



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

India Leads Asia's Defence Industrial Ecosystem, Says Minister

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11-Jan-25

Ahead of Aero India 2025, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted India's position as a leader in Asia's defence industrial ecosystem, emphasizing reforms to promote domestic manufacturing and attract foreign partnerships. He underscored the significance of aerospace as a core sector within the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, noting the event's potential to showcase India's advancements in defence technology and foster international collaborations. Singh invited over 100 nations to collaborate, addressing the complexities of global security and the need for innovative solutions. He also recognized the establishment of the C-295 transport aircraft facility as a major milestone, reinforcing India's commitment to self-reliance and technological advancement. This strategic focus aims to enhance India's military capabilities while promoting sustainable growth through partnerships in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

Safran Bids for Lead Role in India's 6th Gen AMCA Engine Project

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India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program is progressing with the anticipation of a contract for a 6th generation jet engine, where French firm Safran leads the race, contending against Rolls-Royce and General Electric. The project, estimated at \$5 billion, emphasizes 100% Transfer of Technology (ToT) and local production, aligning with India's "Make in India" initiative. However, skepticism exists due to past challenges with French technology transfers, particularly regarding critical engine components, raising concerns about reliance on foreign technology. Despite these historical hesitations, the collaboration could significantly enhance India's defense capabilities

and position in the global aerospace industry, underscoring the need for a balanced approach that safeguards India's long-term self-reliance goals while leveraging international expertise. Overall, careful navigation of this partnership is essential to ensure technological advancements without compromising national interests.

US Approves India's Stryker Vehicle Production, Boosting Defense Self-Reliance

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The Biden administration has approved technology proposals enabling India to locally produce Stryker armored vehicles, marking a significant milestone in Indo-US defense ties and enhancing India's domestic defense industry. This collaboration includes manufacturing sonobuoys for submarine tracking and aims to modernize the Indian Army's fleets, replacing aging BMP-IIIs with versatile Strykers, which boast advanced protection and operational capabilities. The agreement reflects India's commitment to strategic autonomy and self-reliance in defense technology, positioning it as a global leader in advanced military production and strengthening its military readiness, particularly along the China border. This development paves the way for future exports and underscores India's growing defense capabilities.

Bangladesh Eyes 26 Turkish Light Tanks Amid Regional Tensions

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Bangladesh is in negotiations to acquire 26 Tulpar light tanks from Turkey, with deliveries expected to start in 2025. The Tulpar, designed for versatility across various military roles, including as an infantry fighting vehicle and reconnaissance platform, raises concerns for India due to increased military cooperation between Bangladesh and Turkey amidst escalating regional tensions. Analysts view this acquisition as a strategic move by Bangladesh to enhance its defense capabilities, potentially challenging India's influence. This development underscores the shifting security

dynamics in South Asia, as Bangladesh seeks to diversify its military partnerships, which could alter the balance of power in the region.

Myanmar Upgrades Air Force with Russian Su-30s, Ditches JF-17s



11-Jan-25

Myanmar's military junta has acquired Russian Su-30SMEs, valued at around \$400 million, to replace its problematic JF-17 Thunder jets, which faced significant technical issues including structural cracks and maintenance challenges. The Su-30SMEs, with superior speed and range, mark a strategic shift in Myanmar's air capabilities amidst ongoing civil unrest and insurgency operations, highlighting a setback for China and Pakistan. The dissatisfaction with JF-17s has strained Myanmar's relations with Pakistan, emphasizing the difficulties in sustaining defense partnerships when operational failures occur. This development reflects the changing dynamics of military alliances in the region and showcases the importance of reliable defense procurement for national security.

RRP S4E Innovations Wins Defense Contract for Digital Scopes



11-Jan-25

RRP S4E Innovations has secured a defense contract for 101 units of its advanced Digital Spotter Scopes, Drishti SS-D60, enhancing surveillance and targeting capabilities for the Indian Army. This order, awarded via the Government e-Marketplace, emphasizes the growing demand for indigenous defense technology and aims for 95% local production by 2026, thereby enhancing national security and reducing import dependency. The scopes feature AI capabilities, high precision engineering, and a lightweight design, reflecting a commitment to delivering high-quality products that meet military standards. This achievement underscores the company's role in fostering innovation within India's defense technology landscape.

