



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

DRDO and IAF successfully test indigenous Astra missile from Su-30MKI



12-Jul-25

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted a flight test of the indigenous Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) equipped with a domestically developed Radio Frequency seeker from the Su-30MKI platform. The missile achieved remarkable accuracy, hitting two high-speed unmanned aerial targets under various conditions, validating India's advanced missile capabilities and self-reliance in critical defence technologies. The Astra missile, with a range exceeding 100 kilometers, enhances the IAF's air combat capabilities and aligns with India's strategy of achieving air dominance through offensive operations. Its successful integration across multiple platforms, including the indigenous TEJAS fighter jet, underscores the strategic significance of having a robust domestic defence industrial base, involving over 50 companies, which reduces dependency on foreign suppliers. This technological advancement not only strengthens India's position in regional security dynamics but also enhances its credibility as a defence technology partner on the global stage. The Astra program exemplifies India's commitment to indigenisation in defence, promising future developments such as the Astra MK-2 and MK-4, which will further bolster national security and position India as a competitive player in advanced military technology.

Indian Navy to Sign ₹1.06 Lakh Crore Deal for Submarine Expansion



12-Jul-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence is set to sign contracts worth ₹1.06 lakh crore (\$12 billion) by March 2026 to enhance the Indian Navy's underwater capabilities, involving the procurement of six U-214NG submarines under Project-75I and three additional Scorpene-class

submarines from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). The P-75I program aims to address the Navy's critical submarine shortage and increase indigenous content from 45% to 60% by the sixth unit, promoting self-reliance through the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. However, the cost of the U-214NG submarines has sharply risen to nearly \$1.3 billion each due to inflation and advanced technological upgrades, leading to uncertainty in negotiations. The project has faced challenges due to stringent requirements, resulting in limited competition and a significant escalation in costs from earlier estimates. Despite these hurdles, the strategic importance of bolstering the Navy's capabilities amid increasing regional threats from China and Pakistan underlines the necessity of this procurement. In light of these developments, a balancing act is required: whether to pursue high-cost foreign solutions or further invest in indigenous defense initiatives that align with India's long-term security and self-reliance goals.

DRDO's MGS Set for User Trials After Weight Reduction Efforts



12-Jul-25

India is making significant strides in its defense capabilities with the development of the Mounted Gun System (MGS), a truck-mounted howitzer that boasts enhanced mobility and firepower. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL) are finalizing weight reduction measures, aiming for the system to weigh below 30 tons, thus improving its operational efficiency. The MGS, which integrates the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) on a high-mobility vehicle, is designed to fulfill the Indian Army's artillery modernization goals, particularly under the Field Artillery Rationalisation Plan (FARP). With a firing range of up to 45 km and the ability to transition rapidly between travel and firing modes, the MGS is positioned to significantly enhance India's artillery capabilities along its contested borders with China and Pakistan. The project emphasizes indigenization, achieving around 85% domestic content, and aims for 95% in production versions, showcasing India's commitment to

self-reliance in defense manufacturing. As the MGS prepares for user trials, it not only strengthens India's immediate military readiness but also enhances its position in the global defense market, signaling a transformative era in the nation's defense manufacturing landscape.

HAL to Co-Develop LCH Electronic Warfare Suite with Global Partner SHARE

12-Jul-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is embarking on a significant initiative to co-develop an advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) suite for its Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) "Prachand," in collaboration with a global technology partner, with candidates including SAAB, Elettronica, Hensoldt, and Elbit Systems. This endeavor aligns with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat policy aimed at achieving self-reliance in defense technologies and enhancing indigenous capabilities. The sophisticated EW suite will serve as an electronic shield, elevating the helicopter's survivability against modern threats and improving situational awareness through components like radar warning receivers, missile approach warning systems, and countermeasure dispensers. Moreover, the open-architecture design will facilitate future upgrades tailored to India-specific operational needs, while also enabling rapid integration timelines to address urgent military requirements. This co-development strategy not only aims to transfer critical technology and build domestic expertise but also positions the LCH as a vital asset for the Indian Army and Air Force, especially given its unique high-altitude operational capabilities. The initiative signifies a transformative step for India's defense sector, fostering innovation and bolstering national security through world-class, homegrown technology.

Rolls-Royce, Safran Boost AMCA Engine with Advanced Tech for Future Jets SHARE

12-Jul-25

Rolls-Royce and Safran have enhanced their proposals for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) engine by incorporating advanced Variable Cycle Engine (VCE) technology, crucial for future sixth-generation fighters. Both companies guarantee full technology transfer, addressing India's strategic autonomy needs, with engines designed for high thrust and efficiency. The AMCA is central to India's air combat strategy, aiming for first flight by 2029-2030 and operational induction by 2035. The final selection of an engine

partner represents a significant investment, underscoring India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technologies, while enhancing its air power capabilities against regional adversaries.

