



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

IAF Chief: India Must Lead in Defense Technology Development



08-Mar-25

Air Chief Marshal A P Singh emphasized the need for India to become a technology leader rather than a follower, advocating for a robust defense ecosystem capable of sustaining prolonged conflicts. He acknowledged the significance of unmanned vehicles and highlighted the importance of adaptability in military tactics against technologically advanced adversaries. Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi noted the necessity for self-reliance in the face of growing threats, particularly from China's military support to Pakistan, while assuring that the Indian Navy is actively monitoring the Indian Ocean Region. Together, they stress the urgency of indigenization and preparedness in India's defense strategy amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics.

India's Artillery Modernization Boosts Readiness and Innovation



09-Mar-25

India's artillery modernization is advancing with the impending procurement of 307 Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (TAGS) valued at ₹8,000 crore, alongside an expansion of the K9 Vajra self-propelled howitzer fleet. The Pinaka rocket system is also being enhanced, extending its range to 120 kilometers. This modernization emphasizes mobility by transitioning from towed systems to Mounted Gun Systems, reflecting a strategic adaptation to evolving warfare. The Indian Army's rigorous testing and support for indigenous development bolster its self-reliance in defense production, ensuring a battle-ready and versatile artillery force capable of meeting future challenges.

Russia Offers India a Strategic Deal for Su-57E Fighter Jet



09-Mar-25

Russia has presented India with a promising opportunity to manufacture the fifth-generation Su-57E fighter jet using existing infrastructure from the Su-30MKI production. This includes technology transfer, joint production capabilities, and support for India's own Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program. The Su-57E, showcased at Aero India 2025, boasts advanced stealth and super-maneuvrability, though its stealth capabilities are slightly inferior to American models like the F-35. Notably, the Su-57E is positioned as a cost-effective alternative, with a unit price significantly lower than the F-35. This offer underscores India's strategic intent to bolster its indigenous defense capabilities while considering the geopolitical dynamics with Russia and the U.S. However, the Indian government has yet to officially respond, which leaves the future of this deal uncertain.

India Targets Top 5 Global Shipbuilding Rank by 2047 with Major Initiatives



09-Mar-25

India aims to achieve a top five global shipbuilding status by 2047, adding 4 million gross registered tonnage capacity, as announced by Minister Sarbananda Sonowal during the Chintan Shivir 2025. Key initiatives include establishing the Bharat Container Shipping Line, launching a Coastal Green Shipping Corridor, and enhancing inland water transport through a Rs 100 crore investment in Jammu & Kashmir. These efforts align with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, focusing on sustainable practices and increased competitiveness to attract foreign investment, ultimately driving economic growth under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. The establishment of Maritime Innovation Hubs and digital transformation strategies further underscores India's commitment to revitalizing its maritime sector.

LCA Mk1A's first rear fuselage delivered by private firm to HAL SHARE

09-Mar-25

The first rear fuselage for the Light Combat Aircraft Mk1A, produced by Alpha Tocol Engineering Services, was handed over to HAL in Bengaluru, marking a significant milestone in India's defense manufacturing journey, as highlighted by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh. This event underscores India's commitment to Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defense and the strengthening of public-private partnerships. Singh praised HAL and private sector collaborations, which enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force. With ongoing production and integration of critical components by local industry partners, these initiatives are expected to bolster the IAF's strength and ensure timely deliveries of the LCA Mk1A from 2025-26 onwards.

Indian Navy to Acquire Rafale Jets, Phasing Out MiG-29s SHARE

09-Mar-25

The Indian Navy is set to replace its aging MiG-29K fleet with 22 single-seater Rafale-M fighters and four dual-seat Rafale-B trainer aircraft, with a formal agreement anticipated in April 2025 and deliveries starting in May 2028. This decision was driven by the Rafale-M's superior operational capabilities, compatibility with the existing IAF Rafale fleet, and its suitability for India's carrier operations. Additionally, Dassault Aviation may establish a final assembly line in India, supporting the "Make in India" initiative and enhancing indigenous manufacturing. The Rafale-M will significantly strengthen India's maritime power and deterrence in the Indian Ocean Region, aligning with its network-centric warfare strategy.

