



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

April 12, 2025 | Day 102

## Defense Business and Industry

### IAF Confirms Focus on AMCA, Dismisses Global Combat Air Program



12-Apr-25

Indian Air Force (IAF) officials have denied reports of India's interest in joining the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), emphasizing their commitment to the indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project, a 5.5-generation stealth fighter slated for induction by 2035. A high-level committee is working to expedite AMCA production, aiming to overcome financial and logistical hurdles, with recommendations expected by April 2025. The committee explores public-private partnerships, increased production orders, and building a robust domestic supply chain while remaining open to selective international collaboration. This strategic focus on self-reliance in defense manufacturing underscores India's ambition to enhance its aerial capabilities amidst advancing global competition from nations like China and Russia.

### Maharashtra, ROSATOM partner on thorium-based Small Modular Reactor



12-Apr-25

Maharashtra has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Russia's ROSATOM to develop a thorium-based Small Modular Reactor (SMR), marking a significant venture into nuclear energy by a state government. The initiative aims to commercialize thorium reactors while adhering to safety standards set by India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. A joint working group will coordinate research, and all projects will comply with national guidelines. This development is crucial as India seeks to harness its abundant thorium reserves and advance its nuclear capabilities, particularly with the ongoing focus on safety and waste

reduction through the use of advanced reactor technology like the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor.

### Defence Minister hails success of indigenous Gaurav LRGB trials



12-Apr-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the DRDO and IAF for the successful trials of the indigenous Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) Gaurav from the Su-30 MKI aircraft, showcasing its range of nearly 100 km with high accuracy. The development, which involved contributions from MSMEs, enhances the operational capabilities of the Indian armed forces and is a significant step towards self-reliance in defense technology. Additionally, the DRDO and Indian Army conducted successful tests of the Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM), demonstrating effective interception of high-speed aerial targets. These advancements underscore India's commitment to bolstering its defense capabilities through indigenous innovations.

### GRSE Commences Construction of Third Next-Gen Patrol Vessel for Navy



12-Apr-25

The keel for the third Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) for the Indian Navy was laid at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata on April 11, 2025. This milestone is part of a broader contract for eleven NGOPVs aimed at enhancing India's coastal defense and maritime capabilities, supporting operations such as surveillance and anti-piracy. The vessels, designed with an approximate tonnage of 3000T, align with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and the Make in India campaign, reflecting the nation's commitment to indigenous defense manufacturing. This project significantly bolsters India's naval strength and operational readiness in securing its maritime interests.

## Airbus aims for \$2 billion annual sourcing from India's aviation boom. SHARE

12-Apr-25

Airbus SE aims to increase its sourcing from India to \$2 billion annually by 2030, reflecting the country's burgeoning aviation market, now the world's third largest. This marks a substantial rise from \$1.4 billion in 2024 and \$500 million in 2019. The company revealed a partnership with Mahindra Aerostructures to manufacture fuselage components for the H130 helicopter, with deliveries commencing in March 2027. Airbus's commitment underscores India's strategic importance in the global aviation sector, as the nation's carriers have a significant demand for new aircraft, with approximately 1,800 in the current order pipeline, showcasing India's growing role in the international aerospace industry.

## US Navy Crew Engages VIT Students on Maritime Security Collaboration SHARE

12-Apr-25

Seventeen crew members from the US Navy's P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft engaged with VIT students in Chennai, emphasizing the growing defense and technology cooperation between the US and India. This interaction coincided with the US delegation's visit to INS Rajali Naval Air Station as part of the Tiger Triumph 2025 exercise, aimed at enhancing interoperability in military operations. Discussions highlighted the P-8A's capabilities and its role in humanitarian assistance and maritime security, reflecting a shared vision for a secure Indo-Pacific. Such collaborations strengthen ties and foster innovation, showcasing India's strategic importance in regional security dynamics.

