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX), confirming that the mission is progressing as planned, with no issues reported. This achievement underscores India's growing capabilities in aerospace technology and highlights ISRO's commitment to advancing its space missions, reinforcing India's position in the global space arena.

Chandrayaan-3 Lands in 3.7 Billion-Year-Old Moon Region



09-Feb-25

Chandrayaan-3's landing region, estimated to be around 3.7 billion years old, has been mapped by ISRO and PRL scientists using high-resolution remote sensing data. The analysis reveals a diverse landscape featuring boulders and distinct terrain types, providing valuable insights into the Moon's geological history. Notably, the landing site lies within low-relief smooth plains and offers a unique geological context not previously explored by other missions. This achievement underscores India's growing prowess in space exploration, reinforcing its capabilities in scientific research and technological advancements, which can have implications for national security and global positioning in space capabilities.

ISRO's SpaDeX Advances Steadily Amid Technical Hurdles



09-Feb-25

ISRO's Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) has made significant progress, successfully docking the SDX-01 and SDX-02 spacecraft on January 16, 2025, despite facing technical challenges that have delayed the undocking process, now anticipated for March-April. Chairman V Narayanan emphasized that the mission is proceeding methodically, focusing on maximizing resource utilization while conducting necessary studies. Additionally, ISRO successfully performed an ignition trial of the indigenous CE20 cryogenic engine, enhancing capabilities for future missions. The ongoing

developments in India's space program, including the Gaganyaan mission, continue to garner appreciation from other space-faring nations, highlighting India's growing prowess in complex space technologies.

Exploring India's Aerospace and Defence Innovations at Aero India 2025

09-Feb-25

Aero India 2025, scheduled from February 10-14, 2025, at Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bangalore, will serve as a pivotal platform for showcasing India's aerospace and defense capabilities while enhancing international cooperation. The event will include a Defence Ministers Conclave aimed at forging strategic partnerships and a CEOs Round-Table to promote manufacturing in India. Following the success of Aero India 2023, which attracted over 700,000 visitors and featured significant agreements with global firms, Aero India 2025 is poised to further reinforce India's commitment to innovation, national security, and economic growth in the defense sector, solidifying its position as a key player in the global aerospace community.

Five Thai Hostages Freed from Hamas Amid Gaza Ceasefire

09-Feb-25

Five Thai nationals, part of a larger group of 31 hostages held by Hamas since the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, were released as part of a ceasefire deal. The Thai government, with assistance from Qatar and Iran, successfully negotiated their release, following earlier outcomes that saw 23 Thais freed in November. The hostages, primarily agricultural workers, faced significant peril, with 46 confirmed dead and more still missing. Their return highlights Thailand's diplomatic efforts amidst the ongoing conflict and underscores the plight of foreign workers caught in regional tensions, an issue that calls for greater international attention and support for those affected.

Cessna trainee aircraft safely lands after nose wheel issue at Hyderabad airport

09-Feb-25

A Cessna trainee aircraft experienced a hard landing at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad due to a malfunction in its nose wheel, although no injuries were reported. The incident temporarily closed the runway for about 30 minutes, after which flight operations resumed smoothly. This occurrence underscores the importance of rigorous safety protocols in pilot training to mitigate potential risks associated with technical malfunctions. While the event was minor, it highlights the critical need for continuous monitoring and maintenance of training aircraft to ensure the safety of trainees and operational efficiency in India's aviation sector. Overall, the quick resolution of the incident reflects the effective emergency response capabilities at the airport.

INS Tushil Docks in Seychelles, Strengthening Ties and Cooperation

09-Feb-25

INS Tushil recently arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles, for an operational turnaround during its maiden passage around the West coast of Africa. The ship was warmly welcomed by Indian High Commission officials and Seychelles Defence Forces, emphasizing the enduring diplomatic ties established since Seychelles' independence in 1976. Captain Peter Varghese hosted a demonstration of the NISHARMITRA Terminal, showcasing India's commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). This visit reinforces the longstanding friendship and mutual understanding between India and Seychelles, reflecting India's strategic focus on strengthening regional partnerships in response to geopolitical dynamics.

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