



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### ATAGS Artillery to Exceed 80 km Range with Smart Ammunition



13-Jul-25

The Indian Army's ATAGS artillery system is set to enhance its range beyond 80 km, with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developing smart ammunition, including precision-guided munitions and ramjet-powered shells. Currently boasting a range of 48 km, the ATAGS will benefit from NavIC satellite guidance and a Precision Guidance Kit, ensuring high accuracy and lethality. Over 80% of its components are domestically sourced, reflecting India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing. The procurement of 307 ATAGS units, signed in March 2025, signifies a modernisation leap for the Army, elevating operational readiness and strategic firepower in line with contemporary military needs.

### DRDO and IAF successfully test Astra missile in Odisha



13-Jul-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted flight tests of the indigenous Astra missile, a Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air weapon, from the Sukhoi-30 Mk-I platform in Odisha. The tests, which targeted high-speed unmanned aerial targets, showcased the missile's precision and effectiveness, achieving successful hits with all subsystems performing accurately. With a range exceeding 100 kilometers and advanced guidance systems, the Astra missile represents a significant advancement in India's defense technology. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the efforts of DRDO and IAF, marking this achievement as a pivotal milestone in enhancing India's indigenous defense capabilities.

### New BrahMos Facility in Lucknow Enhances India's Defense Self-Reliance



13-Jul-25

The recent inauguration of a state-of-the-art BrahMos integration and testing facility in Lucknow by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is poised to significantly bolster India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing. This advanced facility will enhance the indigenous development, integration, and testing of the BrahMos missile system, showcasing India's technological prowess and strategic capabilities while reducing dependence on foreign technology. Singh emphasized that the initiative not only strengthens national security but also aims to create high-skilled job opportunities and foster local talent within Uttar Pradesh, highlighting the improved law and order situation which has attracted investments and industrial growth. He also acknowledged the transformative infrastructure developments in the state, including expressways, airports, and metro systems, which contribute to its status as a hub of innovation. Furthermore, during the event, Singh paid tribute to former Chief Minister Chandra Bhanu Gupta, underscoring his contributions to public service and national integrity, thereby linking the past leadership to the present advancements in Uttar Pradesh. Overall, this initiative reflects the government's broader vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) and sets a precedent for future advancements in the defense sector, marrying national security with socio-economic progress.

### IAF Advocates for 60 Fifth-Gen Fighter Jets Amid Rising Tensions



13-Jul-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is advocating for the procurement of at least three squadrons of fifth-generation fighter jets, totaling 60 aircraft, to enhance its air combat capabilities amid rising regional tensions, particularly from the Sino-Pak axis. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) plans to evaluate offers from both the US and Russia, with a decision expected in 2026. This

interim acquisition, aimed at bridging operational gaps until the indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) becomes available around 2035, also reflects a shift in the Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) program towards a Government-to-Government procurement model, potentially splitting orders between the Rafale F4 and a yet-to-be-disclosed fifth-generation platform. The dual-track strategy is designed to bolster the IAF's capabilities rapidly while promoting industrial participation and localization in India, thereby supporting the Make in India initiative. The integration of Indian systems into the Rafale and the acquisition of advanced fighters is crucial to counter threats from China's J-20 and Pakistan's modernizing air force. This pragmatic approach demonstrates India's commitment to maintaining air superiority and modernizing its defense capabilities while also fostering indigenous development in the long term.

## Polish Air Force Chief and Indonesian Pilot Test South Korea's KF-21 SHARE

13-Jul-25

The Polish Air Force Chief and Indonesian test pilot recently flew South Korea's KF-21 Boramae, showcasing its capabilities and strengthening defense ties. Poland's interest in acquiring the fighter to replace its MiG-29 fleet, following its purchase of FA-50s, reflects a move towards modernizing its air force. Indonesia's participation, marked by its pilot's historic flight, underscores ongoing cooperation despite financial challenges. These developments highlight South Korea's growing presence in the global defense sector and its ambitions to export advanced aircraft, bolstering its position as a significant player in the international defense market. Overall, these collaborations signify a strategic shift in regional defense partnerships.