## China Launches Advanced Anti-Drone Weapon to Tackle Aerial Threats SHARE

12-Apr-25

China has introduced a groundbreaking anti-drone barrage weapon developed by NORINCO, designed to combat drone swarms and various aerial threats. This system employs a 16-barrel gun that utilizes advanced 35mm AHEAD ammunition for effective area coverage, allowing simultaneous targeting of multiple threats. The innovative "plane-to-point" interception method enhances its capability against saturation attacks, marking a significant leap in air defense technology. This development reflects China's strategic focus on countering emerging warfare challenges, especially drone tactics, which may heighten regional security concerns and necessitate an adaptive response from

nations like India to bolster their own defense systems against similar aerial threats.

## Indian Army Transforms Operations with AI Integration SHARE

12-Apr-25

The Indian Army is embracing a transformative shift by integrating AI into its operational framework, enhancing capabilities in surveillance, threat detection, and operational forecasting. AI-driven systems, including drones and predictive analytics, are significantly improving situational awareness and decision-making in challenging terrains. The establishment of the Defence AI Project Agency and collaborations with top Indian institutes promote innovation and capacity building in AI, robotics, and logistics. This modernization not only strengthens India's defense but also positions it as a leader in military innovation, with future prospects including advancements in machine learning and quantum computing, ensuring readiness for evolving geopolitical challenges.

## India's TEDBF: Pioneering Fifth-Generation Naval Fighter Development SHARE

12-Apr-25

India is advancing its indigenous naval capabilities with the development of the Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF), intended to evolve from a 4.5-generation to a fifth-generation stealth fighter, mirroring the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) for the IAF. The TEDBF will be crucial for replacing the MiG-29Ks and enhancing the Indian Navy's power projection against regional adversaries. With features like an internal weapons bay and advanced stealth technologies, the TEDBF aims to position India among a select group of nations with carrier-based stealth fighter capabilities. The ambitious development timeline, alongside potential synergies with the AMCA project, highlights India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technologies.

## MoD Approves 105 mm Mounted Gun to Strengthen Army Readiness SHARE

12-Apr-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence has granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of a 105 mm/37 Calibre Mounted Gun System, aimed at enhancing the Indian Army's operational capabilities, particularly for rapid-response units. This acquisition supports India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative by prioritizing indigenous design and manufacturing, with a minimum requirement of 40% indigenous content. The gun

system's paratroppable capability and compatibility with existing 105 mm ammunition will facilitate deployment in challenging terrains, especially along the India-China and India-Pakistan borders. By investing in this advanced artillery system, India bolsters its defense readiness while striving for self-reliance in military procurements.

## IAF Seeks Partnerships for Real-Time Health Monitoring of Pilots SHARE

12-Apr-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is seeking industrial collaboration to develop a remote real-time in-flight health monitoring system for its aircrew, aimed at enhancing safety and operational effectiveness. By utilizing non-invasive wearable sensor technology, this initiative will monitor pilots' physiological conditions during flight, allowing for timely medical interventions and improved safety protocols. The system's integration with modern communication technologies will enable real-time data transmission to ground medical teams, thus minimizing risks associated with high-performance aircraft operations. This forward-thinking approach not only aligns with global trends in aerospace medicine but also supports India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative by fostering local industrial collaboration.

## DRDO Launches 6.8x43mm Assault Rifle: A Leap for the Indian Army? SHARE

12-Apr-25

The DRDO has unveiled a prototype of its 6.8x43mm assault rifle, a significant advancement for the Indian Army aimed at modernizing its small arms arsenal. This rifle offers a blend of stopping power and a lightweight profile, potentially addressing the Army's need for a versatile firearm amid challenges with older models like the INSAS. With features such as a polymer magazine and telescopic stock, it aligns with the Army's qualitative requirements, promising enhanced performance in diverse combat scenarios. However, the rifle faces hurdles including rigorous testing and the establishment of a new ammunition supply chain, amidst competition from existing platforms like the SIG716 and the stalled AK-203.