IIT Kanpur to create avalanche detection system for Indian Army SHARE

12-Jul-25

The Indian Army's Central Command has partnered with IIT Kanpur to develop an Auto-Luminescent Avalanche Victim Detection System (AAVDS) aimed at enhancing soldier safety in high-altitude regions. This innovative system will utilize a luminescent liquid to mark the location of buried soldiers, significantly improving rescue times and survival rates. Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta emphasized the collaboration's strategic importance in advancing indigenous defense technology, which reflects the Army's commitment to self-reliance. Furthermore, the technology is expected to have civilian applications, benefiting mountaineers in avalanche-prone areas, showcasing the dual-use nature of military innovations.

India speeds up X Guard decoy system delivery for Rafale jets. SHARE

12-Jul-25

India is expediting the delivery of the X Guard decoy system for its Rafale fighter jets, aimed at enhancing their defensive capabilities against hostile missiles. This move follows the Rafales' successful missile strikes during Operation Sindoor, which targeted Pakistani military installations. The X Guard, produced by Israel's Rafael, effectively draws incoming missiles away from the aircraft, thereby improving their survivability in contested airspace. Although deliveries have been affected by supply chain disruptions, Indian authorities are prioritizing this system's procurement due to its significance in bolstering the IAF's operational effectiveness, showcasing India's commitment to maintaining a technologically advanced and capable air force.

India's Defense Production Surpasses Rs 1.25 Lakh Crore: PM Modi SHARE

12-Jul-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India's defense manufacturing has surpassed Rs 1.25 lakh crore, marking significant growth in the sector, which now boasts 300 mobile manufacturing units. He emphasized the youth as India's greatest asset, highlighting government initiatives like the Employment Linked Incentive Scheme, which allocates Rs 1 lakh

crore to create approximately 3.5 crore jobs. This focus on defense and employment reflects India's commitment to harnessing its demographic advantages and enhancing national security while providing opportunities for its young population, thereby fostering economic growth and stability. The government's proactive role in defense manufacturing underlines its strategic vision for self-reliance and global competitiveness.

Indian Navy Enhances Indian Ocean Capabilities with 6 Stealth Frigates



12-Jul-25

The Indian Navy is set to enhance its capabilities in the Indian Ocean with the addition of six advanced stealth frigates under Project 17A, aiming to counter China's expanding naval influence and secure vital sea lanes. With a budget of ₹45,000 crore, these frigates, featuring 75% indigenous content and advanced weaponry, are being constructed at major Indian shipyards and are expected to be operational by mid-2026. This initiative reflects India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing and strengthens its maritime power projection, crucial for maintaining a rules-based international order in the region amidst growing geopolitical tensions.

India's Defense Shift: From Import Dependency to Tech Leadership



12-Jul-25

India is embarked on a transformative defense strategy, aiming to adopt 33 advanced technologies by 2030, including drones, AI, and cybersecurity, thereby reducing reliance on imports. This initiative fosters innovation through Centres of Expertise, enabling the armed forces to evolve into active technology integrators. The focus on AI enhances real-time decision-making, counter-drone capabilities, and operational readiness. Moreover, a Whole of Nation approach engaging start-ups and academia is pivotal for developing a robust defense ecosystem. As warfare increasingly emphasizes technological superiority over traditional metrics, India's commitment to integrating cutting-edge technologies positions it to lead a new era in defense capability and global security.

U.S. to Deliver 3 Apache Helicopters to Indian Army on July 15, 2025



12-Jul-25

The U.S. is set to deliver three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to the Indian Army on July 15, 2025, following delays due to supply chain disruptions. This

acquisition is crucial for enhancing India's ground-attack capabilities in sensitive regions like Ladakh and bolstering defense against evolving threats, particularly from China. The Army has already established its first Apache squadron, ensuring readiness for operationalization upon delivery. Additionally, discussions between Indian and U.S. defense officials emphasize the strengthening of defense cooperation, including a potential 10-Year Defence Framework and support for India's indigenous defense initiatives, marking significant strides in military modernization.

DRDO to Integrate Indigenous Hyperspectral Payload with ISRO Satellite



12-Jul-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is set to achieve a significant milestone by integrating its indigenous hyperspectral payload with an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) satellite, enhancing India's capabilities in space-based observation technology. This collaboration aims to bolster national security, agriculture, and environmental monitoring by providing high-resolution imagery and advanced data analysis. The integration emphasizes the synergy between DRDO and ISRO, promoting self-reliance in defense technologies and reducing dependence on foreign sources. Overall, this development marks a pivotal step towards strengthened strategic capabilities and enhances India's stature in the global space community, benefiting both civilian and military applications.