DRDO's ADC-150 Container for P-8I Gains Type Certification SHARE

09-Mar-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has received type certification for the ADC-150 air-droppable container, designed for the Boeing P-8I aircraft and capable of carrying 150 kg of critical supplies to naval vessels at sea. This innovation enhances India's maritime operational logistics, allowing timely delivery of essential equipment without ships needing to return to shore, thereby improving operational readiness and extending mission durations. The ADC-150's integration reflects a commitment to indigenous defense capabilities and collaborative efforts among various DRDO establishments. This

development significantly bolsters India's maritime security and response capabilities, showcasing advancements in logistical support systems essential for modern naval operations.

Defence Minister Foresees Unmatched Growth in Aerospace Sector SHARE

09-Mar-25

India's Defence Minister emphasized the aerospace sector's unprecedented growth potential, fueled by a record budget allocation of 6.81 lakh crore for defense modernization, with 75% earmarked for domestic procurement. The shift from importing 65-70% of defense equipment a decade ago to now producing similar percentages domestically reflects India's commitment to enhancing its Defence Industrial Complex, with significant contributions from the private sector, such as the TATA-Airbus partnership for C-295 aircraft. The goal is to achieve over 1.60 lakh crore in defense production and 30,000 crore in exports by 2025-26, bolstering national security and fostering international partnerships, as highlighted during Aero India, which showcased global defense collaboration.

India Boosts Air Defense with Emergency VSHORAD Procurement SHARE

09-Mar-25

The Indian Army is bolstering its air defense capabilities through emergency procurement of Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) systems, crucial for countering aerial threats, especially highlighted by the Ukraine conflict. The Defence Ministry has expedited procurement under provisions allowing contracts up to 300 crore, with the latest round focusing on enhancing counter-insurgency equipment. Indigenous development is underway by DRDO, with successful trials and plans for large-scale production, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. This strategic move counters enhancements in air defenses by China and Pakistan, showcasing India's commitment to self-reliance and preparedness against evolving threats in the region.

BEL Secures Rs. 577 Crore in New Orders, Strengthening Defense Capabilities SHARE

09-Mar-25

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a key player in India's defense sector, has secured additional orders worth Rs. 577 crore, bringing its total order inflow for FY25 to Rs. 13,724 crore. These contracts include advanced airborne electronic warfare products, a sophisticated

communication system for submarines, Doppler weather radars, and radar upgradation projects, showcasing BEL's technological versatility and commitment to enhancing India's indigenous defense capabilities. The orders not only bolster defense readiness but also highlight BEL's role in civilian applications, particularly in disaster management and railway modernization. This growth trajectory underscores the importance of strengthening India's defense ecosystem through domestic production and innovation.

HAL Unveils Upgraded IJT-36 Yashas with Modern Cockpit Features



09-Mar-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has unveiled the revamped IJT-36 Yashas, featuring a modern glass cockpit with multi-functional displays (MFDs) and a heads-up display (HUD), enhancing its role in the Indian Air Force's advanced pilot training programs. This transformation addresses obsolescence issues by incorporating Indian-made Line Replaceable Units (LRUs), underscoring India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing. The upgrades improve weight management and ensure that trainee pilots are well-prepared for operational realities, bridging the gap between basic trainers and advanced fighter jets. This initiative not only boosts the IAF's operational readiness but also aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, reinforcing India's strategic autonomy in defense capabilities.

NMRL Advances Silent Fuel Cell Tech for Enhanced Underwater Vehicles



09-Mar-25

The Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL), part of the DRDO, is advancing India's underwater capabilities by developing a Fuel Cell-based Capsule Power Plant for High Endurance Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (HEAUV). This initiative aims to enhance stealth and operational endurance, allowing these vehicles to operate silently for 14 to 21 days autonomously, crucial for strategic missions. Utilizing in-house developed Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells and high-pressure hydrogen/oxygen systems, the HEAUVs will perform covert operations with advanced reliability features. Collaborating with industry partners under the Defence Capabilities Partnership Programme, this project not only boosts technological capacity but also fortifies India's maritime defense strategy significantly.

Indian Army's Urgent Push for Indigenous MALE UAV Development



09-Mar-25

The Indian Army is urgently seeking to upgrade its fleet of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) amid ongoing border tensions with China, as its current Israeli-sourced drones age and fail to meet modern operational demands. The Army has set ambitious specifications for new Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAVs, emphasizing the need for indigenous development under the Make in India initiative. Despite challenges faced by domestic projects like the Tapas BH-201 and Archer NG, the Army is calling on the private sector to innovate or partner with foreign firms to meet these pressing requirements. This move reflects India's commitment to enhancing self-reliance in defense technology while strategically strengthening its surveillance capabilities along the Line of Actual Control.