## Pak Media Predicts Chinese 6th-Gen Fighters by 2030, Experts Skeptical SHARE

12-Apr-25

Recent reports from Pakistani media suggest that China may provide the Pakistan Air Force with sixth-

generation fighter jets by 2030, following assurances from Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun. While this marks a significant boost in Sino-Pakistani military ties, analysts remain skeptical about the ambitious timeline, given the complexities of developing such advanced aircraft. Additionally, Pakistan is expected to finalize a \$1.5 to \$2 billion deal for 40 Shenyang J-35A fifth-generation fighters, enhancing its air capabilities against India. However, concerns about China's production capacity and Pakistan's economic challenges suggest that realizing these military advancements may be more difficult than projected.

## Indian Navy's Rafale-M Deal Approved, But Deliveries Delayed to 2030 SHARE

12-Apr-25

The Indian Navy has received approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to acquire 26 Rafale-M fighter jets, enhancing its carrier capabilities. However, the first deliveries are not expected before late 2030 due to production limitations at Dassault Aviation, which struggles with existing commitments. The Rafale-M is crucial for bolstering India's maritime defense, especially against increasing Chinese naval activities. While the acquisition is significant, the long wait for these advanced aircraft raises concerns over the operational readiness of the existing MiG-29K fleet, which currently faces maintenance issues. The deal will include Indian modifications and local maintenance support from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

## Rostec's T-90 Revamp: A Game-Changer in Armored Warfare Design SHARE

12-Apr-25

Rostec's Uralvagonzavod has unveiled a radical modification of the T-90 main battle tank, removing the traditional rotating turret to address vulnerabilities revealed in recent conflicts like Ukraine. This design shift emphasizes crew survival and resilience, enhancing protection and firepower while eliminating structural weak points that led to catastrophic failures. By prioritizing stability and integration of advanced protection systems, the new design reflects a transformative approach to armored warfare, aligning with global trends towards more robust vehicles. This evolution may influence India's tank modernization efforts, as it highlights the need for adaptable designs in an era of sophisticated anti-tank capabilities.

## IAF Plans Supersonic Stealth UCAV with 4-Ton Payload by 2040 [SHARE](#)

12-Apr-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is planning to develop a supersonic Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) with a significant weapon capacity of 4 tons and supercruise capabilities by 2040, complementing its current Ghatak UCAV program. The Ghatak, designed for deep strike and reconnaissance, will feature stealth capabilities and an internal weapon load of 1.5 tons. This ambitious future UCAV aims to maintain India's strategic edge against regional adversaries, integrating advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and sophisticated stealth features, while remaining an indigenous endeavor. The project acknowledges the technological challenges involved, with a potential operational date projected around 2035-2040.

### Defense Policy and Budgeting

## Transforming India's Defense: Kalam & Kavach 2.0 Launches 2025 [SHARE](#)

12-Apr-25

Kalam & Kavach 2.0, set for April 15, 2025, in New Delhi, aims to advance India's defense reforms aligned with the Ministry of Defence's vision for 2025. This event will focus on integrating emerging technologies, enhancing self-reliance in defense manufacturing, and streamlining procurement processes. With key speakers including Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, the event seeks to institutionalize policy dialogue and foster public-private collaboration. The launch of General Chauhan's book, "Ready, Relevant and Resurgent," will further emphasize India's commitment to a future-ready military, reflecting the necessary adaptations to modern warfare and the changing geopolitical landscape.

### Geopolitics and Security Alliances

## Iran Seeks Fair Nuclear Deal Amid Tensions with US [SHARE](#)

12-Apr-25

Iran is engaged in "indirect talks" with the United States in Oman concerning its advancing nuclear program, as tensions escalate following President Trump's threats of military action if no agreement is reached. While Iran seeks a "real and fair" deal focused solely on its nuclear

capabilities, the U.S. appears intent on dismantling these developments entirely. Tehran's enriched uranium stockpile has reached near weapons-grade levels, raising concerns about potential nuclear weaponization, which Iran insists it has no intention of pursuing. Both sides face a challenging negotiation landscape, with Iran wary of U.S. intentions, particularly in light of past experiences like Libya, while the U.S. is pressing for concessions without a clear indication of how much Iran is willing to compromise. This high-stakes dialogue reflects longstanding enmity and the urgent need for a diplomatic resolution.