DRDO Develops Testing Infrastructure for Su-30MKI Electronic Warfare



12-Jul-25

DRDO has established advanced hardware testing infrastructure for the Su-30MKI's electronic warfare suite as part of the Super Sukhoi upgrade program, aiming for 78% indigenous content. This initiative includes developing sophisticated hardware simulators and avionics rigs to test new electronic warfare systems like Yodha and Anidra, enhancing the aircraft's survivability in contested environments. The program emphasizes seamless integration with existing systems, ensuring operational readiness and reduced maintenance downtime. This strategic move not only strengthens India's defense capabilities but also aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, reinforcing the domestic defense industry while minimizing reliance on foreign technologies.

IAF Accelerates Long-Range Missile Acquisition to Counter PL-15E



12-Jul-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is expediting the acquisition of very long-range air-to-air missiles (AAMs) such as the Meteor, R-37M, and indigenous Sky Sting to counter Pakistan's PL-15E missile advantage. Despite Pakistan's claims of downing IAF aircraft, independent analyses have refuted these assertions, highlighting the operational shortcomings of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). India's focus on advanced missile systems aims to secure air superiority by engaging targets beyond the PL-15E's reach, showcasing a commitment to self-reliance in defense technology. This strategic push for enhanced capabilities is set to decisively tilt the regional air power balance in India's favor.

Indian Army Develops Longer-Range Prahaar Missile Variant "Pranash"



12-Jul-25

The Indian Army is advancing its tactical missile capabilities by developing a longer-range variant of the Prahaar missile, tentatively named Pranash, which will extend its range to approximately 200 kilometers. This development aims to enhance precision strikes on high-value targets amid rising tensions with Pakistan and China. The Army's recent orders for the Pralay missile system further bolster its deterrence and rapid response capabilities. Analysts assert that these advancements are crucial for maintaining a strategic edge over adversaries, as India enhances its layered strike capabilities to effectively counter evolving battlefield challenges.

Russian Media Advocates Su-34 as Optimal Choice for India's Air Force



12-Jul-25

Russian media has highlighted the Sukhoi Su-34 as an ideal addition to India's air capabilities, emphasizing its unique features like a side-by-side cockpit and impressive combat attributes such as an 8-tonne payload and a 1,100 km combat radius. The Su-34's compatibility with the existing fleet of Su-30MKI fighters presents logistical advantages, while its proven performance in high-threat environments reinforces its adaptability for India's strategic needs. As the Indian Air Force looks to enhance its long-range strike capabilities amidst rising geopolitical tensions, the Su-34 emerges as a cost-effective alternative to Western aircraft, aligning well with India's defense priorities.

DRDO LRDE Develops Radar for Tracking Hypersonic Missiles



12-Jul-25

The Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE) of DRDO is spearheading a state-of-the-art radar system specifically designed to detect and track hypersonic missiles—those capable of exceeding Mach 5—addressing the unique challenges posed by their extreme speed, maneuverability, and low-altitude flight. In parallel with DRDO's recent unveiling of India's first photonic radar in late June 2025—boasting ultra-high resolution, enhanced immunity to electronic jamming, and the ability to image small targets—this new radar is set to undergo extensive trials later this year on stationary platforms, UAVs, and naval vessels. Additionally, LRDE continues to innovate with advanced AESA systems like "Uttam" and "Virupaaksha" for fighter and ground-based defense, alongside long-range systems such as "Swordfish" and its upgraded VLRTR, integral to missile defense networks. These developments will integrate into India's Akashteer C4ISR system, enhancing the nation's ballistic missile and air defense posture. Trials for the hypersonic-targeting radar are anticipated soon, marking a pivotal stride toward strengthening India's strategic deterrence, advancing Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and preparing the country's air and missile defense architecture for the hypersonic era.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Pentagon confirms Iranian missile hit Qatar's Al Udeid Air Base.



12-Jul-25

The Pentagon confirmed that an Iranian ballistic missile struck Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in June, following the release of satellite images indicating damage. Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell noted that the attack caused minimal damage and that the base remains fully operational, emphasizing its role in regional security alongside Qatari forces. This incident highlights the ongoing tensions involving Iran and underscores the strategic importance of U.S. military installations in the Middle East. The resilience of Al Udeid Air Base showcases the U.S. commitment to maintaining stability in the region despite hostile actions.