## US to Supply F404 Engines for Tejas Until March 2026 SHARE

13-Jul-25

The United States will supply General Electric F404 engines for India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas until March 2026, facilitating the production of 12 Tejas Mark 1A aircraft by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). This collaboration underscores the strengthening defense partnership between India and the US, essential for enhancing the Indian Air Force's operational capabilities as it seeks to replace older MiG-21 jets. The Tejas Mark 1A features advanced technology, including improved avionics and AESA radar, while the F404 engine ensures reliable

performance until India's indigenous Kaveri engine is operational. This strategic move bolsters India's defense indigenization efforts and supports the broader goal of self-reliance in defense manufacturing.

## Reliance Defence Unveils ₹10,000 Crore Plan for Aerospace Growth SHARE

13-Jul-25

Reliance Defence, led by Anil Ambani, is set to revolutionize India's aerospace sector with a ₹10,000 crore investment aimed at developing the country's first indigenously built commercial aircraft by 2028. The initiative includes the assembly of Dassault Aviation's Falcon 2000 jets at a new facility in Nagpur, which is expanding to enhance production capabilities. Furthermore, Reliance is focusing on modernizing India's defence aviation through partnerships, such as with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), to upgrade the Dornier aircraft fleet. These strategic collaborations aim to position India as a global aerospace hub while ensuring self-reliance and advanced manufacturing capabilities in the defence sector.

## Tata Advanced Systems Launches New MALE UAV Variant for India SHARE

13-Jul-25

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) recently unveiled a scaled-down variant of its Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (MALE) UAV on July 13, 2025, designed to deliver cost-effective and simplified aerial surveillance capabilities for the Indian Armed Forces. Drawing on the streamlined appearance of trainer aircraft, the new UAV features a lightweight airframe with two main landing gears and a nose-mounted propeller, likely with a single engine option initially sourced internationally to meet endurance and service ceiling needs. While this prototype emphasizes affordability and ease of maintenance, questions persist about its ability to reach the required 30,000-foot operational ceiling essential for high-altitude missions along India's northern borders. TASL is reportedly exploring indigenous propulsion solutions—potentially turbocharged powerplants in collaboration with local firms—to boost altitude performance while aligning with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat goal of minimizing import reliance. Complementing its ongoing UAV portfolio, which includes fielded systems such as the ALS loitering UAVs used during Operation Sindoor and rear-propeller MALE-class UAV plans revealed in June 2025, this new platform enters a competitive landscape alongside DRDO's Archer-NG and other private RPA initiatives. If

the prototype achieves its endurance, ceiling, and payload targets, it would significantly bolster domestic UAV capabilities, reinforce strategic autonomy, and support India's aim of indigenously produced surveillance solutions.

## Embraer Offers C-390M for IAF AWACS and Transport Needs [SHARE](#)

13-Jul-25

Embraer has proposed co-developing an AWACS variant based on the C-390M Millennium aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) to address its needs for advanced airborne surveillance and medium transport capabilities. This platform promises faster development compared to sourcing out-of-production ERJ-145s, offering superior payload capacity, advanced radar, and enhanced operational capabilities. The partnership with Adani Defence and a prospective assembly line in India bolster the Make in India initiative. While the IAF's preference for the ERJ-145 stems from fleet commonality, the C-390M's multi-role adaptability and potential integration of indigenous systems present a compelling alternative to counter regional threats effectively.

## DRDO Collaborates with Vendors to Advance Next-Gen Combat Airframes [SHARE](#)

13-Jul-25

The DRDO's Central Research Centre is engaging vendors to enhance next-generation combat airframes through advanced materials, focusing on Resin Film Infusion (RFI) for composite fabrication and bolted joint characterization. This program aims to foster an indigenous ecosystem that improves structural performance, reduces production lead times, and supports India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The RFI technique will facilitate the development of lightweight, stealthy airframes for projects like the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF). By prioritizing robust joint designs and real-time quality assurance, this initiative significantly contributes to India's ambition of producing 5th and 6th generation combat aircraft, enhancing operational capabilities in contested environments.

## GTRE to Develop 6th Gen Engine for AMCA After 5th Gen Readiness [SHARE](#)

13-Jul-25

India's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) has confirmed its capability to develop a 5th generation

fighter jet engine, although it currently lacks demand from the Indian Air Force. Consequently, GTRE has shifted focus to co-developing a 6th generation engine for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program, which aims to enter production in the early 2030s. This strategic move emphasizes leveraging advanced technologies and materials to enhance performance while ensuring scalability for future platforms. The ability to rapidly pivot to a 5th generation engine if needed underscores India's growing self-reliance in defense technology, reducing import dependencies and tailoring solutions to national requirements.