## Indian Consulate in Melbourne Vandalized, Raises Safety Concerns [SHARE](#)

12-Apr-25

The Indian Consulate in Melbourne has been targeted in a vandalism attack, prompting the Indian High Commission to raise concerns with Australian authorities. This incident, which involved graffiti at the consulate, is part of a troubling pattern of attacks on Indian governmental and cultural establishments in Australia, raising fears within the Indian-Australian community about safety and respect. Community members have expressed frustration over perceived slow responses to such incidents and have called for equal protection under the law, emphasizing that this issue transcends politics and focuses on community safety. The Victorian government has enacted anti-vandalism laws, yet enforcement remains a concern.

## US Vice President and Security Adviser to Visit India Amid Tariff Concerns [SHARE](#)

12-Apr-25

US Vice President J.D. Vance and National Security Adviser Michael Waltz are set to visit India from April 21, underscoring the strengthening ties between the US and India amid global tariff concerns. Waltz's visit aims to advance cooperation in high technology and security matters within the Indo-Pacific, including the unveiling of the TRUST initiative for strategic technology collaboration. These engagements follow a recent visit by US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, highlighting a concerted effort to fortify bilateral relations. Ultimately, these high-level discussions signal a commitment to deepening defense and technological partnerships critical for regional security and economic stability.



## Germany's new government prioritizes enhanced defense ties with India.



12-Apr-25

Germany's incoming government plans to enhance its partnership with India, focusing on defence cooperation and skilled labour migration, as indicated by Ambassador Philipp Ackermann. The coalition treaty emphasizes military collaboration, particularly regarding the proposed submarine deal under India's Project-75I programme, showcasing growing ties between the two nations. Germany's commitment to this deal reflects a broader strategy to strengthen bilateral relations, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. The expanding Indian private sector presents further opportunities for economic collaboration, underscoring the significance of this partnership in the context of global trade, with India's exports to Germany reaching USD 10 billion and imports at USD 16.7 billion in the fiscal year 2024.

## Intel CEO Faces Scrutiny Over Chinese Investments Amid Tensions



12-Apr-25

Intel CEO Lip-Bu Tan is facing scrutiny over his substantial investments in Chinese companies amid rising geopolitical tensions and security concerns. His connections to firms such as Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp and various entities linked to the Chinese government raise alarms, especially as the U.S. tightens regulations on foreign investments with potential national security implications. Tan's investments in companies associated with military technology and human rights violations complicate the ethical landscape of global investment strategies. As the semiconductor market grapples with challenges, transparency and ethical considerations in such investments are becoming increasingly crucial for maintaining international trade dynamics.

## Israel Completes Morag Corridor, Intensifying Military Action in Gaza



12-Apr-25

Israel has completed the Morag corridor, effectively encircling Rafah and intensifying its military campaign against Hamas, with ongoing airstrikes and a blockade leading to severe humanitarian crises for the 2 million Palestinians in Gaza. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz urged residents to remove Hamas from power and hinted at "voluntary" relocation proposals for Palestinians, which have been strongly rejected. The

conflict, ignited by a Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, has resulted in over 50,000 Palestinian casualties, according to Gaza's health ministry, raising significant concerns over human rights violations amidst claims of targeting militants. This situation highlights ongoing tensions between security measures and humanitarian considerations in conflict zones.

## Tri-Service Collaboration Essential for Evolving Security Challenges



12-Apr-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the need for tri-service synergy to address evolving security challenges during a review of the Indian Navy's operational readiness in Karwar. He highlighted the importance of a free and rules-based maritime order amid shifting global dynamics, particularly concerning China's presence in the Indian Ocean Region. The conference focused on enhancing warfighting efficiency, integrating new technologies, and fostering collaboration among the armed forces. Singh urged commanders to remain vigilant and adapt to changing circumstances, reinforcing India's commitment to maritime superiority and regional stability under its SAGAR policy, while also acknowledging the Navy's successful anti-piracy operations and peacekeeping efforts in the Indo-Pacific.