Russia Faces Pressure to Provide Specialized Military Supplies to India



12-Jul-25

India is increasingly looking to diversify its defense procurement away from Russia, driven by the need for self-reliance under initiatives like Make in India, particularly amid geopolitical tensions and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Moscow is responding with advanced offers, including the Su-57E stealth fighter and S-500 air defense system, which could help maintain its foothold in the Indian market. However, India faces challenges in balancing its reliance on Russian systems with partnerships with Western nations, technological integration, and budget considerations. Ultimately, while Russia's proposals are substantial, India's defense strategy emphasizes a multi-aligned approach to enhance its military capabilities and reduce dependency on a single supplier.

Jaishankar to attend SCO Foreign Ministers meeting in China



12-Jul-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will visit China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers meeting in Tianjin on July 15, 2025. His visit comes after previous discussions by Indian leaders, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, aimed at de-escalating tensions arising from the 2020 military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The agenda includes addressing bilateral issues, notably China's restrictions on essential rare earth metals. As both nations seek to normalize relations, this meeting signifies a crucial step towards enhancing dialogue and cooperation amidst ongoing boundary disputes, reflecting India's commitment to fostering stable ties in the region.

US urges Japan and Australia to clarify roles in Taiwan conflict



12-Jul-25

The Pentagon is pressing Japan and Australia to clarify their potential roles in a conflict involving the U.S. and China over Taiwan, as reported by the Financial Times. U.S. under-secretary of defense for policy, Elbridge Colby, has been discussing this issue in talks with defense officials from these allies. This demand reflects the increasing geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific region, highlighting the importance of cohesive strategies among allies, including India, which has its own strategic interests in counterbalancing China's influence. Strengthening alliances and ensuring clear

communication are vital for maintaining regional stability and security.

Russia warns against US, South Korea, Japan security alliance targeting North Korea.



12-Jul-25

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has cautioned the U.S., South Korea, and Japan against forming a security alliance aimed at North Korea, following talks in Wonsan with North Korean officials. He condemned their military exercises, which he perceives as provocations, while asserting that North Korea's nuclear ambitions are justified in light of perceived threats from U.S. actions. The growing military cooperation between Russia and North Korea raises concerns for the region, particularly regarding potential technology transfers that could enhance North Korea's nuclear capabilities. This alliance poses a significant challenge to regional stability, necessitating vigilance from India and its allies in the broader geopolitical context.

Israel's troop withdrawal plans stall Gaza ceasefire talks.



12-Jul-25

Indirect ceasefire talks between Hamas and Israel are stalling due to Israel's proposals to maintain troop presence in Gaza, which Hamas rejects. Despite some progress on prisoner releases and aid, the Israeli delegation's insistence on a map that effectively reoccupies 40% of Gaza has led to accusations of obstruction from Palestinian sources. Mediators are suggesting a pause until the arrival of a US envoy. The situation highlights the complexities of achieving peace, as both sides' positions remain entrenched, with Israel's military redeployment proposals further complicating negotiations for a lasting ceasefire.

India's Russian oil purchases stabilize global energy prices: Puri



12-Jul-25

India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, asserted that India's purchase of Russian crude oil has significantly contributed to stabilizing global energy prices, preventing potential price spikes. He emphasized that Russia's oil was never under global sanctions and that India's strategic buying has benefitted global markets. The minister highlighted India's commitment to enhancing domestic oil exploration, targeting an increase in exploration acreage to 1 million sq km by 2030, alongside ongoing initiatives to provide affordable clean cooking gas to

millions of households. This proactive approach underlines India's pivotal role in global energy dynamics while ensuring energy security and sustainability.

Bangladesh seeks India's extradition of former PM Sheikh Hasina.



12-Jul-25

Bangladesh's interim government has urged India to extradite former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is facing serious charges, including crimes against humanity. The request, emphasized by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, follows a BBC report alleging Hasina's direct involvement in state-sanctioned violence during last year's protests. Yunus criticized India's refusal to comply, stating it undermines regional relations and moral integrity. As Bangladesh prepares for potential legal actions against Hasina, with a tribunal set to frame charges, the issue poses a diplomatic challenge for India, which must navigate its own strategic interests in the region while addressing international human rights concerns.

