



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### Army Chief Celebrates India-US 10-Year Defense Deal Boosting Production



16-Feb-25

India's Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi has praised the upcoming 10-year defense framework between India and the US, which aims to enhance defense production and promote self-reliance. This framework, part of the "US-India COMPACT for the 21st Century," will facilitate easier procurement and technology sharing, with a commitment to review arms transfer regulations. Planned initiatives include co-production of Javelin anti-tank missiles and Stryker infantry vehicles, alongside the acquisition of additional P-8I Maritime Patrol aircraft to bolster India's maritime capabilities. Notably, the US is also paving the way for providing F-35 fighter jets to India, which highlights the growing defense partnership and strategic alignment between the two nations, further solidifying India's position in regional security dynamics.

### India's F-35 Consideration: Balancing Capability and Autonomy



16-Feb-25

India is exploring the potential acquisition of F-35 fighter jets from the U.S., as indicated by discussions between Prime Minister Modi and President Trump, although no formal process has been initiated. Despite this offer, India remains committed to its indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project, with a first flight expected in 2027-28 and significant funding approved. The debate centers around operational readiness and strategic autonomy, with the F-35 providing advanced capabilities but potentially complicating India's longstanding defense ties with Russia and its focus on self-reliance. Additionally, regional dynamics with Pakistan and China could shift significantly if India pursues U.S. technology, making a thorough evaluation of implications essential for India's long-term defense strategy.

### HAL Unveils AMCA Prototype Costs and Production Goals at Aero India

2025 SHARE

16-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) revealed that each prototype of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) will cost around ₹1,000 crore, with plans to reduce this to below \$100 million upon entering serial production by 2034. The exhibition also showcased a full-scale model of the AMCA, manufactured by Hyderabad's VEM Technologies, highlighting India's commitment to self-reliance in defense. This model, created using indigenous materials, reflects successful collaboration between public and private sectors, marking a significant step towards reducing dependence on foreign technology. The AMCA, India's first stealth fighter, aims to enhance the Indian Air Force's capabilities with advanced avionics and AI-driven combat features, reinforcing India's position in aerial dominance while promoting indigenous defense manufacturing.

### US Heavy Bombs Arrive in Israel, Boosting IDF Amid Conflict



16-Feb-25

A shipment of US-made heavy bombs, specifically MK-84 munitions, has arrived in Israel, strengthening the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) amid ongoing conflicts with Hamas. This comes after an extensive \$7.4 billion arms deal approved by the Trump administration, enhancing Israel's defense capabilities against current and future threats. The delivery is seen as a testament to the strong US-Israel alliance, particularly as Israel continues its military operations in Gaza following a significant attack by Hamas. As geopolitical tensions rise, the US's support reinforces Israel's strategic position in the region, crucial for maintaining stability and deterrence against adversaries.

## Bharat Forge and VEDA Join Forces to Develop Advanced UAVs SHARE

16-Feb-25

Bharat Forge Limited (BFL) and VEDA Aeronautics have partnered to develop advanced unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and aerial weapons, with BFL providing indigenous microjet engines for VEDA's unmanned systems. This collaboration focuses on creating jet engines with thrust capabilities up to 400 kgf, enhancing India's defense capabilities and supporting the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative aimed at self-reliance in defense technology. VEDA's expertise in integrating narrow AI, electro-optics, and robotics into unmanned systems will further bolster India's defense sector, positioning it as a key player in both national and global defense needs while promoting innovation and indigenous manufacturing.

## Indian Army and IAF Ramp Up Search for Advanced Anti-Drone Tech SHARE

16-Feb-25

The Indian Army and IAF are intensifying efforts to enhance their anti-drone capabilities, issuing tenders for indigenous integrated drone detection and interdiction systems and seeking advanced counter-UAS solutions. The need for sophisticated systems, including jamming and laser-based technologies, stems from the evolving drone threats highlighted in recent global conflicts. While the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is developing effective systems, collaboration with domestic firms and international partners is crucial for rapid advancements. The deployment of these systems along the Line of Control demonstrates India's proactive approach to securing its borders against emerging aerial threats.

## OEF Develops Sukhoi Su-30MKI Brake Parachute, Boosting Self-Reliance SHARE

16-Feb-25

India's Ordnance Equipment Factory (OEF) has developed a crucial brake parachute safety mechanism for the Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet, enhancing aircraft landing safety by reducing stopping distances and preventing runway overruns. This technology transfer from DRDO represents a significant leap toward self-reliance in defense manufacturing, supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. OEF Hazratpur, alongside private firms, is set to produce these parachutes domestically, fulfilling an order worth 500 crore from the Indian Air Force and even securing

export opportunities to Southeast Asia. The advancement not only strengthens India's defense capabilities but also marks a key milestone in reducing dependence on foreign suppliers.