Should India Shift Focus from Delayed Apache Helicopters to LCH Prachand?



09-Mar-25

The Indian Army is facing delays in acquiring six Boeing AH-64E Apache helicopters from the U.S., initially expected by mid-2024 but now possibly pushed to 2026. This situation raises the question of prioritizing the indigenous Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand, which offers advantages in high-altitude performance, cost-effectiveness, and reduced dependence on foreign suppliers. With the Prachand already operational and a large order approved, it presents a strategic asset aligned with India's self-reliance goals under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, making it a suitable alternative to the delayed Apache helicopters while ensuring military readiness in contested regions.

IAF Teams Up with Private Sector to Fix PC-7 Trainer Issues



09-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is collaborating with private sector companies to resolve persistent technical issues, particularly engine oil leaks, in its fleet of Pilatus PC-7 Mk-II trainer aircraft used for pilot training. This initiative, prompted by a Comptroller and Auditor General audit and heightened safety concerns following a tragic crash, aims to enhance the fleet's serviceability while reducing dependency on foreign manufacturers. The IAF's shift towards domestic capabilities reflects India's broader commitment to self-reliance in defense

maintenance, crucial at a time when pilot shortages and operational demands are increasing. Addressing these technical challenges effectively will be vital for maintaining the IAF's training efficiency and safety standards.

India's Astra MkIII "Gandiva" Missile Enters Su-30 MKI Trials SHARE

09-Mar-25

India's Astra MkIII "Gandiva," an advanced Beyond Visual Range missile, is progressing to inflight trials on the Su-30 MKI, showcasing a significant leap in air-to-air combat capabilities. With a range of 300-350 km and speeds up to Mach 4.5, the Gandiva utilizes a Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet propulsion system, enhancing efficiency and adaptability during flight. This domestically developed missile positions India competitively against adversaries with advanced aircraft, such as China's J-20. However, challenges remain in finalizing the technology and ensuring successful integration with existing systems, indicating a cautious but promising advancement in India's defense capabilities.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

IAF Focuses on Indigenous Solutions, Dismisses F-35 Pursuit SHARE

09-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is not pursuing the acquisition of either the American F-35 or the Russian Su-57E fighter jets, emphasizing instead the development of the domestically manufactured Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh highlighted the logistical complexities and costs associated with foreign aircraft, stressing the importance of self-reliance in defense technology, particularly in light of regional threats posed by China's advanced fighters. With India's fighter fleet operating below its sanctioned strength, there is an urgent need for indigenous solutions, including the Tejas Mk2 and the AMCA. The IAF is advocating for increased private sector participation in production to alleviate pressure on Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and ensure operational readiness, aligning with the government's "Make in India" initiative to enhance domestic defense capabilities.

India's Defence Ministry to Boost Private Sector in Arms Bidding SHARE

09-Mar-25

India's Ministry of Defence is set to enhance competitive bidding in weapons procurement, promoting greater private sector participation and moving away from the traditional dominance of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs). This initiative aims to foster a transparent and efficient procurement process, addressing concerns regarding the financial burdens on private firms during product trials. It aligns with the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision, emphasizing self-reliance in defense production, especially in aerospace. By dismantling the monopoly of DPSUs, the MoD encourages innovation, efficiency, and a collaborative defense industry, crucial for strengthening India's military capabilities and ensuring a robust defense manufacturing ecosystem.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India Strategically Engages U.S. Amid Trump's Uncertainty SHARE

09-Mar-25

India is proactively engaging with the U.S. amidst President Trump's unpredictable policies, focusing on trade, security, and countering global terrorism. During a significant meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Trump, both leaders expressed commitment to deepening bilateral ties, aiming for a \$500 billion trade target by 2030 and negotiating a multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). In response to Trump's proposed reciprocal tariffs, India signaled its willingness to lower tariffs in specific sectors to strengthen trade relations and mitigate potential trade wars. This strategic collaboration, particularly against the backdrop of rising Chinese influence, emphasizes the mutual interests of both nations in fostering economic ties while addressing security concerns, showcasing India's diplomatic agility in navigating complex geopolitical landscapes.