Chinese Research Vessel's Covert Operations in Bay of Bengal Raise Security Concerns



12-Jul-25

A Chinese oceanographic research vessel, likely from the XiangYangHong class—such as the PLAN's XiangYangHong01 or XiangYangHong03—was detected conducting covert operations in the Bay of Bengal in early July 2025. Tracked by French firm Unseenlabs during a 16-day satellite and RF emissions survey, the ship deliberately disabled its AIS transponder to avoid detection, operating approximately 120 nautical miles off India's eastern coast in international waters adjacent to strategic naval zones. During this time, it carried out detailed seafloor mapping, acoustic profiling, and the identification of submarine transit corridors—activities commonly associated with anti-submarine warfare intelligence gathering. This incident coincides with a series of past Chinese survey ship intrusions—including the XiangYangHong01's presence during India's March 2024 Agni-5 missile test and the XiangYangHong03's proximity to a submarine exercise in mid-2024—and it aligns with Beijing's broader strategy to expand its maritime-domain awareness within the Indian Ocean Region amid deepening Sino-Bangladesh relations. The Indian Navy and Coast Guard closely monitored the mission using P-8I patrol aircraft, UAVs, and warships, and are now reviewing surveillance protocols and considering diplomatic channels. The

episode underscores growing regional concerns over dual-use maritime research vessels supporting military functions and China's escalating maritime footprint in the Indo-Pacific.

Military Operations

Indian and Greek Navies Conduct PASSEX to Boost Combat Readiness



12-Jul-25

The Indian Navy conducted a significant passing exercise (PASSEX) with the Hellenic Navy, featuring advanced naval drills that included tactical maneuvers and surface firing, aimed at enhancing interoperability and combat capability. This exercise, which involved the Indian stealth frigate INS Tarkash and the Greek warship HS Psara, underscores the growing defense cooperation between India and Greece amid rising tensions in the region, particularly concerning Türkiye and Pakistan's maritime alliances. High-level visits, such as that of Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi to Greece, have further solidified this partnership, focusing on strategic and operational cooperation in maritime security. The historical ties between India and Greece are witnessing a renaissance, with joint military exercises and discussions on joint training emphasizing a shared commitment to regional stability and security. As Türkiye deepens its strategic ties with Pakistan, India's engagement with Greece signals a recalibration of its defense diplomacy to counterbalance potential threats and enhance its geopolitical influence in the Mediterranean region. This evolving relationship not only strengthens mutual defense capabilities but also reflects India's strategic priorities in fostering alliances to secure maritime stability and uphold national interests.

Security forces intensify drone-assisted hunt for 50 terrorists in Jammu.



12-Jul-25

Security forces in the Jammu region are intensifying operations to track and neutralize 40 to 50 terrorists active in the area, primarily Pakistani nationals. The operations, bolstered by drone surveillance and night tactics, aim to prevent terrorist regrouping and infiltration attempts across the Pir Panjal range. Enhanced ground intelligence has allowed troops to dominate strategic high-altitude areas, leading to successful encounters, including a recent incident in Kishtwar. The revised anti-terror strategy, focusing on

nighttime operations and reinforced troop deployments, reflects the Indian Army's commitment to maintaining peace and security in the region while constraining terrorist movements effectively.

Taiwan deploys HIMARS rockets in military drills to counter China. SHARE

12-Jul-25

Taiwan has begun deploying advanced HIMARS rocket systems as part of its annual military drills, aimed at demonstrating its resolve against potential Chinese aggression. The exercises, which include live-fire scenarios, are intended to prepare for a full-scale invasion and signal to both China and the international community, particularly the U.S., Taiwan's commitment to self-defense. With a striking range of about 300 km, the HIMARS can target Chinese coastal areas, showcasing Taiwan's enhanced military capabilities. This exercise underscores the ongoing tensions in the Taiwan Strait and the strategic importance of U.S. military support in the region as Taiwan seeks to bolster its defense amid rising Chinese military pressure.

India's Operation Sindoor Tests Indigenous Capabilities vs. China SHARE

12-Jul-25

A recent analysis by warfare expert John Spencer highlights India's Operation Sindoor as a demonstration of its indigenous military capabilities against Chinese-equipped Pakistani forces. The operation, responding to a terrorist attack, showcased India's precision and restraint while sending a clear message to the global community about its readiness to counter cross-border threats. Spencer noted that the performance of Chinese military technologies used by Pakistan is under scrutiny, indicating potential shifts in Pakistan's procurement strategies due to financial constraints. Ultimately, he suggests that India's military preparedness, informed by years of transformation and innovation, positions it favorably in the face of regional challenges.

Ukraine Reports Russia Launched 623 Drones and Missiles SHARE

12-Jul-25

Ukraine reported that Russia launched a significant barrage of 623 drones and missiles overnight, including 597 drones and 26 long-range missiles, primarily Iranian-made Shaheds. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky emphasized the urgency for Western allies to implement stronger sanctions to curb Russia's military

aggression, which he argues is further fueled by support from nations aiding in drone production and oil revenues. He called for decisive actions beyond mere symbolic gestures, underscoring the critical need for effective measures to protect Ukraine and disrupt the Russian economy reliant on oil exports amidst ongoing sanctions.