Pixxel Partners with SIIS to Enhance Hyperspectral Data in Korea



11-Jan-25

Pixxel, a US-India-based space technology company, has signed a memorandum of understanding with South Korean SIIS Co., Ltd. to supply hyperspectral satellite data, enhancing earth observation capabilities in Korea. The partnership aims to address complex challenges across various sectors, including agriculture and defense, by integrating ultra-high-resolution optical

imagery with detailed hyperspectral data. Pixxel's upcoming Fireflies constellation, launching in early 2025, will significantly advance global access to high-fidelity hyperspectral data, positioning both companies competitively in the geospatial market. This collaboration reflects India's growing influence in space technology and its commitment to international partnerships in advancing earth observation solutions.

Can South Korea's Jet Engine Strategy Inspire India's AMCA Program?



11-Jan-25

South Korea's initiative to develop indigenous jet engines for its KF-21 fighter jet underscores its commitment to technological self-reliance, supported by a \$2.2 billion investment and tax incentives. India's AMCA program, aimed at producing a fifth-generation stealth fighter, faces engine development challenges, necessitating collaboration with foreign OEMs while exploring indigenous capabilities. To emulate South Korea, India could establish a national mission for engine development, enhance technology transfer negotiations, and streamline bureaucratic processes, fostering innovation and sustainability within its defense sector. Such strategic moves could ensure that India achieves self-sufficiency and bolsters its defense capabilities in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

IAF Partners with Local Industry for Mirage 2000 Engine Spares



11-Jan-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is engaging the local private sector to enhance the sustainability of its Mirage 2000 fleet by procuring spares for the SNECMA M53 engine, crucial for operational capability until 2035. This initiative aligns with India's defense indigenization strategy, promoting domestic manufacturing and reducing dependency on foreign suppliers. Collaborations with companies skilled in precision engineering, exemplified by the joint venture Max Aero Engines Private Limited, underscore the IAF's commitment to establishing a robust defense manufacturing ecosystem. Such efforts not only ensure maintenance but also bolster India's position in the global defense sector, emphasizing the importance of self-reliance in national security.

DRDO Advances Astra MkIII BVRAAM with Two Enhanced Variants



11-Jan-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is advancing the Astra MkIII

Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), with successful ground trials completed and air trials imminent using the Su-30MKI. This next-generation missile features a ramjet engine for enhanced speed and longer engagement ranges, with two variants being developed: a Standard Ramjet Variant with AESA seeker technology for precise targeting over 300 km, and a Booster-Enhanced Ramjet Variant for even greater distances. This development underscores India's commitment to enhancing its air combat capabilities, necessitating advanced radar and avionics in its fighter fleet to optimize the missile's effectiveness. Overall, the Astra MkIII signifies a strategic leap in India's aerial defense capabilities.

India's DBMRH AEW Variant to Boost Naval Radar Capabilities

11-Jan-25

India's Deck-Based Multi-Role Helicopter (DBMRH) will significantly enhance naval aviation capabilities, featuring an advanced Airborne Early Warning (AEW) variant equipped with a sophisticated radar system. This radar will improve situational awareness and operational efficiency, enabling the detection of airborne and surface threats while supporting maritime domain awareness. Key specifications include two-axis rotation, optimized naval mounting, and high precision in tracking. With its advanced capabilities, the DBMRH's AEW variant is poised to serve as a vital force multiplier for the Indian Navy, strengthening fleet protection and enhancing network-centric warfare capabilities, thereby reinforcing India's maritime security posture in a complex geopolitical landscape.

HAL's HLFT-42 Faces Tough Export Competition from T-7 and Hurjet

11-Jan-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) proposed HLFT-42 aircraft, envisioned as a supersonic trainer and light fighter, faces significant export challenges due to competition from Boeing's T-7 Red Hawk and Turkey's Hurjet, both offering advanced, cost-effective alternatives. The T-7's cutting-edge technology and low operational costs, backed by Boeing's global presence, position it as a formidable competitor, while the Hurjet's superior performance and competitive pricing appeal to markets seeking non-Western options. Although the HLFT-42 holds potential, it may struggle to secure a foothold in the highly competitive international defense market due to these emerging alternatives, emphasizing the importance for HAL to enhance its marketing strategies and international collaborations.