Army Chief Warns of Two-Front Threat from China and Pakistan SHARE

09-Mar-25

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi has highlighted the reality of a two-front threat from China and Pakistan, emphasizing their collusion as a major concern. He noted a significant decrease in terrorist incidents in the region and reaffirmed the Indian Army's preparedness,

while advocating for diplomatic solutions to avoid conflict. The General spoke on the importance of cooperation with neighboring countries, especially regarding terrorism, and mentioned successful military exchanges with Bangladesh. He also emphasized the positive outcomes of the Agnipath scheme and the inclusion of women in the military, signaling a progressive shift in the armed forces' structure. Overall, it showcases India's proactive stance on security and regional stability.

India Reaffirms Support for Mauritius in Chagos Negotiations



09-Mar-25

India has reiterated its unwavering support for Mauritius in its negotiations with the UK regarding the Chagos Archipelago, a significant issue expected to be addressed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Mauritius. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed that Mauritius is seeking to revisit the previous agreement that allows the UK to maintain a military base on Diego Garcia while transferring sovereignty over the islands. This stance aligns with India's long-term commitment to decolonization and respect for national sovereignty, emphasizing India's role as a supportive partner in regional geopolitical matters. The ongoing discussions signal a potential resolution that could enhance Mauritius's territorial claims, fostering stronger bilateral ties.

Russia, China, and Iran to Conduct Naval Exercises in Indian Ocean



09-Mar-25

Russia is set to conduct joint naval exercises with China and Iran in the Indian Ocean, aimed at enhancing military cooperation among the three nations. The "Security Belt-2025" drills will occur near Iran's Chabahar port and will involve various maneuvers, including striking maritime targets and joint search and rescue operations. This exercise reflects the strengthening ties between Russia and Iran, particularly amid heightened tensions with the US over Iran's nuclear ambitions. While the US continues imposing sanctions on Iran, this trilateral military collaboration showcases a strategic counterbalance in the region, emphasizing the evolving geopolitical dynamics in favor of a collective security approach among these nations.

Musk urges US to exit NATO, questioning European defense funding



09-Mar-25

Billionaire Elon Musk advocated for a US exit from NATO, arguing it is unreasonable for America to fund European defense. His remarks coincide with discussions among US political figures, including Trump, who emphasized that NATO allies must meet defense spending commitments, or they may not receive US protection. The European Union is contemplating a significant increase in defense budgets, proposing loans and spending plans to enhance military capabilities, reflecting a growing concern over European reliance on US military support as geopolitical tensions rise. This situation raises vital questions about the future of NATO and the balance of defense responsibilities among its members.

China Promises to Intensify Pressure on Taiwan Amid Rising Tensions



09-Mar-25

China's military has stated it will intensify its pressure on Taiwan if separatist sentiments escalate, labeling proponents as facing a "dead end" if they do not retreat. Army spokesman Wu Qian emphasized that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is poised to counter separatism and promote reunification, warning that increasing tensions could lead to dire consequences. This statement coincides with China's announcement of a 7.2% increase in defense spending for 2025, reflecting its ongoing military modernization efforts. This aggressive stance underscores the geopolitical tension in the region and highlights the need for India to reinforce its strategic partnerships and defense readiness amidst increasing Chinese assertiveness in its neighborhood.

US envoy optimistic about Gaza hostage deal in weeks



09-Mar-25

The US hostage envoy, Adam Boehler, expressed optimism about reaching a deal to free all civilians held by Hamas within weeks, following unprecedented talks with the group. Acknowledging Israel's concerns, he emphasized the importance of dialogue despite Hamas being labeled a terrorist organization. The ongoing conflict has resulted in significant casualties, with Israel's campaign leading to at least 48,458 deaths in Gaza, predominantly among civilians. Boehler's comments underline the complexities of negotiating with a group responsible for a deadly attack on Israel,

indicating the fragile nature of peace efforts amid ongoing violence and humanitarian crises.