## CASDIC Issues RFP for SU-30MKI Electronic Warfare Simulators [SHARE](#)

13-Jul-25

The Combat Aircraft Systems Development and Integration Centre (CASDIC) under DRDO issued a Request for Proposal on July 13, 2025, seeking hardware simulators—specifically Avionics Line Replaceable Unit emulators—to rigorously test and validate the indigenous Electronic Warfare (EW) suite for the SU-30MKI as part of the ₹65,000 crore SuperSukhoi upgrade program. This ambitious modernization effort, initiated with an Expression of Interest in March 2023 and feasibility studies completed by June 2023, aims to retrofit some 84 of the IAF's 272 jets with advanced avionics, high-power Virupaksha AESA radar, DR118 digital Radar Warning Receiver, and both internal and podded self-protection jammers. The hardware simulators will replicate existing and upgraded LRUs within a high-fidelity avionics rig for thorough bench testing before actual flight integration. Running on a 32-month development cycle, this initiative dovetails with HAL-led system integration and subsequent flight evaluations slated over the next five years. The goal: rejuvenate the aging Su-30MKI platform to secure its relevance through 2050, bolstering survivability against peer threats like China's J-20 while underscoring India's drive for defense technological self-reliance through domestic technology development and competitive bidding among Indian firms.

## Indian Navy's P-75I Subs to Launch 800 km BrahMos-ER Missiles [SHARE](#)

13-Jul-25

The Indian Navy is set to significantly enhance its strategic capabilities by equipping the next-generation Project 75-India (P-75I) submarines with BrahMos Extended-Range missiles, allowing precision strikes up

to 800 km while submerged. This integration includes a Vertical Launch System (VLS) and advanced Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP), crucial for stealth operations. Additionally, existing submarines will be upgraded with BrahMos-Next Generation missiles, ensuring comprehensive modernization of the fleet. This dual enhancement not only solidifies India's maritime deterrence in the Indo-Pacific but also aligns with the 'Make in India' initiative, showcasing India's commitment to strengthening its defense infrastructure and capabilities.

of Pakistan's nuclear capability, while Indian officials dismissed Pakistan's nuclear threats as a form of blackmail used historically to deter Indian military responses. The situation illustrates the ongoing volatility in India-Pakistan relations as both nations maintain nuclear arsenals, underscoring the critical need for effective communication and crisis management to avert catastrophic miscalculations. By framing Pakistan's nuclear strategy as defensive, Sharif attempts to mitigate regional tensions, although the potential for escalation remains a concern for both countries and the international community.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### India Confirms No Local S-400 Production, Aiming for 2026 Delivery



13-Jul-25

India has ruled out plans for domestic manufacturing of the Russian S-400 Triumf air defence system, as confirmed by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. The focus remains on completing the delivery of the remaining units by 2026, with no discussions on technology transfer or local production under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. This decision comes amidst India's efforts to bolster its air defence capabilities in response to evolving regional security threats, as the S-400 is a pivotal asset, capable of countering a variety of aerial threats and enhancing India's strategic defence framework. The commitment to acquiring this advanced system solidifies India's position in maintaining robust national security.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### Shehbaz Sharif claims Pakistan's nuclear program is defensive and peaceful.



13-Jul-25

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently asserted that the country's nuclear program is strictly for peaceful purposes and self-defense, particularly following a four-day military confrontation with India. During this period, which followed a deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, India launched Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Despite Pakistan's significant casualties, Sharif emphasized that nuclear weapons would only be considered as a last resort in the face of existential threats, rejecting any notion of nuclear aggression. He reiterated the defensive nature

### India's Expanding Indo-Pacific Role Under SAGAR Vision in 2024



13-Jul-25

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has emphasized India's expanding role in the Indo-Pacific under its SAGAR vision, which promotes security and growth for all in the region. The 2024 report highlights India's strengthened ties with ASEAN and other regional bodies, advocating for a free, open Indo-Pacific that prioritizes international law and peaceful dispute resolution. India's proactive measures include naval engagements, maritime safety projects, and capacity-building initiatives, alongside a commitment to sub-regional cooperation. Furthermore, Prime Minister Modi's upcoming MAHASAGAR doctrine is expected to enhance India's strategic engagement and crisis response capabilities, solidifying its position as a net security provider in the region.