Indian Navy Seeks Advanced 155mm Howitzers for Coastal Defense

11-Jan-25

The Indian Navy is considering the procurement of advanced 155mm Howitzer guns to enhance its coastal defense capabilities, particularly against near-shore threats. This transition from the older 105mm Light Field Guns reflects the need for greater range and firepower in modern naval warfare, with the 155mm systems potentially offering ranges over 40 kilometers. The integration of precision-guided munitions would further improve operational effectiveness. Utilizing existing domestic manufacturing and leveraging the Indian Army's experience with similar systems could foster logistical and training synergies between the services, thereby strengthening India's coastal security in an increasingly complex maritime environment.

Tata Elxsi and CSIR-NAL Collaborate to Boost Air Mobility Tech

11-Jan-25

Tata Elxsi has partnered with CSIR-NAL to enhance air mobility technologies, focusing on UAVs, Urban Air Mobility, and eVTOL aircraft through a Strategic Partnership for Advanced Air Mobility. This collaboration aims to leverage CSIR-NAL's aerospace expertise alongside Tata Elxsi's design and technology capabilities, thereby accelerating the development of sustainable transport solutions in line with India's Make in India initiative. The partnership highlights India's potential as a hub for innovative air mobility solutions, addressing global demand for eco-friendly transportation while fostering indigenization in the aerospace sector, ultimately reinforcing the country's strategic position in advanced technologies.

IAF Outsources First Domestic Overhaul of 50 Mi-17 V5 Engines

11-Jan-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has initiated a significant move towards self-reliance by outsourcing the overhaul of 50 Mi-17 V5 helicopter engines to domestic private firms, marking the first instance of such a complete overhaul being handled outside of military facilities. This initiative, managed by the No. 3 Base Repair Depot in Chandigarh, aims to enhance maintenance capabilities for the IAF's fleet of over 220 Mi-17 helicopters, crucial for various operational roles. By mandating that overhauls occur within India, the IAF reinforces its commitment to bolstering indigenous aerospace capabilities and fostering public-private partnerships within the defense sector. This step not

only addresses immediate maintenance needs but also strengthens the domestic defense industry.

HAL to Launch Fourth Tejas LCA Line in Nashik Amid Engine Delays SHARE

11-Jan-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is set to establish a fourth assembly line for the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) at its Nashik plant to boost production amidst engine delivery delays from General Electric (GE), which are expected to commence in March 2025. Currently, the Indian Air Force (IAF) operates 31 of the sanctioned 42 squadrons, with significant reliance on the Tejas Mk-1 aircraft to maintain its strength. The Defence Ministry's 2021 deal for 83 Tejas aircraft is pivotal for enhancing the IAF's capabilities. As HAL ramps up production, it aims to ensure India's continued air superiority in the region, addressing both current deficiencies and future requirements.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Pakistan Confirms Participation in IMD's 150th Anniversary Event SHARE

11-Jan-25

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) is celebrating its 150th anniversary and has invited officials from countries once part of undivided India, including Pakistan and Bangladesh, to participate in the festivities. Pakistan has confirmed its attendance, while Bangladesh's response is pending. The celebrations will feature various events, including a special commemorative coin and the IMD's first-ever tableau at the Republic Day parade, showcasing its evolution from a basic weather service to a technological innovator in meteorology. This initiative reflects India's commitment to fostering regional cooperation and recognizing shared histories, even amidst complex geopolitical relations.

US Envoy Garcetti: IMEC Must Avoid Subsidized Debt Traps SHARE

11-Jan-25

Outgoing US Envoy Eric Garcetti emphasized the importance of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) avoiding subsidized debt traps, highlighting the project's goal of enhancing trade routes and infrastructure among the US, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and European nations. Garcetti advocates for sustainable investment models that promote genuine

economic growth while maintaining financial stability, aligning with global discussions on transparency in large-scale projects. The IMEC presents significant economic opportunities, including job creation and improved trade efficiency, but it must be carefully managed to mitigate financial risks, ensuring that it achieves its ambitious objectives without jeopardizing participant nations' economic health.

India's Engagement with Taliban Raises Concerns for Pakistan SHARE

11-Jan-25

India's engagement with the Taliban, marked by humanitarian aid and discussions on trade, underscores its strategic interests in Afghanistan amid Pakistan's declining influence in the region. Following Pakistan's airstrikes that resulted in civilian casualties, India condemned these actions and reinforced its support for the Taliban's economic ties, including utilizing Iran's Chabahar Port to bypass Pakistan. This shift in dynamics poses a threat to Pakistan, which fears increased terrorism linked to the Taliban's support for the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and rising instability within its borders. Overall, India's approach aims to enhance its regional influence while countering Pakistan's dominance.