US Urges India to Shift from Russian Weapons to American Deals SHARE

09-Mar-25

The US has urged India to halt its purchase of Russian weapons, emphasizing the need for closer defense ties through American sales, such as the F-35 fighter jets and the recent acquisition of six P-8I maritime surveillance aircraft valued at \$2.42 billion. This push coincides with India's strategic initiatives to enhance its naval capabilities amidst growing Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has downplayed concerns regarding BRICS' efforts to challenge the US dollar's dominance, indicating a lack of unified stance within the bloc. Overall, India is navigating complex geopolitical pressures while strengthening its defense cooperation with the US.

China's New Radar Near Myanmar Heightens Scrutiny of Indian Missiles SHARE

09-Mar-25

China's recent deployment of a 5,000 km-range radar system near its border with Myanmar significantly enhances its ability to monitor Indian missile tests and military movements in real time. This strategic development poses a challenge for India, as it may compel the nation to bolster its surveillance capabilities, reconsider military postures, and explore partnerships with allies like the United States. To counteract China's advancements, India is reportedly acquiring Russian radar systems, enhancing cybersecurity measures, and accelerating its missile defense systems' development. This situation underscores the escalating military tensions between India and China, necessitating a proactive approach from India to maintain its strategic edge in the Indo-Pacific region.

Rajnath Singh: PoK Residents Will Advocate Joining India SHARE

09-Mar-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has expressed optimism about the potential assimilation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) into India, emphasizing the importance of maintaining good relations with neighboring countries like Bangladesh. He advocates for the "One Nation, One Election" initiative, highlighting its potential to save substantial public resources and

streamline governance by conducting simultaneous elections. Singh critiques Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's opposition to delimitation, asserting that population representation will benefit all states. His remarks reinforce the BJP's commitment to political credibility and effective governance, underlining a strategic vision for India's regional relations and internal political structuring.

Pakistan Air Force Shifts to Twin-Engine Fighters to Counter India SHARE

09-Mar-25

The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) is shifting towards twin-engine 5th-generation fighters like China's J-35A and Turkey's TAI KAAN, moving away from its traditional reliance on single-engine jets. This strategic evolution aims to counter India's growing air power, particularly with its advanced Rafale and Su-30 MKI fleets, and to enhance performance, survivability, and operational flexibility. The PAF is also pursuing the indigenous PFX program, reflecting a desire for self-reliance in advanced military capabilities. While this ambitious pivot faces economic and logistical challenges, it underscores the PAF's need to adapt to contemporary threats and maintain parity with India's technological advancements.

Military Operations

Army Recovers 25 Weapons in Manipur Amid Ongoing Tensions SHARE

09-Mar-25

In a significant operation in Manipur, Indian Army and central forces recovered 25 weapons, including INSAS rifles, IEDs, and grenades, while destroying illegal bunkers across six districts. This action follows an appeal from the Manipur Governor to surrender looted arms amid ongoing ethnic tensions. Since the onset of riots, over 1,020 arms and vast ammunition stocks have been surrendered, reflecting the commitment of security forces to restore peace. The coordinated efforts among various forces emphasize India's proactive approach to maintaining stability in the region, tackling both arms recovery and drug-related crime simultaneously, which are critical to ensuring long-term security in Manipur.

IAF Chief Sounds Alarm on Pakistan's Fighter Jet Upgrades SHARE

09-Mar-25

Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh has expressed concerns regarding Pakistan's potential acquisition of fifth-generation Chinese fighter jets, emphasizing the need for India to advance its own technological capabilities to counter such developments. He noted that the IAF is evaluating recommendations from a committee on enhancing air power, highlighting the importance of thorough analysis before considering foreign aircraft like the F-35. Both Army Chief Gen. Upendra Dwivedi and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi echoed concerns about the growing collaboration between China and Pakistan, stressing the reality of a two-front threat, which underscores the urgency for India to enhance its defense preparedness.

IAF Chief Outlines Needs to Tackle Threats from Neighbors SHARE

09-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is focusing on modernizing its capabilities to address threats from hostile neighbors, particularly Pakistan, which is enhancing its air combat with advanced jets like the J-35A. The IAF emphasizes the integration of fifth-generation fighter jets, advanced drone warfare, and robust air defense systems such as the S-400 and MRSAM. To counter regional imbalances, the IAF is prioritizing indigenous development, notably the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project, while also considering acquisitions like the F-35. Additionally, the IAF is enhancing its readiness through strategic partnerships, operational preparedness, and innovative technologies, ensuring it can effectively respond to evolving geopolitical challenges and maintain a strong defense posture.

