



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

India's defense sector set for major growth amid global demand shifts.

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India's defense sector is set for significant growth, with exports projected to reach Rs 203 billion by FY25 and a government target of Rs 500 billion by FY29. European nations, facing manufacturing constraints and workforce shortages, are increasingly viewing Indian defense manufacturers as potential partners, particularly in aerospace and missile sectors. The Indian government plans to place Rs 1.5 trillion in large defense orders by March 2025 to stimulate the industry. Notably, India's defense exports soared by 32.5% in FY2023-24, marking a 31-fold increase over the last decade, underscoring the sector's readiness to meet rising global demand and capitalize on strategic opportunities.

IdeaForge Boosts R&D Spending to Propel UAV Innovation

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IdeaForge, a prominent Indian drone manufacturer, is significantly increasing its R&D expenditure this fiscal year to enhance UAV innovation, aligning with the government's push for domestic drone development. The company, which reported a revenue of Rs 314 crore for FY24, emphasizes the importance of sustained R&D to navigate recent financial challenges, including a consolidated loss of Rs 24.02 crore in Q3FY24. With a strategic partnership with Vantage Robotics, IdeaForge aims to boost its global reach and capabilities, capitalizing on the rapidly evolving Indian drone industry, which benefits from increased market entrants and supportive regulations. This focus on innovation positions IdeaForge as a key player in India's defense and technology landscape.

IAF Chief Defends Delays in LCA Tejas Due to Necessary Upgrades

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The Chief of the Indian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, acknowledged that last-minute changes in specifications contributed to delays in the LCA Tejas program but defended these updates as essential for maintaining relevance against contemporary threats. The IAF's push for modern upgrades, including advanced avionics and weaponry, was deemed necessary to avoid fielding an outdated platform in a rapidly evolving technological landscape. Analysts support this view, arguing that adhering to original specifications would risk obsolescence, making the Tejas Mk1A a credible platform for modern warfare. Such strategic foresight underscores India's commitment to developing a robust and technologically advanced air combat capability.

North Korea nears completion of new early warning aircraft upgrade.

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North Korea is reportedly nearing completion of its first airborne early warning aircraft (AEW&C), significantly enhancing its air force capabilities, which have seen little advancement recently. Satellite imagery indicates that an Ilyushin IL-76 aircraft, modified with a triangular radome similar to Chinese designs, is undergoing final preparations. This development could improve North Korea's ability to monitor enemy aircraft and coordinate air defenses, with analysts suggesting the need for at least four such aircraft to achieve continuous surveillance over South Korea. Despite these advancements, North Korea's official media has yet to acknowledge the project, raising questions about its technological capabilities and external influences, particularly from China. This escalation adds to the regional tensions, particularly with the ongoing developments in South Korean defense strategies and military preparedness.

Astra Missile Test from Tejas Enhances India's Defense Autonomy SHARE

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India's successful test of the Astra missile from the TEJAS fighter jet marks a significant advancement in its strategic autonomy and military modernization efforts. Developed by DRDO, the Astra is a beyond-visual-range missile designed to enhance the capabilities of India's indigenous TEJAS aircraft, expected to enter service by 2025. This integration reinforces India's goal of reducing reliance on foreign weapons by promoting self-sufficiency in defense, with multiple Astra variants in development for operational flexibility across various platforms. The test aligns with broader initiatives to modernize the Indian Air Force and showcases India's commitment to advancing its indigenous defense capabilities.

DRDO to Develop Advanced Dual-Channel Imaging Seeker for Missiles SHARE

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The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is set to fabricate a high-resolution dual-channel electro-optic imaging seeker, enhancing India's missile and UAV capabilities. This project, involving collaboration with Indian firms, aims to create seekers with a target acquisition range of 10-15 km and rapid target locking, ensuring high accuracy during diverse operations. Leveraging DRDO's existing expertise in imaging technologies, this initiative is pivotal for advancing India's self-reliance in defense and adapting to modern battlefield dynamics. By focusing on modular design and long-term storage, DRDO demonstrates its commitment to indigenizing critical defense systems and fostering innovation within the domestic defense industry, significantly boosting national security.

AMCA Program: Pioneering Advanced Design and Stealth Features SHARE

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The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program is making significant strides, focusing on advanced materials, aerodynamic design, and stealth capabilities. Key features include a centre fuselage structure composed of 38-40% composites, diverterless supersonic inlets, and integrated mid-air refuelling systems that minimize radar cross-section. The collaboration between HAL and private firms emphasizes efficient production processes, including CNC machining and structural integration. These advancements align with India's strategic goal of

developing fifth-generation fighters, enhancing operational range while ensuring stealth. Overall, the AMCA program demonstrates India's commitment to modernizing its air force and increasing self-reliance in defense technology.