### Kim Jong Un pledges support for Russia in Ukraine conflict



13-Jul-25

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has expressed unwavering support for Russia's efforts in the Ukraine conflict during high-level talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. The collaboration, framed as an "invincible fighting brotherhood," includes North Korea's commitment to provide troops and artillery ammunition, with estimates suggesting around 12 million rounds supplied. This deepening alliance reflects a shared stance against perceived global threats, signaling a significant shift in geopolitical dynamics. The partnership could potentially bolster Russian military capabilities while emboldening North Korea's position on the international stage, underscoring the challenges faced by countries like India in navigating a complex security environment.



## North Korea threatens military action over US, Japan, South Korea drills. SHARE

13-Jul-25

North Korea has issued a stern warning, declaring its readiness to undertake military action in response to perceived security threats from the United States, Japan, and South Korea. This announcement follows a recent aerial drill conducted by these allies, which involved a U.S. strategic bomber, heightening tensions in the region. The North's declaration underscores its ongoing militarization and the geopolitical complexities surrounding its relationships with these nations. In light of such provocations, India must remain vigilant and strengthen its defense posture, particularly in the context of regional stability and security cooperation with allies in countering threats posed by adversarial states like North Korea.

## Jaishankar to Visit Singapore and China from July 13 for Talks SHARE

13-Jul-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is set to visit Singapore and China from July 13, marking his first trip to China since the 2020 LAC standoff. This visit aims to stabilize India-China relations following a disengagement agreement finalized in October 2024, with discussions expected on crucial issues like rare-earth supplies, the Dalai Lama's succession, and border management. Jaishankar will participate in the SCO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Tianjin, where he will engage in bilateral talks to further normalize ties after recent high-level interactions. This visit underscores India's commitment to diplomatic engagement and regional stability amid ongoing tensions with China.

## China-Iran Ties Challenge India's Energy Security and Influence SHARE

13-Jul-25

The deepening strategic partnership between China and Iran, marked by the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the Belt and Road Initiative, poses significant challenges for India, particularly in terms of energy security, connectivity, and regional influence. As China's role in Iran grows—especially in military cooperation—India's interests, such as the Chabahar Port project, are at risk of being undermined. However, India can navigate this complex landscape by strengthening its diplomatic ties with Iran, exploring new cooperative avenues, and maintaining robust relations with other regional powers. By doing so, India can assert its strategic autonomy and counterbalance China's increasing presence in the region.

## Pakistan's UNSC Maneuver to Internationalize Kashmir Fails SHARE

13-Jul-25

As Pakistan concludes its month-long presidency of the UN Security Council (UNSC), it is making a final push to internationalize the Kashmir issue by scheduling an open debate on unresolved global disputes. This move aims to circumvent direct references to Kashmir to avoid vetoes from permanent members, though it faces significant diplomatic hurdles since most countries view Kashmir as a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan. India's strong stance maintains that Pakistan is misusing international platforms while ignoring its own issues with cross-border terrorism. Ultimately, Pakistan's efforts are unlikely to yield substantive change due to the prevailing international consensus favoring bilateral dialogue.

## India Boosts Rare Earth Magnet Production to Reduce Chinese Dependence SHARE

13-Jul-25

India is rapidly advancing its domestic rare earth magnet production to counter China's dominance, which controls 90% of global rare earth processing and has imposed export restrictions affecting Indian supply chains. The Indian government has initiated a comprehensive strategy, including substantial financial incentives and collaboration with private sectors, to establish self-reliance in critical minerals. Major firms are engaging in partnerships to develop local production capabilities, while India's National Critical Mineral Mission aims to enhance exploration and processing. This initiative is crucial for India's technological self-reliance and economic security, significantly reducing dependency on Chinese imports and aligning with international partnerships for resource diversification.

## India Opposes Pakistan's AI Alliance Membership Over Security Risks SHARE

13-Jul-25

India's Digital India Foundation (DIF), a founding member of the BRICS-backed AI Alliance Network (AIANET), has formally opposed Pakistan's bid—submitted in early July 2025—to admit its AI Technology Centre (AITeC), citing grave national security concerns. In a letter dated July 11, 2025, DIF leaders, including co-founder Arvind Gupta, warned that AITeC's advanced labs—spanning autonomous systems, decision-support, computer vision and edge computing—risk being repurposed for offensive cyber operations, autonomous weapons and cross-border

attacks. Pakistani AI development is closely tied to military programs, notably the Pakistan Air Force's Centre of Artificial Intelligence and Computing (CENTAIC), with little to no civilian oversight or ethical governance. DIF also highlighted Pakistan's continued placement on the Financial Action Task Force grey list, raising fears that AI-facilitated technologies could aid illicit financing of terrorist groups. The foundation stressed that admitting Pakistan would undermine AIANET's credibility, transparency and shared values, threatening the alliance's mission of ethical, peaceful, civilian-first AI development. Consequently, DIF has urged fellow member institutions to reject Pakistan's application to preserve regional stability and uphold the integrity of the AI alliance.