Bangladeshi Man Killed, BSF Soldier Injured in Smuggling Clash SHARE

09-Mar-25

A Bangladeshi man was killed, and a Border Security Force (BSF) soldier was injured during a thwarted smuggling attempt along the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal. The incident involved a group attempting to cross the border illegally to smuggle cattle and contraband, resulting in a violent confrontation when BSF personnel intervened. Despite deploying non-lethal measures, the attackers resorted to violence, prompting the BSF jawan to fire in self-defense. This incident underscores the ongoing

challenges of border security and smuggling, highlighting the BSF's critical role in protecting Indian territory and maintaining law and order along the border.

Indian Army Heads to Kyrgyzstan for KHANJAR-XII Exercise SHARE

09-Mar-25

The 12th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR-XII is scheduled from March 10 to 23, 2025, in Kyrgyzstan, continuing the tradition established since 2011. This annual event alternates between the two nations, highlighting their growing strategic partnership. Indian troops from the Parachute Regiment will collaborate with the Kyrgyz Scorpion Brigade to enhance counter-terrorism tactics, particularly in complex terrains, while also celebrating cultural ties through the Kyrgyz festival Nowruz. This exercise not only strengthens military cooperation but also reaffirms both nations' commitment to regional stability and a joint stance against international terrorism.

Russian Special Forces Launch Surprise Attack in Kursk via Gas Pipeline SHARE

09-Mar-25

Pro-Russian war bloggers report that Russian special forces have launched an offensive in Kursk, utilizing a gas pipeline to surprise Ukrainian troops, which have been largely encircled by advancing Russian forces. Ukraine's military claims to have detected and countered these maneuvers with artillery and drone attacks. The situation escalates concerns about the geopolitical implications of Russia's actions amid fluctuations in U.S. support for Ukraine. This confrontation highlights the ongoing volatility in Eastern Europe and poses significant risks, as both sides prepare for potential conflicts that could reshape regional dynamics and global security.

Can Pakistan's Fatah-II Missile Overcome India's S-400 Defense? SHARE

09-Mar-25

Pakistan's Fatah-II Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) aims to counter India's S-400 air defense system, highlighting a significant shift in the regional arms race. With a range of 400 kilometers and advanced capabilities, the Fatah-II targets critical Indian infrastructure and military assets. Despite its impressive specifications, military analysts argue that the S-400's superior detection range and multi-layered defense could effectively neutralize the Fatah-II threat.

While Pakistan's missile may challenge India strategically, India's robust air defense network and ongoing advancements in indigenous systems suggest that the S-400 remains formidable. Ultimately, the introduction of the Fatah-II could prompt India to enhance its defensive measures and maintain regional stability.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

From Grief to Valor: Late Sepoy's Wife Becomes Army Officer SHARE

09-Mar-25

In a recent Passing Out Parade at the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai, 133 cadets, including 24 women, were commissioned into the Indian Army, highlighting the growing inclusion of women in defense roles. Notably, Lieutenant Manya M. Kumar and Lieutenant Pragati Thakur received top honors, with Manya awarded the Sword of Honour and both recognized for their exceptional merit. A touching story emerged with Lieutenant Soni Bisht, who, after losing her husband, transformed her grief into determination, fulfilling his dream by joining the Army. The ceremony also celebrated the unique achievement of a brother-sister duo commissioning together, showcasing resilience and commitment to service in the face of personal challenges. This event underscores the Indian Army's emphasis on valor, inclusivity, and the unwavering spirit of service among its officers.

Rajnath Singh makes history with visit to IAF's Aerospace Medicine Institute SHARE

09-Mar-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made history as the first Raksha Mantri to visit the Indian Air Force's Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) in Bengaluru, where he launched a pivotal project on space psychology aimed at training astronauts for India's ambitious manned space missions, including Gaganyaan. He emphasized the rising significance of aerospace medicine in addressing challenges like micro-gravity and radiation, which are vital for the health and performance of astronauts. Singh highlighted India's growth as a leading aviation market and affirmed the need for continuous innovation in response to emerging threats in space warfare and cyber domains. The IAM's contributions to aircraft development, such as the Advanced Light Helicopter and Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, showcase its role in advancing India's self-reliance in aerospace capabilities as the nation prepares for future space missions and technological advancements.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Hizbul Mujahideen Terrorist Ulfat Hussain Captured After 17 Years SHARE

09-Mar-25

Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Ulfat Hussain was arrested in Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir, after being on the run for 17 years, following a joint operation by the Uttar Pradesh Anti Terrorism Squad and local police. Hussain, who had been previously arrested in 2002 and released in 2008, failed to respond to court summons, resulting in a permanent warrant against him. His capture is part of ongoing efforts to dismantle terrorist networks in the region, evidenced by the recent property attachment by the National Investigation Agency linked to Hizbul Mujahideen for involvement in targeted killings. This operation underscores the Indian authorities' commitment to combating terrorism and enhancing security.