Mahindra Withdraws from AMCA SPV, Tata and L&T to Lead Stealth Fighter Development SHARE

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Mahindra Defence Systems has exited the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) model, leaving Tata Advanced Systems and Larsen & Toubro to lead India's fifth-generation stealth fighter jet production. This shift highlights a strategic move towards leveraging private sector expertise alongside traditional public sector capabilities, with HAL maintaining a crucial role in technical support. The AMCA project, with an estimated development cost of \$5 billion, represents a significant advancement in India's defense capabilities. The exclusion of Mahindra underscores the importance of relevant experience in aircraft manufacturing, paving the way for a focused consortium that can meet stringent military requirements effectively.

Tejas Mk2: Efficient Manufacturing and Lower Costs for IAF SHARE

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India's Tejas Mk2 fighter program emphasizes efficient manufacturing and reduced operational costs, integrating advanced engineering principles. Designed for the Indian Air Force, the Mk2 features a larger airframe and a payload capacity of 6.5 tons, with production leveraging existing Tejas infrastructure to optimize costs. Its lifecycle cost is projected to be significantly lower than imports like the Rafale, with an operational cost of approximately \$25,000 per flight hour. This strategic focus not only enhances India's air defense capabilities but also aligns with the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative, ensuring operational readiness while maximizing resource allocation for future defense projects.

IAF Upgrades Tejas Mk1A with ASRAAM Missiles for Enhanced Combat SHARE

15-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is upgrading its Tejas Mk1A Light Combat Aircraft with the European ASRAAM missile, replacing the older Russian R-73. This transition enhances the aircraft's close-combat capabilities, offering improved range, maneuverability, and

resistance to countermeasures. Notably, ASRAAM production is set to occur in India, aligning with the country's aim for self-sufficiency in defense manufacturing. This move not only bolsters the IAF's operational readiness against modern aerial threats but also promotes domestic expertise in advanced missile technology, potentially paving the way for future indigenous missile developments like the Astra series. The integration of the advanced Python-5 missile further strengthens the Tejas Mk1A's combat versatility.

ADRDE's Parachute System Surpasses 27,000-Foot Freefall Target SHARE

15-Mar-25

The Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully demonstrating its Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS) with a combat freefall jump from 27,000 feet, making it the only system in India capable of such high-altitude deployment. This leap enhances the operational capabilities of Indian Armed Forces, particularly for special forces in challenging environments like the Himalayas, allowing for stealthy insertions while carrying full combat loads. The MCPS features advanced capabilities such as a lower rate of descent and enhanced steering, crucial for high-stakes missions. This development underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology and strengthens its airborne warfare strategy.

Japan Set to Lead in 6th Gen GCAP Fighter Jet Orders SHARE

15-Mar-25

The Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), a collaboration involving Japan, the UK, and Italy, is projected to have 350 orders for next-generation fighter jets by 2035, with Japan likely emerging as the largest operator due to its aging fleet. The Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) aims to replace around 150-200 obsolete aircraft, particularly the F-2 fighters, aligning with its strategic push for enhanced indigenous defense capabilities. The GCAP not only addresses the replacement needs of partner nations but also represents a significant opportunity for industrial growth and technological innovation in air combat, reinforcing Japan's pivotal role in the program.

Gripen E: A Modular, Future-Ready Fighter for the IAF SHARE

15-Mar-25

Saab's Gripen E/F fighter jet has been highlighted as a strong contender for the Indian Air Force's MRFA program, thanks to its modular design and ability to integrate advanced technologies rapidly. Annika Meijer, Head of Design, emphasized the Gripen's agility and IP protection, allowing India to customize its systems without compromising on safety. This flexibility is crucial for incorporating indigenous systems like the Astra BVRAAM and BrahMos-NG missile. With lower lifecycle costs and potential local production under the Make in India initiative, the Gripen offers a compelling option for the IAF, aligning with India's strategic focus on advanced, adaptable military capabilities.

India's Next-Gen Nuclear Submarine to Launch by 2029 SHARE

15-Mar-25

India's next-generation Nuclear Attack Submarine (SSN) program is set to revolutionize its naval capabilities with a new design expected by 2029. This innovative SSN will significantly differ from the existing Arihant-class SSBNs, aiming for enhanced stealth, maneuverability, and combat effectiveness with a cylindrical hull profile for reduced hydrodynamic resistance. The submerged displacement is projected to be over 7,000 tons but under 10,000 tons, aligning it with advanced SSNs globally. The project underscores India's commitment to modernizing its naval fleet, ensuring it remains competitive in contemporary maritime warfare while enhancing national security through superior underwater capabilities.