Kashmiri Leader Critiques Pakistan's PoJK Exploitation, Calls for Action SHARE

11-Jan-25

Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, chairman of the United Kashmir Peoples National Party, criticized Pakistan's exploitation of Pakistan-occupied Jammu-Kashmir (PoJK) and called for international intervention, highlighting the region's dire poverty and political manipulation by local leaders. He noted the heavy human cost of the Kashmir conflict, questioning Pakistan's capacity for military adventures amid its economic and political instability. Kashmiri emphasized the need for international attention to the suffering of Kashmiris, asserting that both India and Pakistan must be recognized in their quest for self-determination. His remarks reflect the complex geopolitical dynamics in the region and the urgent need for a resolution that considers the aspirations of the people.

Pakistani Social Media Misses Economic Realities Amid Kashmir Tensions SHARE

11-Jan-25

The Indian Air Force Chief highlighted concerns regarding delays in the Tejas aircraft delivery amid escalating regional tensions, especially with China

advancing its aerial capabilities. Pakistani social media, allegedly influenced by ISI, has provocatively suggested that India's procurement issues present a window for conflict over Kashmir. However, this ignores Pakistan's dire economic situation, making military engagement unlikely, and misinterprets modern warfare, where air superiority alone is insufficient—as seen in Ukraine. India's comprehensive air defense strategies, bolstered by advanced systems like the S-400 and alliances, present formidable deterrents against any Pakistani aggression, underscoring that India's defense capabilities extend well beyond the Tejas program.

Myanmar Airstrike Claims 40+ Lives, Urges Global Response

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11-Jan-25

A recent airstrike by Myanmar's military junta in Rakhine state resulted in over 40 civilian casualties, as reported by the UN and the National Unity Government. The strike targeted Kyauk Ni Maw village, destroying around 500 homes amid ongoing civil unrest since the 2021 coup. Activists have called for international sanctions on entities supplying aviation fuel to the junta, arguing that cutting off resources is crucial to ending such attacks. The situation highlights the urgent need for global attention and action to uphold humanitarian law and protect vulnerable populations in conflict zones, emphasizing the necessity for collaborative international efforts against oppressive regimes.

Russia and Ukraine Exchange Strikes Amid Rising Tensions

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The recent escalation between Russia and Ukraine has seen Russian drones conducting precision strikes on Ukrainian military targets, while Ukraine retaliated by hitting a drone hangar in Rostov Oblast, Russia. Russia reported 28 precision strikes targeting Ukrainian infrastructure and intercepted multiple missiles and drones, asserting military gains in several settlements. Conversely, Ukraine's strikes in the Rostov and Leningrad regions reportedly caused significant damage to industrial facilities. This ongoing conflict underscores the intensity of military operations and the capabilities of both countries, reflecting a strategic stalemate with each side responding to the other's advances.

Indo-Nepal Surya Kiran Exercise Enhances Urban Warfare Skills

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11-Jan-25

The 18th edition of the Indo-Nepal Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran, taking place in Nepal, reinforces the strong partnership between the Indian and Nepalese armies. This exercise, focused on counterterrorism and operations in challenging terrains, includes rigorous training in jungle survival, urban warfare, and heliborne operations, enhancing mutual preparedness and interoperability. Approximately 700 defense personnel are participating, emphasizing shared military excellence and camaraderie. Major General Prem Bahadur Gurung highlighted the importance of learning from each other's experiences, thereby strengthening the existing brotherhood between the two nations, which is vital for regional

Military Operations

BSF Thwarts Cattle Smuggling Attack at India-Bangladesh Border

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11-Jan-25

BSF jawans faced an attack from cattle smugglers at the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal but successfully thwarted the attempt, recovering 10 bulls. The smugglers, armed with sharp spears, crossed into India despite warnings from the BSF, who had to resort to firing a blank round. Past incidents of similar assaults have been reported, with the BSF highlighting a lack of action from Bangladeshi authorities despite ongoing discussions. This situation underscores the challenges faced by Indian forces in maintaining border security while demonstrating their commitment and resilience amidst escalating threats from organized smuggling operations.