Mufti Shah Meer, Linked to Jadhav Kidnapping, Killed in Balochistan SHARE

09-Mar-25

Mufti Shah Meer, a controversial figure linked to the abduction of Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Turbat, Balochistan. He was accused of aiding Pakistan's ISI in Jadhav's kidnapping from Iran in 2016 and was reportedly involved in various illicit activities while maintaining ties with extremist networks. This assassination, following a pattern of targeted killings in the region, raises questions about internal rivalries within Pakistan's intelligence and extremist circles. The incident adds complexity to the already fraught India-Pakistan relations, particularly regarding the Jadhav case, which has been a major diplomatic point of contention. Although this killing may not directly influence Jadhav's situation, it highlights the intricate web of espionage and terrorism that defines the region's geopolitics, potentially signaling internal power struggles within Pakistan's intelligence community.

Indian Navy Welcomes 2,966 Agniveers, Including 402 Women [SHARE](#)

09-Mar-25

The Indian Navy has successfully inducted 2,966 Agniveers, comprising 402 women, following their graduation from a 16-week training program at INS Chilka, Odisha. This milestone underscores the Navy's commitment to fostering a gender-neutral environment while preparing a combat-ready force. Vice Admiral V Srinivas emphasized the importance of teamwork, technological awareness, and adherence to core values such as Duty, Honour, and Courage. Despite the structure of the Agnipath scheme, which sees 75% of Agniveers leave after four years without pension benefits, this initiative aims to modernize the armed forces and enhance operational capabilities, reflecting a strategic shift toward a more agile military framework.

Agniveer Scheme Thrives, Attracting Top Talent: Army Chief [SHARE](#)

09-Mar-25

General Dwivedi has praised the Agniveer scheme, highlighting that it has successfully attracted highly motivated and capable recruits who are excelling in their roles. Launched in June 2022, the initiative allows young individuals to serve in the armed forces for four years, with the potential for 25% to be retained permanently. Future adjustments may include raising the recruitment age to 23 and increasing retention rates to 50% by December 2026. While the scheme has received criticism regarding its national security implications and personnel retention, the positive outcomes thus far suggest it is a step towards revitalizing the Indian Army with new talent and innovation.

CoHNA, expressed their commitment to combating hate and ensuring peace. This incident highlights the need for increased security at places of worship and awareness of community safety amidst rising tensions related to international issues.

Army Aims for Glory at Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg [SHARE](#)

09-Mar-25

The second leg of the Khelo India Winter Games 2025 commenced in Gulmarg, where the Indian Army aims to reclaim the overall title after finishing second in the first leg. On the opening day, the Army showcased a strong performance, securing seven medals, including two golds, particularly dominating the Nordic skiing events. The competition features athletes from various states and central forces, with a focus on promoting winter sports in Jammu and Kashmir. Local athletes, such as snowboarding champion Vakar Ahmad Lone, expressed pride in representing their region, emphasizing the games' role in spotlighting local talent and fostering resilience. The event not only promotes sports but also enhances camaraderie among different forces, reinforcing the importance of team spirit and competition in a scenic backdrop.

J&K: Bodies of 3 missing men found, raising security concerns [SHARE](#)

09-Mar-25

The bodies of three missing individuals from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district were found near a waterfall, leading to suspicions of terrorist involvement according to Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh. The victims, who disappeared while attending a wedding, have raised concerns about security in the region, which has a history of terror-related incidents. Singh highlighted a potential conspiracy to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in Kathua and noted that the Union Home Secretary would assess the situation. Local politicians have called for a thorough investigation to address public fears regarding safety and the law and order situation. This incident underscores ongoing tensions in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the need for robust security measures to protect civilians.