SSS Defence's Manohar72 Carbine: A Leap for Atmanirbhar Bharat SHARE

15-Mar-25

SSS Defence has secured a landmark contract with the Uttar Pradesh Police to supply 2,000 units of the indigenous Manohar72 (M72) carbine, priced at 93,000 INR per unit. This achievement highlights India's push for self-reliance in defense under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The M72 carbine is designed for close-quarters combat, combining modularity, reliability, and affordability, making it a compelling alternative to higher-priced domestic and imported options. Named after former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, this development underscores the efficacy of India's private defense sector and its capacity to meet modern security needs while fostering domestic innovation and competition against global standards.

Debate Over Upgrading Rafale's Radar with Indigenous GaN Tech SHARE

15-Mar-25

India's recent introduction of a GaN-based AESA radar for the AMCA and Super Sukhoi upgrade has sparked debate over upgrading the Rafale jets' GaS radar with indigenous technology. The indigenous radar promises enhanced capabilities, including greater autonomy from French approvals for weapon integration. However, obstacles such as intellectual property rights and the need for rigorous re-certification processes pose challenges. While immediate upgrades may be risky, collaboration with France on incremental enhancements could enhance compatibility with Indian systems. Ultimately, India's focus on indigenous development aligns with its self-reliance goals, potentially reducing dependence on foreign technology while advancing its defense capabilities.

DRDO Unveils Key Near Isothermal Forging Tech for Aero-Engines SHARE

15-Mar-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved a significant advancement in India's defense and aerospace sector by successfully developing near isothermal forging technology, crucial for manufacturing high-pressure compressor discs used in aero-engines. This innovation, executed by the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) in Hyderabad, enhances production capabilities for titanium alloy components, aligning with India's self-reliance goals. The technology has been transferred to Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) for large-scale production, with 200 HPC disc forgings already supplied to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for integration into the Adour engine, which powers the Indian Air Force's Jaguar and Hawk aircraft, boosting operational readiness and maintenance capabilities.

US Has Yet to Offer Concrete F-35 Sale Proposal to India SHARE

15-Mar-25

India's Defence Secretary RK Singh confirmed that the US has not presented any concrete proposal regarding the sale of F-35 fighter jets, tempering expectations for immediate negotiations. The F-35's advanced capabilities could enhance India's air combat capabilities amid regional threats, especially against China and Pakistan's modernizing forces. However, the integration of such a platform raises concerns about cost, interoperability, and alignment with India's self-reliance goals, particularly with ongoing indigenous

projects like the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft. The situation underscores India's cautious approach to modernizing its air force while balancing its defense priorities.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India Denounces Pakistan's Claims on Jammu and Kashmir at UN SHARE

15-Mar-25

India has firmly rejected Pakistan's repeated references to Jammu and Kashmir at the UN General Assembly, asserting that such claims will not alter the territory's status as an integral part of India. Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish criticized Pakistan's "fanatical mindset" and emphasized India's commitment to diversity, highlighting its substantial Muslim population and its stance against religious intolerance. He reiterated that Pakistan's attempts to internationalize the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly during commemorations addressing Islamophobia, are unfounded and will not legitimize its claims or justify its cross-border terrorism practices. This ongoing discourse reflects the enduring tension between India and Pakistan over Jammu and Kashmir, with both nations maintaining their entrenched positions despite numerous diplomatic efforts for resolution.

Putin Offers to Spare Ukrainian Troops Amid Ceasefire Talks SHARE

15-Mar-25

Recent developments in the Ukraine conflict highlight ongoing tensions surrounding ceasefire negotiations. Russian President Putin called for Ukrainian troops to surrender in the Kursk region, while President Zelensky dismissed claims of encirclement and urged allies for clear security guarantees, advocating for foreign troop contingents in Ukraine. U.S. President Trump expressed optimism about a potential 30-day ceasefire, although Zelensky accused Russia of sabotaging peace efforts. As discussions unfold, the G7 has warned Russia of new sanctions if it does not engage in meaningful negotiations, while Zelensky emphasized the need for European military support to secure a lasting peace. This scenario underscores the complexities of international diplomacy, the dire military situation in Ukraine, and the push for stronger defense collaboration among Western allies.

China's Amphibious Drills in South China Sea Raise Tensions SHARE

15-Mar-25

China has reportedly conducted amphibious landing drills in the South China Sea, utilizing specialized vessels to deploy military troops and vehicles onto beaches, reflecting preparations for potential conflicts, particularly concerning Taiwan. Observations indicate that these "invasion barges" were identified near Zhanjiang, strategically located close to Taiwan, enhancing China's military capabilities in contested regions. The drills coincide with rising tensions, as China's Foreign Minister emphasized that reunification with Taiwan is inevitable, hinting at possible military action. This escalation in military activity underscores the need for India to bolster its own defense posture in the region, ensuring readiness against potential threats emanating from China's aggressive maneuvers.