DRDO's HIMKAVACH Clothing System Passes Trials for Extreme Conditions

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11-Jan-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed user trials for its multi-layer clothing system, HIMKAVACH, which operates effectively in extreme temperatures from +20C to -60C. This innovative clothing system is designed to enhance the operational capabilities of military personnel in harsh weather conditions, featuring a flexible multi-layer design that ensures comfort and protection. The successful trials underscore DRDO's commitment to advancing military technology and improving soldier safety during operations. HIMKAVACH represents a crucial step forward in equipping the armed forces with reliable gear tailored for diverse environments, thereby strengthening India's defense capabilities.

stability and cooperation in countering common security threats.

IAF Official: China's 6th-Gen Jet Lacks True Capability, Focus on AMCA

🔒 SHARE

11-Jan-25

Recent concerns regarding China's development of a 6th-generation fighter jet are deemed premature by a senior IAF official, as it is powered by a 4th-generation WS-10C engine, indicating a significant technological gap. This limitation could hinder the aircraft's performance capabilities essential for true 6th-gen standards, such as supercruise and hypersonic speeds. To counter potential threats, India must accelerate its own 6th-gen fighter program, the AMCA, and prioritize collaborations with global aerospace leaders for advanced technologies. This proactive approach is vital for achieving aerial superiority by 2035 and ensuring that India remains competitive in the evolving defense landscape.

Mudh Airfield in Ladakh Nears Completion, Set for 2025 Launch

🔒 SHARE

11-Jan-25

India's highest airfield at Mudh in eastern Ladakh is nearing completion, with 90% of the work finished and the runway ready for emergency landings ahead of its expected operational launch in August 2025. Strategically located just 35 kilometers from the Line of Actual Control with China, the airfield will significantly enhance India's military logistics and operational capabilities in a challenging high-altitude environment. Sanctioned in March 2023 at a cost of Rs 219.39 crore, this development, alongside the AFS Deesa airfield, underscores India's commitment to bolstering defense preparedness in critical border regions, ensuring quicker troop deployment and improved operational efficiency amid heightened geopolitical tensions.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Three Naxalites killed in Sukma; Rs 18 lakh bounty on their heads.

🔒 SHARE

11-Jan-25

In Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, security forces have made significant strides against Naxalites, killing three senior members with a cumulative bounty of Rs 18 lakh during an encounter, and recovering a cache of weapons and explosives. Additionally, nine Naxalites, including two women carrying a total bounty of Rs 43

lakh, surrendered, citing disillusionment with Maoist ideologies and the state's developmental initiatives. The proactive approach of security forces, including the establishment of police camps in remote areas, has increased pressure on insurgents, resulting in a notable rise in surrenders, with 792 Naxalites giving up in the Bastar region last year. This dual strategy of eliminating key insurgents while encouraging surrenders reflects a comprehensive effort to restore peace and security in the region, showcasing the effectiveness of both military action and developmental policies.

BSF Seizes Pistol and Heroin from Pakistani Drones in Amritsar

🔒 SHARE

11-Jan-25

The Border Security Force (BSF) successfully intercepted Pakistani drones in Punjab, recovering a pistol and 520 grams of heroin, underscoring its vigilance against cross-border smuggling. In 2024, the BSF Punjab Frontier achieved notable operational success, recovering 294 drones and seizing approximately 283 kg of heroin, while also neutralizing four Pakistani intruders and apprehending numerous smugglers. These operations reflect the BSF's commitment to national security and effective border management, enhanced by community outreach initiatives. With a 553-km border with Pakistan, the BSF continues to fortify its defenses against drug trafficking and security threats, highlighting the importance of its proactive measures in safeguarding the nation.

India and USA Strengthen Alliance Against Terrorism, Says Ambassador

🔒 SHARE

11-Jan-25

US Ambassador Eric Garcetti emphasized the united front of India and the USA against terrorism, highlighting enhanced intelligence sharing and defense cooperation. He noted the growth of US defense exports to India, which reached over \$25 billion since 2008, and underscored the importance of economic pathways and community upliftment to combat terrorism. Garcetti lauded India's emerging role as a maintenance hub for US Navy assets and pointed out the significance of joint military exercises. The ambassador concluded by advocating for a multifaceted approach that promotes peace beyond mere defense, underscoring the shared democratic values of both nations while commemorating the resilience shown during the 26/11 attacks.