## Modi's UK Visit to Boost India-UK Defence Ties and Jet Engine Co-Development



13-Jul-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the UK is set to enhance the India-UK strategic defence partnership, focusing on co-developing jet engines for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). This collaboration involves potential partnerships with Rolls-Royce and Safran, emphasizing technology transfer and intellectual property rights, crucial for India's self-reliance in defence. Rolls-Royce's proposal, which includes full IP ownership, positions it favorably, aligning with India's ambition to establish a robust indigenous aero-engine ecosystem. The discussions are framed within the India-UK 2030 Roadmap, signaling a commitment to deepening defence cooperation and advancing India's indigenous defence capabilities.

## Military Operations

### Indian Army Rejects Claims of Drone Strikes on ULFA-I in Myanmar



13-Jul-25

Multiple claims surfaced on July 13, 2025, where the United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) alleged that Indian forces launched cross-border drone and missile strikes on its camps in Myanmar's Sagaing region during the early hours, purportedly killing senior commander Nayan Medhi (alias Nayan Asom), Self Styled Brigadier Ganesh Asom, Self Styled Colonel Pradip (Pradeep) Asom, and around 19 others while injuring nearly two dozen insurgents. ULFA-I stated the attacks occurred between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. across

multiple mobile bases, including one near Longwa in Nagaland and another at Pangsa Pass in Arunachal Pradesh, possibly involving over 100 UAVs of Israeli and French makes and missile strikes during Medhi's funeral rites. The group vowed retaliation and accused the Indian armed forces of treating Assam as occupied territory. However, both the Indian Army and Assam's Chief Minister denied any operational knowledge or involvement, with officials stating there were "no inputs" of such cross-border actions and clarifying that neither Assam Police nor state forces participated, adding that no formal communication from central defense agencies or the military has been issued. The claims come amid long-standing concerns over the use of Myanmar as a sanctuary for ULFA-I, which has maintained bases there since the 1990s, and follows earlier coordinated operations—such as Operation Sunrise in 2019—with Myanmar to dismantle insurgent camps. The episode highlights the intelligence-sensitive nature of counter-insurgency efforts along the India-Myanmar border and underscores the delicate balance between diplomatic discretion and military responsiveness in addressing cross-border militancy.

### Israeli airstrikes kill 59 Palestinians seeking aid in Gaza.



13-Jul-25

Israeli airstrikes in Gaza recently resulted in the deaths of at least 59 Palestinians, including children, while they sought aid amidst ongoing conflict. Witnesses reported that many were shot while attempting to reach distribution sites, prompting criticism of Israel's military actions and calls for a ceasefire. The humanitarian situation remains dire, with significant restrictions on aid and reports of heightened violence from both Israeli settlers and militants. The ongoing conflict has led to a staggering number of casualties, raising concerns over accountability and the urgent need for international intervention to stabilize the region and ensure the safety of civilians.

### Hellenic Navy's Psara Frigate Visits Mumbai to Boost Ties



13-Jul-25

The Hellenic Navy Ship Psara, a MEKO 200 class frigate, made its maiden port call in Mumbai from July 11 to 13, 2025. During the visit, the ship's commanding officer, Cdr Iosif Bazinas, met with RAdm Vidyadhar Harke of the Indian Navy to discuss enhancing mutual maritime cooperation. The visit included social engagements and cross-deck activities, underscoring the strengthening of multi-domain cooperation between

India and Greece, both of which share common interests in maritime security. This engagement reflects India's commitment to fostering international naval partnerships, enhancing regional stability, and promoting collaborative security efforts in the Mediterranean and beyond.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Army Jawan from Kerala goes missing on Train to Bareilly SHARE

13-Jul-25

An Army jawan, Farzeen Gafoor from Kaniyapoyoor in Guruvayur—serving at the Army Force Medical College in Pune—disappeared while traveling to Bareilly for a training program. He boarded the Ramnagar Express on July 9 and maintained contact with his family until the evening of July 10. Shortly afterward, his phone went offline about two stations before Bareilly, and all attempts to reach him failed. The Guruvayur police promptly filed a missing person report, and the family escalated the case to both their local MLA and Union Minister Suresh Gopi. Mobile tower data traced his last signal near Bareilly. His brother, who works in the UAE, and other relatives traveled to Uttar Pradesh to aid the search. Farzeen, who had last visited home in early April, did not report for scheduled training. His sudden disappearance has triggered alarm over the safety, monitoring, and welfare protocols for jawans during transit, leading to calls for strengthened security measures and improved tracking systems to ensure the protection of military personnel.