G7 denounces China's aggressive maritime actions in Indo-Pacific SHARE

15-Mar-25

The G7 foreign ministers have strongly condemned China's aggressive maritime actions in the Indo-Pacific, highlighting concerns over its attempts to alter the status quo through coercive measures, including military build-up and dangerous maneuvers against vessels from the Philippines and Vietnam. The G7 reaffirmed their commitment to international law, expressing that a stable and rules-based maritime order is essential for global prosperity. They called for China to engage in discussions for strategic risk reduction and transparency while emphasizing that their policies on Taiwan remain unchanged. This unified stance underlines the international community's growing apprehension toward China's assertiveness, reinforcing the importance of multilateral cooperation for regional stability.

China's New Invasion Barges: Strategic Boost or Risky Gamble? SHARE

15-Mar-25

Recent reports highlight China's development of interconnected jack-up barges intended for amphibious operations against Taiwan, enabling the People's Liberation Army Navy to land forces efficiently at less fortified coastal sites. Despite their potential to complicate Taiwan's defensive strategies, these barges are vulnerable to attacks from Taiwanese anti-ship missiles and face significant operational challenges, including environmental hazards and logistical bottlenecks. Furthermore, their construction may

provoke stronger defensive measures from Taiwan and its allies. Ultimately, while these barges may enhance China's amphibious capabilities, they do not guarantee success in a complex and high-stakes invasion scenario.

Military Operations

India Boosts Defense with Indigenous Radars to Counter China Threat SHARE

15-Mar-25

India is bolstering its defense capabilities by signing a ₹2,906 crore contract for 18 indigenous Ashwini Low-level Transportable Radars (LLTR) with Bharat Electronics Limited. Developed by DRDO, these radars will enhance the Indian Air Force's capacity to track aerial threats, including drones and missiles, particularly in light of China's expanding radar network near the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The Ashwini radar's advanced features and mobility will significantly improve India's early warning systems and situational awareness. This initiative underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing and reinforces its strategic posture amid growing regional security challenges.

Brahmastra Corps Showcases Air Defense Firepower in Drills SHARE

15-Mar-25

The Eastern Command of the Indian Armed Forces recently showcased the firepower of the Brahmastra Corps during air defense drills, sharing compelling images and a video on social media. This display underscores India's commitment to enhancing its air defense capabilities, reflecting a strategic focus on preparedness against potential threats. The drills not only demonstrate the proficiency of the forces but also serve to reassure the nation of their readiness to protect sovereignty. Such initiatives are critical in fostering regional stability and reinforcing India's position as a formidable power in defense readiness.

Pak Army: 18 Soldiers Among 26 Hostages Killed in Balochistan Attack SHARE

15-Mar-25

The recent attack on the Jaffar Express passenger train in Balochistan, claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), resulted in significant casualties, with reports indicating that 18 out of 26 confirmed hostages killed were soldiers. Following the attack, Pakistan accused

Afghanistan and India of complicity, asserting that the militants had direct contact with handlers in Afghanistan. The Afghan government refuted these allegations, labeling them as baseless, while India also dismissed Pakistan's claims and criticized its tendency to deflect attention from its internal security issues. This incident highlights the escalating insurgency in Balochistan and the complex regional dynamics, where accusations of external interference are rampant, yet the focus should ideally remain on addressing domestic terrorism challenges within Pakistan.

Zelensky: Ukrainian troops safe in Kursk amid Russian buildup

15-Mar-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has reassured that Kyiv's troops are not encircled in the Kursk region, despite reports suggesting otherwise, while simultaneously cautioning against a new build-up of Russian forces. This situation reflects ongoing tensions in the region as Russia appears to be reinforcing its military presence. Zelensky's statement highlights Ukraine's resilience and strategic communication efforts to maintain morale and international support. The evolving dynamics underscore the importance of vigilance and preparedness for both Ukraine and its allies in response to potential escalations from Russia.

Israeli airstrike kills nine in Gaza amid ceasefire tensions.

15-Mar-25

An Israeli airstrike in Gaza's Beit Lahiya town resulted in the deaths of at least nine individuals, including local journalists, as Hamas leaders engaged in ceasefire discussions in Cairo. The Israeli military stated the strike targeted "terrorists" allegedly operating a drone, emphasizing its intent to thwart perceived threats. This incident highlights the fragile nature of the ceasefire agreement established on January 19, with ongoing disputes complicating negotiations. Hamas has accused Israel of undermining the truce, while Israel seeks to extend the ceasefire's first phase, indicating a challenging path towards a lasting resolution amidst rising tensions and significant casualties.

Russia intercepts 126 Ukrainian drones after rejecting U.S. ceasefire

15-Mar-25

Russia reported the interception of 126 Ukrainian drones, primarily over the Volgograd and Voronezh regions, following its rejection of a U.S.-proposed ceasefire. President Putin expressed support for a truce

but raised concerns about its implementation, seeking discussions with U.S. President Trump. This incident highlights ongoing tensions and Ukraine's persistent drone attacks targeting Russian territory amid the protracted conflict. The situation underscores the complexities of peace negotiations and the strategic implications for regional security, emphasizing the challenges both nations face in achieving a sustainable resolution to the conflict.