British F-35B fighter jet in Kerala set to return home soon SHARE

12-Jul-25

A British F-35B fighter jet, stranded at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala due to a technical snag, is expected to return to the UK next week after undergoing repairs by UK engineers. The aircraft, valued at around \$115 million, was diverted during a sortie in the Arabian Sea and has become a humorous subject on social media, with Kerala's tourism department even playfully promoting the jet's stay. This incident underscores India's welcoming approach to foreign military assets while also highlighting the importance of robust technical support in defense aviation. The engagement fosters goodwill between India and the UK, reflecting strong bilateral ties in defense and tourism.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

BSF jawan injured in smuggler attack; two apprehended. SHARE

12-Jul-25

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan was injured during a smuggler attack along the Indo-Bangladesh Border in West Bengal, where two smugglers were apprehended and narcotics seized. The jawan, initially outnumbered, displayed remarkable bravery by confronting the attackers, who attempted to blind him and assaulted him with a machete. Despite the ongoing violence and challenges they face, BSF personnel exhibit unwavering dedication to securing the border. The incident highlights the pressing issue of cross-border smuggling and the need for improved cooperation with Bangladeshi authorities, as inaction has further emboldened criminals. Nonetheless, the BSF's commitment to national security remains steadfast.

NIA arrests 11th conspirator in Pune ISIS sleeper cell case SHARE

12-Jul-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has made significant progress in dismantling the ISIS sleeper cell in Pune with the arrest of its 11th key conspirator, Rizwan Ali, who was actively involved in planning terror attacks and training operatives in bomb-making. This operation underscores India's commitment to combating terrorism and maintaining national security. The NIA's sustained efforts to neutralize such threats demonstrate an effective counter-terrorism strategy aimed at thwarting attempts to destabilize the country and disrupt communal harmony. Rizwan's arrest, alongside ten others already detained, highlights the agency's resolve to address the challenges posed by global jihadist movements within India's borders.

J&K Police Seize Rs 3.2 Crore in Assets from PoK Terrorists SHARE

12-Jul-25

Jammu and Kashmir Police have attached properties worth Rs 3.2 crore belonging to terrorists operating from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as part of a broader anti-terrorism strategy. This action, targeting individuals linked to the criminal FIR under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, is in response to recent terrorist attacks, notably the killing of 26 people by Pakistan-backed terrorists. The initiative, endorsed by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, aims not only to eliminate terrorists but also to dismantle their support networks, thereby reinforcing the sovereignty and integrity of Jammu and Kashmir. This comprehensive approach signifies a robust commitment to counter-terrorism efforts in the region.

MEA condemns Pakistan for ongoing support of cross-border terrorism. SHARE

12-Jul-25

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has condemned Pakistan for its persistent support of cross-border terrorism, citing a lack of action on dismantling terrorist infrastructure despite diplomatic efforts. The MEA's 2024 report highlights ongoing infiltration attempts using advanced weaponry and communication tools, emphasizing that Pakistan continues to harbor UN-designated terrorists. With the backdrop of recent attacks like the one in Pahalgam, which resulted in 26 deaths, India has responded with targeted strikes against terror camps. The report underscores India's commitment to addressing terrorism and calls for Pakistan to honor its 2004

commitment to prevent its territory from being used for such activities.

23 Naxalites with Rs 1.18 cr bounty surrender in Chhattisgarh SHARE

12-Jul-25

Twenty-three Naxalites, including senior members of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, citing disillusionment with Maoist ideology and internal conflicts. With a combined bounty of Rs 1.18 crore, their surrender highlights the weakening of Naxalite forces, attributed to intensified anti-Naxal operations by security forces in the region. The government is providing immediate assistance and rehabilitation support for these individuals, reflecting a strategic approach to counterinsurgency and societal reintegration. This development underscores the effectiveness of India's counterinsurgency efforts while showcasing the growing rift within the Maoist ranks, indicating a potential shift in the dynamics of the conflict.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

India must develop home-grown cybersecurity tech to counter threats SHARE

12-Jul-25

India's Electronics and IT Secretary, S Krishnan, emphasized the urgent need for fully home-grown cybersecurity technologies to safeguard against future quantum threats, highlighting that dependence on external solutions is inadequate. He pointed out that nations and sophisticated actors are already preparing to exploit quantum decryption capabilities, making immediate action essential. The government has committed approximately Rs 6,000 crore to the National Quantum Mission to bolster domestic expertise and standards in post-quantum cryptography, reflecting a proactive approach to cybersecurity. This initiative is crucial for protecting sensitive data and ensuring India's technological sovereignty in an era where global cybersecurity challenges are rapidly evolving.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh calls NCC a key platform for youth. SHARE

12-Jul-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the National Cadet Corps (NCC) as an ideal platform for India's youth during the inaugural Governing Council Meeting of the National Cadet Corps Alumni Association (NCCAA). He praised former cadets as vital contributors to national development and urged the NCCAA to extend its values to a broader audience. The Minister highlighted the role of NCC in instilling discipline and motivation among youth, especially from remote areas, and encouraged alumni involvement in nation-building initiatives. This initiative reflects the government's commitment to harnessing the potential of youth for national unity and development, reinforcing the importance of structured youth engagement in India's growth narrative.