Karnataka claims Maoist-free status after six surrender, says Parameshwara.



11-Jan-25

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara announced that the state is believed to be free of Maoist presence following the recent surrender of six individuals, while one, Ravindra, remains elusive. The government faces criticism from the BJP for its handling of Maoist rehabilitation, with assurances that efforts to recover abandoned weapons will continue. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's gesture of welcoming surrendered Maoists into the mainstream emphasizes a commitment to reintegration, despite opposition concerns over the treatment of former insurgents. The situation reflects ongoing challenges in addressing left-wing extremism while balancing public safety and rehabilitation initiatives in Karnataka.

Miscellaneous

Indian Army to Host Engaging 'Know Your Army Mela' in Bengaluru



11-Jan-25

The Indian Army hosted a "Know Your Army Mela" in Bengaluru on January 11, 2025, at the Manekshaw Parade Ground, aimed at fostering connections between the military and the public. The event featured a variety of activities, including daredevil motorcycle shows, para-motor gliding, drone demonstrations, and interactive experiences like driving Army vehicles through simulators. Informative stalls were setup providing insights into Army operations, recruitment opportunities, and veterans' assistance, thereby educating the public about military life. Major General V T Mathew highlighted the Mela as a tribute to soldiers and a significant outreach effort post-COVID-19, intended to inspire future generations to consider careers in the armed forces while showcasing the Indian Army's dynamic capabilities and reinforcing its bond with civilians.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Airtel managers arrested for aiding overseas cyber fraudsters



11-Jan-25

Two employees of Airtel, Neeraj Walia and Hemant Sharma, were arrested in Gurugram for allegedly providing virtual phone numbers to Indonesian and Chinese cyber fraudsters, facilitating scams involving fake part-time job offers and fraudulent investments. Victims reported losing money after being lured into false tasks with promises of high returns. The investigation, led by the Gurugram Police's Cyber Crime Unit and Indian Cyber Coordination Centre (I4C), revealed that the accused violated TRAI regulations by issuing these numbers to a non-existent company, Ekamdarsh Services Pvt Ltd. The police have seized mobile phones from the suspects and are conducting further inquiries into the legitimacy of the operations they supported. This incident highlights the significant risks posed by cyber fraud and the need for stringent regulatory compliance within the telecommunications sector to prevent such abuses.

Bangladesh Clarifies Sheikh Hasina's Extradition Not Linked to Visa



11-Jan-25

Bangladesh's interim government has clarified that its request for the extradition of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India amid protests, is unrelated to her reported visa extension in India. Sheikh Hasina faces charges of crimes against humanity and has had her passport revoked by Dhaka. Although Bangladesh has sought her repatriation for trial, India has acknowledged receipt of the request but has not yet responded. This situation underscores the complexities in bilateral relations, with India's diplomatic stance reflecting a careful approach amid internal strife in Bangladesh and the implications of extradition on regional geopolitics.

Uttar Pradesh Defence Conclave Boosts Start-Ups and MSMEs



11-Jan-25

The Defence Conclave in Uttar Pradesh focused on strengthening the role of local start-ups and MSMEs in India's defence procurement ecosystem, aiming to enhance regional economic capabilities through increased participation in defence manufacturing. The event underscored government initiatives like the Uttar Pradesh Start-Up Policy 2020, which fosters a

supportive entrepreneurial environment through incentives and investments exceeding INR 247 crore. The conclave serves as a strategic platform to address challenges and explore future initiatives for empowering local enterprises in the national defence landscape, ultimately driving innovation and economic growth in the sector. Such efforts are vital for bolstering India's self-reliance and sustainable defence manufacturing capabilities.

India Introduces New Visa Categories to Attract Global Students

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11-Jan-25

The Indian government has launched two new visa categories aimed at attracting international students to pursue full-time undergraduate, postgraduate, or doctoral programs at recognized institutions. This initiative simplifies the application process through the Study in India (SII) portal, offering an e-student visa valid for up to five years, along with provisions for dependents. This move is designed to enhance India's position as a global education hub, connecting students to over 600 partner institutions and a wide array of courses. By reducing bureaucratic hurdles, India aims to increase its appeal to international students, thereby fostering greater cultural exchange and academic collaboration.