Indian Army Enhances High-Altitude Firepower with VMIMS in Sikkim

15-Mar-25

The Indian Army has deployed the Vehicle Mounted Infantry Mortar System (VMIMS) in Sikkim to enhance operational capabilities in high-altitude terrains along the China border, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives. The VMIMS, integrating the automated Alakran-L mortar system with the Armado Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle, boosts mobility, firepower, and rapid response in challenging environments. This deployment signals India's commitment to strengthening military preparedness in response to heightened tensions with China, especially after the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, ensuring sustained firepower and operational readiness in a strategically critical region. Overall, this development reinforces India's defense posture and self-reliance in military capabilities.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Ordnance Factory worker arrested for leaking info to Pakistani agent

15-Mar-25

The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terror Squad arrested Ravindra Kumar, a chageman at the Ordnance Factory in Hazratpur, for allegedly sharing sensitive information with a Pakistani agent he befriended on Facebook. The ATS revealed that Kumar, motivated by financial gain, transmitted confidential documents over WhatsApp, which were discovered on his phone. This incident highlights the ongoing threat of espionage against Indian defense establishments, underscoring the need for enhanced security measures and vigilance within sensitive government sectors to protect national security interests. The proactive actions of the ATS in apprehending the accused demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding India's internal and external security.

India Must Recognize Turkey as a Terrorism Sponsor, Says Expert SHARE

15-Mar-25

A recent interview with Middle East expert Michael Rubin highlights Turkey's role as a sponsor of terrorism, particularly in relation to its support for Kashmir militants through Pakistan. Rubin argues that India's strategic interests are compromised by Turkey-Pakistan ties, suggesting that India should adopt a more assertive diplomatic stance, potentially by supporting Kurdish movements as a countermeasure. He emphasizes the need for India to calibrate its strategy in response to threats, as Turkey's ideologue President Erdogan is unlikely to abandon his support for terrorism. The discussion also touches on the shifting dynamics in U.S. policy towards Turkey, with growing skepticism in Congress regarding Ankara's actions.

Hamas to release hostages if Israel agrees to truce terms SHARE

15-Mar-25

Hamas has announced it will release an American-Israeli hostage and four others only if Israel adheres to a ceasefire agreement, demanding the start of negotiations for a lasting truce and the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza. Israel remains skeptical of Hamas' intentions, accusing the group of manipulation, while the U.S. supports extending the ceasefire. The negotiations, ongoing in Egypt with the involvement of Qatar, highlight the complex dynamics in the region, as both sides aim to navigate the terms of the truce amid significant humanitarian concerns. The situation remains tense, with Israel's military actions resulting in substantial casualties and destruction in Gaza.

Baloch Rebels Claim 214 Hostage Deaths Blaming Pakistan's Stubbornness SHARE

15-Mar-25

Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the deaths of 214 hostages, attributing it to Pakistan's "stubbornness and military arrogance" in negotiations. The BLA justified their actions under international law, stating that Pakistan's refusal to engage in serious dialogue left them with no choice. They alleged heavy casualties for Pakistani forces during a rescue attempt, while Pakistan's military disputed these claims, asserting a successful operation that resulted in the death of 33 rebels and the rescue of many hostages. The BLA's challenge for independent observers to assess the situation highlights the ongoing conflict and the complexities of negotiating

peace in a region plagued by insurgency and state repression.

Bomb Blast in South Waziristan Injures JUI Leader and Three Others SHARE

15-Mar-25

A bomb blast at a mosque in South Waziristan injured a JUI leader and three others, amidst a troubling trend of attacks on religious institutions in Pakistan's border areas with Afghanistan. This incident follows a series of similar violent events, including a deadly suicide blast in Nowshera that killed six people and a January attack in Peshawar that resulted in over 100 fatalities. While Pakistan accuses Afghan militants of orchestrating these attacks, the Afghan Taliban denies such claims. The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam has condemned the violence and called for improved security measures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, highlighting the urgent need for robust law enforcement and regional stability.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Pro-Palestinian Hackers Target X: A Wake-Up Call for Cybersecurity SHARE

15-Mar-25

The Dark Storm Team, a pro-Palestinian hacktivist group, has claimed responsibility for a significant DDoS attack on X (formerly Twitter), highlighting the vulnerability of major digital platforms to politically motivated cyber threats. Their activities, which include targeting critical infrastructure and utilizing sophisticated obfuscation techniques, signify an alarming evolution in cyber aggression aimed at destabilizing essential services. This incident emphasizes the urgent need for enhanced cybersecurity measures across sectors, as organizations must adopt proactive defenses to mitigate the growing sophistication of cybercriminal syndicates. With the rise in attacks, there is an essential call for robust cybersecurity protocols to protect vital communication and infrastructure.