Miscellaneous

Indian Army rescues endangered pangolin near LoC with Pakistan. SHARE

12-Jul-25

In a notable act of environmental stewardship, the Indian Army's Gigril Battalion rescued an endangered pangolin near the Line of Control in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu, after spotting it during a routine patrol. Believed to have wandered from across the border, the animal was safely secured and handed over to wildlife officials for care. Pangolins, critically threatened by illegal wildlife trade and habitat loss, are among the world's most trafficked mammals. In a similar effort, Army personnel in Rajouri also rescued a sick female leopard. These initiatives highlight the Army's commitment to protecting India's biodiversity even in high-security zones, reinforcing its image as a guardian of both national security and environmental conservation.

Anupam Kher presents "Tanvi The Great" screening for President Murmu SHARE

12-Jul-25

A special screening of the film "Tanvi The Great" was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan for President Droupadi Murmu ahead of its theatrical release on July 18, 2025.

Directed by Anupam Kher, the film, which focuses on the journey of an autistic girl named Tanvi who aspires to join the Indian Army, received the Army's approval for its script without any changes, marking a significant endorsement. Kher expressed pride in having the President, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, attend the screening and commend the film's message of inclusion. He emphasized that his two-decade hiatus from directing was due to a desire to share meaningful stories, stating that "Tanvi The Great" reflects his belief in the inherent goodness of individuals. The film features a remarkable cast, including Jackie Shroff and Iain Glen, and underscores themes of resilience and the pursuit of dreams against societal challenges. Kher's reflections on the project reveal a deep personal connection, rooted in a family story, that resonates with audiences and aims to uplift their spirits. Overall, the project exemplifies a positive narrative about the Indian Armed Forces and the societal contributions of individuals with autism, fostering a message of hope and determination in contemporary India.

Over 6,600 pilgrims depart for Amarnath shrine amid challenges SHARE

12-Jul-25

A total of 6,639 pilgrims departed for the Amarnath shrine in Jammu and Kashmir on July 12, 2025, marking the 11th batch of the ongoing Yatra which commenced on July 3 and is set to conclude on August 9. Despite over 400,000 online registrations, concerns regarding extreme weather, security, and logistical changes have led to cancellations and dampened enthusiasm among tour operators and hospitality businesses, particularly as the natural Shivaling has significantly melted in the early days of the pilgrimage. So far, over 145,000 pilgrims have visited the shrine, but the rapid melting has raised fears of declining footfall in the coming weeks. This annual pilgrimage not only holds spiritual significance but also plays a vital role in supporting the local economy and promoting tourism in the region. The Indian government's emphasis on bolstering security arrangements and managing logistics is crucial in ensuring the safety and comfort of the pilgrims, thereby upholding the sanctity of the Yatra while enhancing the region's tourism potential. The ongoing commitment to secure the Yatra reflects the government's dedication to preserving cultural traditions and fostering community resilience in Jammu and Kashmir amidst evolving challenges.

Air India Crash: Cockpit Confusion Led to Fatal Disaster

SHARE

12-Jul-25

The preliminary report into the tragic Air India crash that resulted in 260 fatalities revealed that the fuel cutoff switches for both engines were nearly simultaneously flipped from RUN to CUTOFF during takeoff, causing a loss of power. The sequence of events shows that the aircraft lost altitude shortly after lift-off, with cockpit recordings indicating confusion among the pilots about the cutoff action. The timely deployment of the Ram Air Turbine provided some hydraulic power, but despite efforts to restart the engines, the aircraft could not recover, leading to a Mayday call just before data recording ceased. This incident underscores the critical importance of cockpit communication and engine control systems in aviation safety.

Rajnath Singh: Indian Armed Forces' Spiritual Bond with Goddess Kali

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12-Jul-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the spiritual connection of the Indian armed forces with Goddess Kali during the inauguration of a temple in Lucknow, highlighting their bravery in Operation Sindoor against terrorist camps in Pakistan. He acknowledged the significant contributions of women soldiers in this operation and remembered the sacrifices of heroes like Captain Manoj Pandey during the Kargil War. Singh underscored the importance of rebuilding India's cultural and spiritual identity, which was targeted during colonial rule, advocating for national pride rooted in heritage. His remarks reflect India's commitment to maintaining its cultural ethos while ensuring robust defense capabilities.