ISRO's SpaDeX Mission Set for Docking in Days, 1.5 km Apart

 SHARE

11-Jan-25

India's SpaDeX mission, aimed at demonstrating in-space docking technology, is progressing as ISRO Chairman Dr. S. Somanath announces the satellites are 1.5 km apart and expected to reach 500 meters soon. After two previous postponements due to technical issues, ISRO is optimistic about achieving successful docking, which is vital for future missions like the Indian space station and lunar exploration. Both satellites, launched on December 30, 2024, are reported to be in good health, and the mission emphasizes India's commitment to advancing its space capabilities while fostering a cost-effective approach to complex missions. Successful docking will significantly enhance India's strategic position in global space exploration.

Singapore President's Visit to Boost India-Singapore Cooperation

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11-Jan-25

Singapore President Shanmugaratnam is set to visit India to enhance cooperation in non-traditional sectors like green energy and skill development, particularly

through semiconductor training in Odisha. His meetings with Indian leaders, including President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aim to solidify ties following the upgrade to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in September 2024. The visit underscores Singapore's role as India's largest trading partner in ASEAN and highlights joint efforts in urban planning and business partnerships, particularly at the upcoming Utkarsh Odisha Make in Odisha Conclave 2025, reflecting both nations' strategic interests in economic and technological collaboration.

Indian-Origin MP Chandra Arya Announces Bid for Canada PM

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11-Jan-25

Chandra Arya, an Indian-origin Member of Parliament in Canada, has announced his candidacy for the position of Prime Minister, aiming to lead a more efficient government and address significant economic challenges facing the nation. He emphasizes the need for bold decisions to revitalize the economy, improve opportunities for the younger generation, and support the struggling middle class. Arya's campaign is timely, following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's announcement of his resignation, marking a pivotal moment for the Liberal Party and offering Arya an opportunity to reshape Canada's future. His focus on economic resilience and family values positions him as a potential agent of change in Canadian politics.

India's Aviation Sector Champions Indigenous Short-Haul Aircraft

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11-Jan-25

India's Ministry of Aviation is spearheading the development of an indigenous regional aircraft for short-haul flights, aiming to enhance regional connectivity under the UDAN program. This initiative has garnered strong support from private airline companies, emphasizing a made-in-India solution tailored to local needs. The Ministry plans to offer subsidies to facilitate the acquisition of this aircraft over foreign options. Airline representatives are actively contributing feedback on essential features, with the next steps focusing on consolidating their recommendations into a design brief, setting the stage for prototype development. This move not only bolsters India's self-reliance in aviation but also supports the broader goal of increasing regional air travel access.

Karnataka bans drones, balloons for Aero India 2025 security. SHARE

11-Jan-25

The Karnataka government has imposed a ban on flying all sub-conventional aerial platforms, including drones and balloons, during Aero India 2025 from February 10 to 14 to maintain law and order amid security concerns. This biennial aerospace exhibition at Yelahanka will highlight India's growing capabilities in military aircraft manufacturing and advanced avionics. The Commissioner of Police issued the order, emphasizing that such aerial devices could potentially be used for harmful acts. This precautionary measure reflects the government's commitment to ensuring a secure environment for the event, thereby reinforcing India's position as a responsible host in the global defense arena.

ISRO's 2025 Missions: GSLV Launches, LVM3 Flight, and NISAR Collaboration SHARE

11-Jan-25

ISRO is preparing for significant missions in 2025, including the uncrewed Gaganyaan orbital test, two GSLV launches, and a commercial LVM3 flight, highlighting India's growing capabilities in space exploration. The GSLV-F15 mission will enhance the

NavIC constellation, while the NISAR satellite, co-developed with NASA, aims to improve agricultural and climate monitoring through advanced radar technology. The success of these initiatives not only showcases India's technological prowess but also reinforces its position as a leading space-faring nation, emphasizing the importance of public-private collaboration in advancing India's space ambitions as it seeks to expand its global footprint.

Unlock Your Potential: Youth's Role in India's Development Journey SHARE

11-Jan-25

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh emphasized the pivotal role of youth in India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 during a convocation at IIMT University, Meerut. He highlighted the importance of optimism, skills, and determination in shaping India's future and urged students to leverage the opportunities created by the government. Singh noted India's advancements in defense manufacturing and its status as a leading startup hub under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, asserting that the country's growing global stature empowers its youth to innovate and transform. He also paid tribute to Swami Vivekananda, encouraging the youth to draw inspiration from his teachings.

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