Infosys US unit to pay \$17.5M after 2023 cyberattack fallout SHARE

15-Mar-25

Infosys McCamish Systems has agreed to pay \$17.5 million to settle class-action lawsuits following a cybersecurity incident in 2023, allegedly linked to the LockBit ransomware gang, which impacted services for

key clients like Bank of America. The settlement aims to resolve all allegations without admission of liability and follows a comprehensive forensic investigation that revealed unauthorized activity during late October 2023. Infosys incurred losses of approximately Rs 250 crore (\$30 million) related to remediation efforts. This incident highlights the growing challenges of cybersecurity in the financial sector, underscoring the need for robust security measures in technology services to protect sensitive client data.

Air Chief Marshal A P Singh Reviews Southern Air Command's Readiness

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15-Mar-25

Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, visited the Southern Air Command (SAC) headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram for a Commanders Conference. He was briefed on air defense, operational readiness, and maritime air operations, commending SAC for its credible posture and humanitarian efforts. The CAS emphasized the importance of adapting to emerging technologies and enhancing capabilities to address multidomain warfare and evolving security challenges. This visit underscores the IAF's commitment to maintaining operational excellence and preparedness in safeguarding national interests in the southern region, reflecting a proactive stance against contemporary geopolitical dynamics.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Indian Army Launches Free Coaching for Sainik School Exams in J-K

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15-Mar-25

The Indian Army has launched a free coaching program in Ramban, Jammu and Kashmir, to help local students prepare for the Sainik School Entrance Exam, offering both offline and online classes. This initiative has been well-received by the community, with parents expressing gratitude for the opportunity it provides to their children, nurturing future leaders for the Indian Armed Forces. Additionally, the Army's 10 Rashtriya Rifles unit organized a blood donation camp in Doda, emphasizing the importance of community participation in emergency medical situations. These efforts underscore the Indian Army's commitment to social responsibility and community welfare in remote regions, fostering a sense of national pride among the youth.

Indian Army's Veterans Rally in Alwar Reinforces Support and Welfare

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15-Mar-25

The Indian Army organized a successful Veterans Rally in Itarana Cantt, Alwar, showcasing its commitment to veteran welfare, with over 500 attendees. The event facilitated immediate grievance redressal and informed veterans about welfare initiatives from various government bodies. A motorcycle rally called Gaurav Yatra preceded the event, ensuring outreach to veterans in remote areas. Major General Ashish Khurana emphasized the Army's dedication to veterans, reinforcing the ethos of Service Before Self. This initiative not only provided essential services like medical camps but also strengthened the bond between the Army and its former personnel, reaffirming support for their dignity and well-being.

Miscellaneous

Experts Urge Demolition of Vyttila Army Flats Within Six Months

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Experts have recommended the demolition of two structurally unstable towers at the Chander Kunj army flats in Vyttila within six months to ensure resident safety. The process, which includes debris clearance, will take around ten months following resident evacuation. Concerns regarding potential damage to an adjacent tower and the nearby metro line were addressed, with assurances that demolition can proceed safely. The Kerala High Court had earlier ordered the demolition and reconstruction of these towers, with the Army Welfare Housing Organisation committing ₹175 crore for the initiative, while flat owners seek clarification on compensation matters.

BSF and Army Celebrate Holi with Locals at Indo-Pak Border

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15-Mar-25

Personnel from the Border Security Force (BSF), Army, and CRPF celebrated Holi along the Indo-Pak border in Jammu, engaging in festivities with locals that underscored unity and inclusiveness amidst security challenges. Celebrations occurred at the International Border and various locations along the Line of Control, with soldiers expressing their joy while serving away from home. The event highlighted cultural integration, as Hindus and Muslims participated collectively in the

festivities, emphasizing a long-standing tradition of celebrating together. This spirit of camaraderie among the forces and local communities showcases the resilience and harmony that exist despite geopolitical tensions, reinforcing the importance of national security and community ties.

Foreign Diplomats Celebrate Holi, Emphasizing Unity and Joy SHARE

15-Mar-25

In a vibrant celebration of Holi, foreign diplomats in India, including representatives from Japan, Germany, and Australia, extended heartfelt greetings, emphasizing the festival's themes of joy, unity, and friendship. Australian External Affairs Minister Penny Wong and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar exchanged messages of goodwill, highlighting the festival's global appeal and its ability to foster cultural connections. The celebrations saw participation from diverse groups, such as the Australian deaf cricket team, showcasing the universal values of love and harmony inherent in Holi. This year's festivities, marked by a spirit of camaraderie and cultural exchange, underpinned the importance of such occasions in strengthening bilateral relationships and celebrating shared human values across nations.