### Military Operations

## Indian Army Lights Up Simari Village with Solar Micro-Grid



12-Apr-25

The Indian Army has successfully electrified the remote border village of Simari in Jammu and Kashmir's Karnah Valley with a solar micro-grid project, enhancing the quality of life for its 347 residents. This initiative, part of Operation Sadbhavana, provides sustainable electricity to 53 households and is dedicated to the memory of Colonel Santosh Mahadik, a Shaurya Chakra recipient. The project not only illuminates homes but also includes additional LPG connections, reducing reliance on kerosene. The Army, in collaboration with the Aseem Foundation, emphasizes nation-building efforts in border areas, with ongoing projects highlighting commitment to infrastructure and local development. This transformative effort underscores the role of renewable energy in addressing the challenges of remote locations while fostering hope and growth among the local populace.

## India-US Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025 Concludes with Success in Kakinada



12-Apr-25

The fourth edition of the India-US bilateral tri-service Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025 culminated on April 11 in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, showcasing enhanced military interoperability through large-scale Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Approximately 1,000 personnel from both nations engaged in complex exercises, including amphibious landings, securing coastal areas, and establishing field hospitals post-simulated natural disasters. The exercise, framed by logistics exchange under the LEMOA, reinforced operational synergies and facilitated Subject Matter Expert Exchanges on key technologies. The joint efforts, which involved advanced air and sea operations, highlight the strengthening partnership between India and the US, aimed at ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific region while addressing mutual security objectives effectively. The successful execution of these drills underscores the commitment to deepening defense collaboration between the two nations.

## Indian Army JCO Killed in Foiled Terror Infiltration Attempt



12-Apr-25

A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Indian Army, Subedar Kuldeep Chand, was killed in an encounter with terrorists attempting to infiltrate along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Akhnoor sector, Jammu. The incident occurred late Friday night when alert troops engaged a heavily armed group, resulting in a fierce gunfight. Chand was honored with a wreath-laying ceremony attended by senior Army and government officials, who expressed their condolences and recognized his sacrifice. This encounter underscores ongoing security challenges in the region, especially following a recent brigade commander-level meeting aimed at de-escalating tensions post ceasefire violations. The Indian Army has consistently demonstrated its commitment to protecting national sovereignty by thwarting infiltration attempts and engaging in constructive dialogue with counterparts to manage border tensions. The loss of Subedar Chand highlights the sacrifices made by armed forces personnel in safeguarding the nation, and sentiments from both military and civilian leaders reflect a collective acknowledgment of the bravery exhibited by service members. Chand's legacy as a martyr will be remembered, and the Indian Army's resolve in the face

of terrorism remains steadfast, reinforcing the nation's commitment to security and resilience in the region.

## India Strengthens Air Defense with MR-SAM at Bhatinda Amid Tensions



12-Apr-25

India has enhanced its air defense capabilities by deploying the Barak-8 Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MR-SAM) system at Bhatinda Air Force Station in Punjab, amid escalating regional tensions with Pakistan and China. This strategic deployment, part of a broader expansion of at least 13 Barak-8 sites across northern and eastern India, strengthens defenses against aerial threats, particularly along sensitive borders. The system's versatility, especially in high-altitude regions, complements existing air defense frameworks like the S-400 and Akash, creating a comprehensive shield against diverse threats, including low-flying drones. This proactive measure reflects India's commitment to safeguarding its airspace in a challenging geopolitical landscape.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

## Top Jaish-e-Mohammad commander Saifullah among three terrorists killed in Kishtwar operations.



12-Apr-25

A series of counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir have resulted in the neutralization of three terrorists, including a top Jaish-e-Mohammad commander, Saifullah, in Kishtwar, showcasing the Indian Army's commitment to maintaining peace in the region. These operations, characterized by challenging weather and terrain, have also led to the unfortunate loss of a Junior Commissioned Officer during a separate encounter. The Northern Army Commander emphasized the Army's dedication to dismantling terrorist networks while enhancing local community relations and coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Police. With heightened surveillance and active engagement, security forces are intensifying their efforts to ensure a terror-free environment, demonstrating a robust approach towards both security and community support in the face of ongoing threats from across the border.