### IAF Loses 152 Pilots, 534 Aircraft in 30 Years, Yet Accident Rates Decline SHARE

13-Jul-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has lost 152 pilots and 534 aircraft in accidents over the past 30 years, primarily due to an aging fleet, especially the MiG-21. However, a notable decline in accident rates reflects improvements in pilot training, fleet modernization with new aircraft like Rafale and Tejas, and better maintenance practices, but a lot still is needed to be done to prevent needless losses. This positive trend indicates a proactive approach to enhancing operational safety despite challenges, including human error and environmental factors. The focus on data-driven insights and modernization underscores the IAF's commitment to maintaining its status as one of the world's leading air forces while addressing the risks associated with older platforms.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### Eight Khalistani Terrorists, Including 'Most Wanted' Batala, Arrested by FBI SHARE

13-Jul-25

Eight Khalistani terrorists, including India's 'Most Wanted' Batala, were arrested in a coordinated FBI operation in California, facing serious charges such as kidnapping and illegal possession of firearms. The arrests stem from an investigation into gang-related activities linked to a pro-Khalistan network, highlighting the ongoing threat posed by Indian-origin terrorists in the US and Canada who evade prosecution in India. Indian authorities are collaborating with the US for Batala's potential extradition, underscoring the importance of international cooperation in combating transnational crime and terrorism. This operation reflects India's commitment to addressing the diaspora's role in supporting organized crime and terrorism against its sovereignty.

### Kaps Cafe vows resilience after shooting by Canadian terrorist. SHARE

13-Jul-25

A shooting incident at comedian Kapil Sharma's newly opened Kaps Cafe in Surrey, Canada, has prompted a strong statement from the cafe, which expressed its commitment to resilience in the face of violence. The cafe's team conveyed their sorrow over the event but emphasized their mission to foster community and joy. They thanked supporters for their encouragement and underscored the importance of standing against violence, reaffirming their dedication to making Kaps Cafe a warm and welcoming space. This situation reflects ongoing concerns about safety in diaspora communities and the need for unity against acts of terror, highlighting a broader context of challenges faced by Indian nationals abroad.

## Miscellaneous

### Shubhanshu Shukla to Return from Historic Axiom-4 Mission SHARE

13-Jul-25

Shubhanshu Shukla, India's first astronaut to visit the International Space Station (ISS) and only the second Indian in space, is set to return to Earth after an 18-day mission as part of the Axiom-4 program. The mission, launched on June 25, included over 60 advanced experiments across various scientific fields, with significant contributions from Indian scientists, such as studies on muscle loss in microgravity and the survival of the Indian strain of Tardigrades. The undocking from the ISS is scheduled for July 14, 2025, with a splashdown anticipated on July 15 off the California coast. This mission is pivotal for India's future space endeavors, particularly the Gaganyaan mission and the proposed Bhartiya Antariksha Station, providing vital data and experience that will enhance India's capabilities in human spaceflight. Additionally, the successful completion of seven India-specific microgravity experiments underscores India's growing expertise in space science and technology, indicating a promising trajectory for future missions. Shukla's achievements are expected to inspire further investments and interest in India's space program, emphasizing the nation's commitment to advancing space exploration and ensuring a prominent role in global space initiatives. Overall, the Axiom-4 mission marks a significant milestone in India's ambitions in space, showcasing its emerging strength in scientific research and international collaboration.

### Telangana to enlist Army experts for faster irrigation projects SHARE

13-Jul-25

The Telangana state government is expediting irrigation projects by addressing land acquisition and rehabilitation challenges, with a focus on the Palamuru-Rangareddy and Sitarama Sagar projects, vital for drought-affected areas. To enhance technical capabilities, the government will engage two Army experts in tunnel engineering, General Harpal Singh as an honorary advisor and Colonel Parikshit Mehra as a full-time consultant, both instrumental in significant infrastructure projects like the Rohtang and Zojila tunnels. This proactive approach aims to ensure timely project completion, preventing public backlash and legal issues, and highlights the strategic collaboration

between civil infrastructure and military expertise to bolster national development.