India Set to Become World's 3rd Largest Economy by 2028 SHARE

15-Mar-25

India is projected to become the world's third-largest economy by 2028, expanding from \$3.5 trillion in 2023 to \$5.7 trillion, surpassing Germany, as per Morgan Stanley. This growth is attributed to strong factors including macro stability, infrastructure improvements, and rising consumer demand. The report anticipates a recovery in economic growth following a slowdown, driven by support from fiscal and monetary policies, with inflation expected to stabilize around 4.3% by FY2026-27. However, risks to growth remain from external factors, including U.S. trade policies and global economic conditions, necessitating vigilance in domestic policy to maintain macro stability.

ISRO Successfully Tests CE20 Cryogenic Engine for LVM3-M6 Mission SHARE

15-Mar-25

ISRO has successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot test of the cryogenic engine CE20 for the LVM3-M6 mission at its Propulsion Complex in Tamil Nadu. This test marked a significant advancement as it was performed for 100 seconds under non-vacuum

conditions, enhancing the efficiency of cryogenic stage delivery for future space missions. The CE20 engine met performance objectives, aligning with predictive parameters. This achievement reflects India's growing capabilities in indigenous space technology and enhances the LVM3 launch vehicle's operational readiness for the mission scheduled in the latter half of 2025, further solidifying India's position in the global space race.

Trump Aims for a Clean Washington for Modi's Visit SHARE

15-Mar-25

US President Donald Trump expressed a desire for Washington D.C. to present a clean image during visits from international leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He noted efforts to remove tents and graffiti near federal buildings, emphasizing a vision for a crime-free capital to ensure safety for visitors. Trump's remarks highlight his administration's commitment to revitalizing the city, particularly as it hosts significant diplomatic meetings. This focus on urban renewal aligns with broader strategies to enhance the U.S.'s global standing and foster stronger bilateral relations, particularly with India, showcasing the importance of maintaining a favorable environment for international diplomacy.

Chinese Naval Fighter Jet Crashes; Pilot Ejects Safely SHARE

15-Mar-25

A Chinese naval fighter jet from the Southern Theatre Command crashed during training exercises near Jialai town in Hainan, with the pilot successfully ejecting and escaping unhurt. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has stated that it is mobilizing forces to manage the aftermath and will investigate the cause of the incident. This event highlights the ongoing challenges faced by the Chinese military as it continues to enhance its operational capabilities amidst regional tensions. For India, such incidents may underline the importance of maintaining readiness and vigilance in the face of a rapidly evolving security environment in the Indo-Pacific region.

Hyderabad cops foil Rs 2 crore WhatsApp scam before funds lost SHARE

15-Mar-25

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) successfully thwarted a cyber fraud attempt that could have led to a loss of Rs 1.95 crore for a Hyderabad-based company. A fraudulent WhatsApp message

impersonated the company's CMD, tricking an accounts officer into initiating a transfer. Quick action from the TGCSB and the company's prompt reporting prevented the fraudsters from accessing the funds. This incident underscores the growing sophistication of cybercriminals and highlights the critical importance of vigilance and verification in financial transactions, particularly in corporate environments, where substantial amounts are at stake. Authorities emphasize the need for enhanced cybersecurity awareness to safeguard digital financial dealings.

US Declares South African Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool Unwelcome

15-Mar-25

The U.S. has declared South African Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool "persona non grata" following his critical remarks about Trump's administration, reflecting heightened tensions between the two nations. This decision underscores a deteriorating relationship, exacerbated by disputes over South Africa's land expropriation policies, which Trump associates with anti-white sentiment. The U.S. has also halted aid to South Africa, indicating serious concerns about fairness in these policies. Former officials emphasize the urgent need to repair this strained relationship, highlighting the significance of diplomatic dialogue in resolving underlying issues.

SpaceX and NASA Launch Crew-10 to Replace Astronauts on ISS

15-Mar-25

SpaceX and NASA successfully launched the Crew-10 mission, transporting four astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) to replace Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who are set to return on March 19 after an extended mission. The Crew Dragon capsule, launched by a Falcon 9 rocket, carries NASA's Anne McClain, Nichole Ayers, Japan's Takuya Onishi, and Russia's Kirill Peskov, who will conduct research and maintenance tasks during their six-month stay. The mission has sparked political controversy, with claims suggesting the astronauts' extended stay was politically motivated, although these assertions lack evidence. This highlights ongoing tensions in U.S. leadership and space policy, underscoring the strategic importance of maintaining robust partnerships in space exploration.