## BSF Launches Major Anti-IED Operation on Punjab Border Amid Drone Threat



12-Apr-25

The Border Security Force (BSF) is set to conduct an extensive anti-IED operation along the Punjab border following the recovery of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) for the first time, injuring one jawan. The BSF has adjusted jurisdiction to enhance security coordination and will use advanced equipment and sniffer dogs in the sweep. The presence of these IEDs suggests potential infiltration activities by elements from Pakistan, alongside the ongoing threat posed by drones used for drug and arms smuggling. The BSF's proactive measures highlight its commitment to safeguarding farmers and local civilians in a region historically vulnerable to cross-border terrorism.

## EAM Jaishankar lauds US for extraditing Mumbai attack conspirator Rana



12-Apr-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar praised the US for extraditing Tahawwur Rana, a key conspirator in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, highlighting the strengthened counter-terrorism ties between India and the US. The successful extradition, after 17 years, allows Rana to face multiple serious charges in India, underscoring a concerted effort by the National Investigation Agency. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio also affirmed the collaborative pursuit of justice for the victims, including six Americans. This cooperation not only marks a significant milestone in accountability but also reflects the ongoing commitment of both nations to combat terrorism and enhance regional security.

## Deadly Clash in Chhattisgarh: Two Naxalites Killed in Encounter



12-Apr-25

An encounter between security forces and Naxalites occurred in Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh, resulting in the death of at least two Naxalites. The confrontation took place during an anti-Naxalite operation within the Indravati National Park area, and as of now, sporadic gunfire continues. This incident highlights the ongoing challenges faced by Indian security forces in combating left-wing extremism in the region. The effective and determined response by the security personnel underscores India's commitment to maintaining law and order while striving to eliminate insurgent threats to ensure stability and security in affected areas.

## NIA Reveals Tahawwur Rana's Plans for More Attacks in India



12-Apr-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has indicated that Tahawwur Rana, a former military doctor from Pakistan, may have plotted attacks on other Indian cities, highlighting the necessity of his extended custody for thorough interrogation. Convicted for his role in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, Rana's extradition from the U.S. has raised hopes of uncovering deeper connections to the conspiracy and Pakistani terror networks. His previous discussions about potential targets in South Mumbai further suggest his involvement in reconnaissance for LeT. The ongoing inquiry underscores India's commitment to dismantling terrorism and enhancing national security through rigorous investigation and international cooperation.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

## Cybersecurity Adaptation Essential Amid Rising Geopolitical Threats



11-Apr-25

The current geopolitical climate, particularly the U.S.-China trade war, has intensified cybersecurity threats, with Chinese state-backed actors targeting U.S. critical infrastructure. As federal cybersecurity roles evolve, the private sector faces increased responsibility for defense, particularly in critical industries. Companies must adapt by integrating geopolitical risks into their threat models, ensuring supply chain visibility, and advocating for necessary resources amidst rising cyber threats. A proactive cybersecurity stance is essential, emphasizing the need for organizations to understand vulnerabilities before they become breaches, thereby safeguarding national security in these turbulent times.

## Germany's Adebahr: India's Pivotal Role in Global Cybersecurity



12-Apr-25

At the Carnegie Global Technology Summit in New Delhi, Germany's Maria Adebahr highlighted India's crucial role in global cybersecurity and its potential in shaping a secure and inclusive cyberspace amid growing geopolitical challenges. She commended India's digital services and innovation ecosystem, advocating for collaboration among global democracies. Discussions emphasized the need for deregulation to foster talent and innovation, with Lt. Gen. (Retd) Raj Shukla stressing the importance of

creating an environment conducive to experimentation and long-term investment. Overall, the summit underscored India's leadership in artificial intelligence and the necessity for institutional support to further advance its high-tech development.