2024 Foreign Ministry Report Highlights India's Diplomatic Progress

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The 2024 Foreign Ministry report highlights a highly pragmatic and proactive Indian foreign policy focused on enhancing strategic autonomy, strengthening national security, championing the Global South, and driving inclusive global governance. India's leadership during its G20 Presidency, notably securing permanent African Union membership, and hosting the Voice of Global South Summit—which introduced a “global development compact” for trade, capacity-building, technology-sharing, and financial aid—demonstrates its commitment to equitable global order. The report also underscores India's robust counter-terrorism

partnerships, FATF compliance, and participation in international working groups. It emphasizes India's readiness as a dependable “first responder” through several major humanitarian and disaster relief missions, including evacuations, repatriations, and aid operations across 20+ countries, as well as targeted assistance in conflict zones like Syria and Palestine. Altogether, the report showcases India's growing diplomatic clout, humanitarian leadership, and dedication to sustainable development and international cooperation, positioning it as a pivotal force in shaping a balanced and resilient global framework.

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla Prepares for Earth Return

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Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, one of India's pioneering astronauts selected under the Gaganyaan mission, is preparing for his return to Earth after completing extensive spaceflight simulations and microgravity training abroad. As he nears the end of this phase, experts highlight the well-documented physiological and psychological effects astronauts face during and post-mission, including fluid shifts, bone density loss, muscle atrophy, and vestibular disorientation due to prolonged microgravity. Sleep disruption and mental stress from confinement and isolation are also significant concerns. To mitigate these, astronauts follow rigorous in-flight exercise routines and psychological practices such as yoga and mindfulness. Upon return, a tailored rehabilitation program ensures gradual recovery and readjustment to Earth's gravity, involving physical therapy, cognitive monitoring, and medical evaluations. These comprehensive measures ensure a safe and healthy reintegration into terrestrial life.

Japan Supports India's Semiconductor Manufacturing Ambitions

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12-Jul-25

Japan is reaffirming its commitment to supporting India's semiconductor manufacturing journey, highlighted by a visit from Ambassador Ono Keiichi and senior Japanese officials to Gujarat's Dholera, which is emerging as a hub for advanced manufacturing. The Tata Electronics semiconductor fabrication plant, in collaboration with Taiwan's Powerchip, is a key project under India's Semicon India Programme, part of a larger \$18.5 billion investment initiative. The visit builds on a recent MoC aiming to enhance collaboration in semiconductor design and supply chain resilience,

positioning Japan as a vital technological partner in India's goal to become a global semiconductor manufacturing leader. This partnership is strategically significant in addressing global supply chain vulnerabilities.

Allahabad HC: Supporting Pakistan isn't an offence under BNS 152



12-Jul-25

The Allahabad High Court ruled that merely expressing support for Pakistan, without direct reference to India or specific incidents, does not constitute an offence under section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The court emphasized that expressions of support alone, even towards an adversarial nation, do not inherently endanger India's sovereignty or integrity. This ruling reflects a nuanced approach to freedom of speech, underscoring the necessity for clear intent and action that genuinely threatens national unity. Consequently, it highlights the importance of distinguishing between support and actions that could promote secession or rebellion, thereby upholding constitutional freedoms while safeguarding national interests.

Dalai Lama Begins Month-Long Visit to Ladakh After Two Years



12-Jul-25

The 14th Dalai Lama has arrived in Ladakh for a month-long visit, marking his first trip to the region in two

years. His arrival, celebrated by the local population, includes heightened security and ceremonial honors, reflecting the deep respect and affection he commands in Ladakh. This visit is particularly significant as it occurs amid discussions regarding his succession, with a clear message from his office countering China's claims over the selection process. The Dalai Lama's longstanding relationship with India since his exile in the late 1950s continues to be a defining aspect of regional geopolitics, emphasizing India's commitment to supporting Tibetan spirituality and autonomy.

ISRO completes Service Module Propulsion System for Gaganyaan mission.



12-Jul-25

ISRO has successfully completed the development of the Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS) for India's Gaganyaan mission, marking a significant milestone in the nation's first human spaceflight endeavor. The qualification test program included a full-duration hot test lasting 350 seconds, confirming the system's performance under various mission scenarios. The SMPS, developed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, plays a critical role in orbit circularization, on-orbit control, and mission abort procedures. This achievement highlights India's growing capabilities in space technology and reaffirms its commitment to advancing human space exploration.

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