Trump Slams Justice Department, Cites Need for Reform in Address

15-Mar-25

In a recent address, US President Trump criticized past investigations into his activities, referring to the Justice Department as the "Department of Injustice" and emphasizing a need for reform. He highlighted his vision to combat crime, particularly drug trafficking, and illegal immigration, mentioning strategies like mass deportations. Trump also expressed a desire to improve Washington, D.C.'s appearance for visiting leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His remarks, which blended campaign rhetoric with criticisms of the Justice Department's integrity, drew backlash from Democrats who accused him of undermining the rule of law. Overall, Trump's statements reflect his ongoing efforts to maintain influence and reshape the narrative around his political challenges.

India Earns \$143 Million Launching 393 Foreign Satellites

15-Mar-25

India has generated \$143 million from launching 393 foreign satellites since 2015, showcasing its capabilities in the global space economy. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched satellites for 34 countries, including a significant number for the US and UK. India's successful missions, such as Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1, bolster its status as a prominent space power, while the upcoming Gaganyaan mission aims to demonstrate human spaceflight capabilities. With plans for the Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035 and lunar exploration by 2040, India's private space sector has gained momentum, further solidifying its role in the international space arena.

Russia Turns to Crypto for Oil Trade with China and India Amid Sanctions

15-Mar-25

Russia is reportedly utilizing cryptocurrencies, including bitcoin and stablecoins, in its oil trade with China and India to circumvent Western sanctions, a strategy that is becoming increasingly significant in its overall oil transactions. This method allows for smoother conversions from currencies like the Chinese yuan and Indian rupee to Russian roubles. Although traditional currencies dominate, analysts suggest that the use of crypto transactions, which can reach tens of millions monthly, offers a more efficient means of conducting trade. This development reflects broader trends in

which countries under sanctions seek alternative payment methods, potentially reshaping global oil market dynamics.

ISRO Successfully De-docks SpaDeX Satellites, Boosts Future Missions



15-Mar-25

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully de-docked the SpaDeX satellites, marking a significant milestone for future missions like the Bharatiya Antriksha Station, Chandrayaan 4, and Gaganyaan. Union Minister Jitendra Singh highlighted this achievement, which follows the successful docking of the satellites that began on January 16. This progress underscores ISRO's commitment to advancing India's capabilities in space exploration, human spaceflight, and eventually establishing its own space station. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support is acknowledged as a vital factor in maintaining the momentum of these ambitious endeavors, fostering national pride and technological advancement in India's space program.

Amritsar Temple Attack: Punjab Minister Promises Quick Arrests



15-Mar-25

In Amritsar, Punjab, a grenade was hurled at the Thakurdwara Temple, leading to the identification of two suspects captured on CCTV. Punjab Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal assured swift police action, while Commissioner GPS Bhullar indicated potential involvement of Pakistan's ISI, warning against youth being lured into disturbances. Despite recent violence, including an attack at the Golden Temple, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann emphasized Punjab's stable law and order, acknowledging ongoing attempts to disrupt peace through drugs and gang-related activities. Authorities remain committed to resolving these incidents promptly, reinforcing the state's resilience against external threats.

Indian Student Ranjani Srinivasan Self-Departs After Visa Revoked for Hamas Support



15-Mar-25

An Indian student, Ranjani Srinivasan, self-deported from the U.S. after her visa was revoked for allegedly supporting Hamas, prompting statements from

Homeland Security about the consequences of advocating for terrorism. Concurrently, Columbia University faces federal funding cuts due to perceived inaction against anti-Semitic harassment of Jewish students amid heightened tensions following recent events in Israel. The U.S. government has emphasized the importance of compliance with anti-discrimination laws for federal funding eligibility, reflecting a broader stance on campus safety and accountability. This situation underscores the challenges universities face in balancing free speech and student safety while navigating complex geopolitical issues.

India's Bharat Small Modular Reactor Moves to Next Development Stage



15-Mar-25

India's Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR) project has successfully completed its concept design stage, awaiting approval to advance further, as announced by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh. This modular reactor, a refined version of the existing Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR), aims to enhance India's nuclear energy capacity while addressing energy security and carbon neutrality goals. It reflects India's commitment to expanding its clean energy portfolio, with plans to triple nuclear capacity by 2031. The BSMR, designed for efficiency and adaptability, is expected to streamline construction timelines and contribute significantly to stable, low-carbon electricity generation, crucial for meeting the nation's growing energy needs.

INS Imphal Showcases India's Naval Strength During Mauritius National Day



15-Mar-25

The INS Imphal recently concluded its visit to Mauritius, marking the 57th National Day celebrations, where it showcased India's naval prowess with a marching contingent, a band, and helicopter flyovers. The ship engaged in professional training with the Mauritius National Coast Guard and conducted community outreach activities, including a medical camp for the elderly. This deployment underscored India's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and positioning itself as a key security partner in the Indian Ocean Region. The collaborative exercises, including joint EEZ surveillance, further reinforced India's role as a proactive responder to maritime challenges.

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