## Miscellaneous

### India and Africa Unite for Key Maritime Engagement 2025



12-Apr-25

The inaugural Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME) exercise is set to take place from April 13-18, 2025, involving India, Tanzania, and several African nations including Kenya and South Africa. This initiative, aligning with India's MAHASAGAR vision, aims to enhance maritime security cooperation and interoperability among regional forces. Activities will include anti-piracy exercises, joint training, and community engagement events, highlighting India's commitment to fostering strong relations with African nations. The participation of Indian naval ships like INS Chennai and INS Kesari underscores India's proactive approach in addressing common maritime challenges and promoting regional stability in the Indian Ocean.

### Strengthening India-Africa Partnership for Growth and Development



12-Apr-25

India and Africa are set to strengthen their partnership in the upcoming decade, as emphasized during the fifth India-Africa Strategic Dialogue held in New Delhi. Key speakers, including South African High Commissioner Anil Sooklal and Indian official Dammu Ravi, highlighted the importance of cohesive collaboration to reclaim their global standing and achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. India's commitment to Africa is reflected in its contributions to peacekeeping and initiatives like MAHASAGAR, focusing on equality and mutual benefit. They advocated for enhanced trade relations, technology transfer, and the inclusion of the private sector to drive growth and security in Africa, aligning with the African Union's Agenda 2063 for a prosperous continent.

### UN Appeals for \$275 Million to Aid Myanmar Earthquake Survivors



11-Apr-25

The United Nations has launched a \$275 million appeal to assist over one million survivors of the recent 7.7 magnitude earthquake in Myanmar, which has left more than 3,600 people dead. The appeal highlights a dire situation where only five percent of the \$1.1 billion needed for previous humanitarian efforts has been funded. The focus is particularly on the most vulnerable populations, including women and girls, who face

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Army Responds Strongly to Alleged Mistreatment of JCO by Bihar

Police



12-Apr-25

The Indian Army has expressed serious concern over the alleged maltreatment of a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and his wife by Bihar Police, following their arrest from their home on April 9. The JCO was reportedly assaulted before being released after Army intervention. The local Army leadership promptly engaged with the Bihar DGP, resulting in the suspension of the Station House Officer (SHO) and the initiation of an Inspector General level inquiry. The Army's swift response underscores its commitment to protecting personnel and ensuring accountability within the civilian law enforcement system, highlighting the importance of respecting the rights and dignity of military members.

### India's First Batch of 40 'Purple Officers' Completes Training



12-Apr-25

India's first batch of 40 'Purple Officers' has successfully completed their training at the Defence Services Staff College, comprising personnel from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, alongside international officers from the U.S., South Korea, Britain, and Australia. This specialized program emphasizes joint operations, logistics, intelligence, and cybersecurity, supporting India's military reforms aimed at integrated theatre commands and operational synergy. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan underscored this initiative's significance, reflecting a commitment to enhance jointness in the defense forces, termed "Jointness 2.0." Ultimately, this training sets a foundational step towards a more cohesive and collaborative Indian military structure.



increased risks of gender-based violence and food insecurity. This urgent call for additional resources underscores the challenges in providing adequate humanitarian support in the wake of such devastating disasters.

## EU and India: Key Allies for Engaging the Global South SHARE

12-Apr-25

The EU Ambassador to India, Herve Delphin, emphasized the strategic partnership between India and the EU in engaging with the Global South during the Carnegie Global Technology Summit. He outlined four key geopolitical factors: economic competition, evolving technology's role in security, social pressures, and a shifting security landscape. Delphin highlighted the urgency for institutions to adapt to rapid global changes and stressed the increasing importance of trust in international relations. This collaboration can leverage emerging technologies to foster economic growth while addressing security concerns and enhancing global governance, positioning India and the EU as pivotal players in navigating contemporary geopolitical challenges.