Indian Coast Guard, DRI Seize Rs 33 Crore in Drug Bust Operation [SHARE](#)

09-Mar-25

The Indian Coast Guard, in collaboration with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), seized Rs 33 crore worth of Hashish oil from a Maldives-bound

Miscellaneous

India Denounces Vandalism at California Hindu Temple, Seeks Justice [SHARE](#)

09-Mar-25

India has condemned the recent vandalism at a Hindu temple in California, calling it "despicable" and urging local authorities to take strict action against the perpetrators. The vandalism, which included anti-India messages, occurred at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Chino Hills, raising concerns about rising anti-Hindu sentiment, particularly with the upcoming Khalistan referendum in Los Angeles. The Hindu community, alongside organizations like BAPS and

vessel during a significant anti-narcotics operation. Acting on intelligence, the Coast Guard intercepted the vessel in Indian waters, apprehending the crew and escorting the vessel to Tuticorin for further investigation. This operation highlights the ICG's unwavering commitment to maritime security and its proactive measures against transnational crime, reinforcing India's stance in safeguarding its waters and combating drug trafficking effectively. The successful collaboration between agencies emphasizes the importance of intelligence sharing in enhancing national security.

Bangladesh Awaits India's Response on Hasina's Extradition Request



09-Mar-25

Bangladesh's interim Chief Adviser, Muhammad Yunus, revealed that Dhaka has sent formal extradition requests for former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India but has yet to receive a response. Hasina, accused of crimes against humanity and currently residing in India, fled following protests that led to her ousting. Yunus emphasized the legal proceedings against Hasina and others involved in alleged human rights violations, claiming that the scope of the investigation is extensive. As the situation unfolds, India remains diplomatically non-committal, which may be part of a broader strategy to avoid interference in Bangladesh's internal matters while maintaining regional stability.

Armed Man Shot by Secret Service After Confrontation Near White House



09-Mar-25

An armed individual was shot at by the US Secret Service following a confrontation near the White House after being flagged by local police for potential suicidal behavior. Upon locating the man, he brandished a firearm, prompting Secret Service personnel to fire in response. The individual was hospitalized, and while his condition is unknown, no injuries were reported among the agents involved. This incident underscores the challenges law enforcement faces in managing mental health crises and protecting public safety in sensitive areas, reflecting the ongoing need for vigilance in addressing potential threats near the nation's capital.

EAM Jaishankar: New Manchester Consulate to Boost India-UK Ties



09-Mar-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurated India's new Consulate General in Manchester,

highlighting the growing significance of the Indian diaspora and trade, which amounts to approximately £700 million. He emphasized the importance of the upcoming India-UK Free Trade Agreement, viewing it as a transformative step in bilateral relations. Jaishankar also acknowledged the strides made in women's issues, celebrating the timing of the inauguration on International Women's Day. He expressed confidence that this consulate will enhance cultural, trade, and personal connections, reflecting a matured partnership between India and the UK poised for deeper collaboration in the future.

Private Sector Urges Relocation of Aero India from Bengaluru



09-Mar-25

Private sector companies are urging the Indian Air Force and Ministry of Defence to relocate Aero India from Bengaluru due to persistent space constraints and traffic congestion during the event. With an increasing number of exhibitors, including global defense firms, the current venue at Yelahanka Air Force Station struggles to accommodate large displays, impacting business opportunities. Companies suggest alternative locations like Lucknow and Coimbatore, which offer better facilities and less urban disruption. This push highlights the growing influence of the private sector in India's defense industry, which is crucial for achieving the government's ambitious defense production goals. The Ministry may need to consider these demands to maintain Aero India's reputation on a global scale.

Skyroot Aerospace Prepares for Vikram-1 Rocket's Historic Launch



09-Mar-25

Skyroot Aerospace, a trailblazer in India's private space sector, is set to launch its Vikram-1 rocket for the first time, aiming to enhance the small satellite launch industry. With the capability to deploy 480 kg payloads into a 500 km orbit, Vikram-1 features a modular design that allows for swift assembly within 24 hours, significantly lowering launch costs and complexities. This initiative not only represents a technological milestone but also underscores the growing role of private enterprises in India's space endeavors, meeting the increasing demand for efficient and cost-effective access to space for applications like communication and scientific research. The launch is a testament to India's advancing capabilities in the global aerospace landscape.

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