### Over 7,000 pilgrims depart Jammu for Amarnath Yatra. SHARE

13-Jul-25

A fresh batch of over 7,000 pilgrims has embarked on the Amarnath Yatra from Jammu, bringing the total number of visitors to approximately 1.83 lakh since the pilgrimage commenced on July 3 and is set to conclude on August 9. The 12th batch, consisting of 7,049 individuals, includes 1,423 women, 31 children, and 136 sadhus, who departed under stringent security measures for the twin base camps of Nunwan-Pahalgam and Baltal. On July 12 alone, over 19,000 pilgrims visited the cave shrine, showcasing the continued devotion and enthusiasm among the attendees, which included 13,980 males, 4,272 females, and 420 security personnel assisting in the pilgrimage. The annual Amarnath Yatra not only reflects the spiritual fervor of participants but also underscores the effective security arrangements in place, ensuring a safe experience for the pilgrims in the sensitive region of South Kashmir. The collaboration between civil authorities and security forces emphasizes India's commitment to maintaining safety during such large-scale religious events, further reinforcing the country's cultural heritage and tourism potential.

### Indian Army's Romeo Force Hosts Cricket League in Poonch, J-K SHARE

13-Jul-25

The Romeo Force of the Indian Army organized a Cricket Premier League in Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir, to engage local youth in sports and counteract negative influences such as drug use. This initiative received praise from local leaders, who emphasized the Army's strong connection with the community, especially in fostering a positive environment. Concurrently, a joint operation between the Romeo Force and Jammu and Kashmir Police successfully uncovered a cache of arms and explosives, highlighting the ongoing security challenges in the region. Collectively, these efforts underscore the Indian Army's dual role in security and community engagement, fostering resilience among local populations against external threats.



## Bharti Space to Invest ₹1,200 Crores in Eutelsat Expansion



13-Jul-25

Bharti Space is set to invest an additional ₹1,200 crores in French satellite operator Eutelsat, raising its total investment to \$150 million, despite a reduction in its stake to 17.88% due to capital dilution. This investment supports Eutelsat's efforts to enhance its satellite communications capabilities and financial position following its merger with OneWeb, making it the second-largest satellite operator globally. With India's satellite communications market growing fiercely competitive, Bharti's partnership with Eutelsat OneWeb positions it strategically to deliver satellite-based broadband services, especially as regulatory clearances for commercial rollout are nearly complete.

## Supreme Court to hear plea on Tiranga's use in politics, religion



13-Jul-25

The Supreme Court is set to hear a plea on July 14 regarding the use of the national flag, or Tiranga, by political parties and religious groups for partisan or religious events. The petition emphasizes the need for the Centre and the Election Commission to enforce the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, and the Flag Code of India, 2002, ensuring the flag is treated with the utmost respect. This issue highlights the importance of safeguarding national symbols from misuse, reflecting a broader commitment to preserving India's dignity and unity in the face of political and religious diversity.

## UK Investigators Reviewing Preliminary Report on Ahmedabad Crash



13-Jul-25

The UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) is reviewing the preliminary report from the Indian Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau regarding the Air India AI171 crash that killed 241 people shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad. The report highlighted that fuel-control switches were mistakenly moved to the cutoff position, leading to the crash. Families of the victims, particularly those from the UK, have called for a mechanism for expert representation in the investigation, expressing concerns over inadequate safety regulations and the lack of direct input into the process. This tragic incident underscores the importance of international cooperation in aviation safety investigations and the need for robust regulatory frameworks.

## India's June Russian oil imports reach 11-month peak at 2.08M bpd



13-Jul-25

India's crude oil imports from Russia reached an 11-month high in June, with volumes at 2.08 million barrels per day, marking a significant increase despite a global drop in imports. Russia now constitutes around 40% of India's crude oil supply, surpassing traditional Middle Eastern sources, as refiners capitalize on discounted prices following Western sanctions. Additionally, imports from the US surged by over 50% in early 2025, highlighting India's strategic diversification of energy sources. This shift underscores India's resilient energy strategy amid geopolitical tensions, positioning it effectively to navigate changing global dynamics while maintaining energy security.

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