## India Stands Firm on Trade Talks with U.S. Amid Tariff Concerns SHARE

12-Apr-25

India's commitment to its "India First" policy was reinforced by Piyush Goyal and S. Jaishankar, emphasizing that trade negotiations with the U.S. will not compromise national interests despite President Trump's temporary pause on tariffs. The aim is to establish a multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement by fall 2025, targeting \$500 billion in bilateral trade by 2030. Key issues include market access and tariff reductions, while India remains cautious about agricultural tariffs to protect farmers. This approach highlights India's strategic balancing act in navigating global trade dynamics while prioritizing domestic interests.

## HAL Denounces Malicious Speculation After Helicopter Crash in Gujarat SHARE

12-Apr-25

HAL has issued a statement addressing speculative reports with "malicious intentions" following the crash of an Advanced Light Helicopter operated by the Indian Coast Guard in Gujarat, which resulted in three fatalities. The organization criticized these narratives, claiming they lack HAL's perspective and are based on inaccuracies and outdated concerns. HAL emphasized

its commitment to working closely with all stakeholders, including the Indian Air Force, and highlighted the sensitive nature of defense issues, which necessitates caution in public discourse. This response seeks to protect stakeholders from potentially harmful misinformation, reinforcing HAL's dedication to resolving any critical issues related to its defense aeronautics.

## Polymatech to Launch India's First GaN Chip Plant in Chhattisgarh SHARE

12-Apr-25

Polymatech Electronics announced plans to establish India's first Gallium Nitride (GaN) semiconductor chip plant in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh, with an investment of ₹1,143 crore and substantial state support. This facility will focus on cutting-edge GaN technology, essential for 5G and future 6G infrastructure, aiming to bolster India's semiconductor manufacturing capabilities and reduce import dependency. The project aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives, promising job creation and technological advancements. Collaborations with international partners further enhance India's position in the global semiconductor ecosystem, reinforcing the nation's commitment to becoming a leader in advanced technology solutions.

## EAM Jaishankar: No imminent ban on Chinese AI DeepSeek SHARE

12-Apr-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar indicated that there is no imminent determination regarding a ban on the Chinese AI platform DeepSeek, despite discussions around its potential risks. The Delhi High Court recently declined to expedite a Public Interest Litigation seeking to block DeepSeek, emphasizing users' choice to avoid the platform if deemed harmful. Concurrently, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted India's upcoming foundational AI model, set to launch in about ten months and hosted on Indian servers, as part of a comprehensive AI mission with a Rs 10,000 crore investment. This proactive approach underscores India's commitment to developing its domestic AI capabilities while navigating geopolitical concerns surrounding Chinese technology.

## Farooq Abdullah Applauds India-Pakistan Brigade Meeting for Peace SHARE

12-Apr-25

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah welcomed the recent brigade commander-level flag

meeting between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district. The meeting, aimed at addressing border management issues, was praised for its potential to enhance understanding and maintain communication between the two nations. Abdullah highlighted the necessity for both countries to work towards peace and cooperation, emphasizing that ongoing dialogue is crucial to overcoming mutual mistrust and fostering regional development. This initiative reflects a positive step towards diplomatic engagement, suggesting that continued talks could lead to improved relations and stability in the region.

## HAL Clarifies Ongoing R&D Consultancy Process Amid False Claims



12-Apr-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has refuted false claims circulating on social media regarding the

selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for a benchmarking study of its R&D activities, clarifying that the consultancy selection process is ongoing and remains open to competitive bids. HAL emphasized its commitment to transparency and modernization in enhancing its R&D framework, following recommendations from a high-power Committee on Public Undertakings. The organization reassured stakeholders to rely on official communications for accurate information, highlighting the importance of mitigating misinformation within sensitive defense sectors. HAL's initiatives signify its dedication to aligning with global aerospace standards, reinforcing India's strategic defense capabilities.

---

*Disclaimer: This newsletter provides an independent analysis of news articles and reports published across various media outlets over the past 24 hours. The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the publishers or any affiliated organizations. The publishers are not responsible for the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of the content analyzed and make no representations regarding the information contained herein. Readers are encouraged to consult original sources for verification and further context; access to the list of original sources analysed can be made available upon request via email.*

Subscribe to DefenceProfessionals Whatsapp Channel