## F-35 Jet Challenges Highlight India's Need for Self-Reliance SHARE

16-Feb-25

The F-35 stealth jet program is facing significant challenges, with a recent GAO report highlighting rising sustainment costs projected at \$1.58 trillion, a 44% increase since 2018. Reliability issues have led to a 21% reduction in annual flight hours, exacerbated by spare parts shortages and supply chain difficulties. The F-35's overall availability has declined, with none of the variants meeting operational goals, raising concerns about its long-term viability. This situation underscores the complexities of maintaining advanced military technology and suggests that India, while contemplating its own defense strategies, may benefit from focusing on domestic technological development and self-reliance to avoid similar pitfalls.

## HAL, IISc, and FSID Collaborate to Solve Helicopter Vibration Issues SHARE

16-Feb-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and the Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to tackle helicopter tail-rotor vibration challenges. This collaboration aims to enhance helicopter reliability and performance by addressing issues related to excessive vibrations, which can lead to reduced component lifespan, safety risks, increased maintenance costs, and degraded performance. By focusing on innovative research and engineering solutions, this initiative is crucial for HAL, a key player in manufacturing helicopters like the Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv and Light Combat Helicopter, thereby bolstering operational readiness for the Indian armed forces.

## Alpha Design Technologies to Supply Advanced VHF Radars to IAF SHARE

16-Feb-25

Bangalore-based Alpha Design Technologies has secured a significant contract to supply six advanced mobile VHF radars to the Indian Air Force (IAF), highlighted during Aero India 2025. This innovative radar system enhances the IAF's capability to detect stealth aircraft with a range of 360 kilometers and an altitude detection of up to 15 kilometers. The mobile

setup, utilizing two trucks for deployment, provides operational flexibility. Additionally, the Indian Army has expressed interest in the radar technology, indicating its potential for broader defense applications. This development underscores India's growing defense capabilities through indigenous innovation, enhancing overall national security.

## Adani Defence Unveils Prahast Kit to Enhance Airstrike Precision



16-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Adani Defence unveiled the Prahast Modular Range Extension Kit, which transforms conventional bombs into precision-guided munitions, enhancing India's airstrike capabilities. Developed in collaboration with UAE's Al Tariq, the kit allows for integration with LCA-Tejas Mk1A and is adaptable to various bomb sizes with features like all-weather operation, height of burst sensors, and resistance to GPS jamming. This advancement provides a cost-effective solution for upgrading existing munitions and ensures rapid deployment through wireless integration. Such innovations signify India's commitment to modernizing its defense capabilities and maintaining operational effectiveness in diverse combat scenarios.

## MIDHANI Launches SuperNi 41 Plates for Aerospace at Aero India 2025



16-Feb-25

Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI), in collaboration with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), has unveiled the indigenous SuperNi 41 plates at Aero India 2025, marking a significant advancement in India's aerospace sector. This nickel-chromium base superalloy offers exceptional strength and thermal resilience, aimed at critical components in jet and rocket engines. The development enhances domestic capabilities, reduces dependence on imports, and strengthens national security through self-reliance in aerospace materials. This milestone showcases India's commitment to fostering innovation in its defense and aerospace industries, ultimately contributing to economic self-sufficiency and advanced defense capabilities.

## Indigenous 180hp Diesel Engine Set to Boost Tapas UAV Performance



16-Feb-25

Coimbatore-based Jayem Automotive has developed an indigenous 180hp diesel engine for UAVs, marking a significant advancement in India's defense capabilities showcased at Aero India 2025. This engine, set to

power the upgraded Tapas UAV, has completed ground trials and will soon undergo taxi and in-flight tests. It addresses India's reliance on imported engines, enhancing fuel efficiency and operational effectiveness at high altitudes, crucial for surveillance missions in challenging terrains like the Himalayas. This development aligns with India's strategic goal of self-reliance in defense technology, bolstering national security and reinforcing indigenous manufacturing in the aerospace sector.

## Kaveri Engine Derivate Enters Validation Trials for UCAV, Tejas



16-Feb-25

The Kaveri Engine Derivate (KDE) is set for validation trials in Russia, focusing on confirming enhancements over previous models, with a targeted dry thrust of 49kN. The Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) aims to integrate the KDE into the 13-tonne Rapid Personal Surveillance Aircraft UCAV program and test it on older Tejas aircraft, which could inform the development of a more powerful Kaveri 2.0 engine with a thrust of 90kN. This progress is crucial for reducing India's dependence on foreign engine technology and enhancing the performance of future combat aircraft, demonstrating India's commitment to self-reliance in defense capabilities.

## Rostec Unveils Izdeliye 177S Engine for AMCA at Aero India 2025



16-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Rostec proposed its Izdeliye 177S engine for India's AMCA fifth-generation fighter and Sukhoi Su-30 MKI upgrades. This engine offers significant performance enhancements, including increased thrust and improved fuel efficiency, with a service life three times longer than the current AL-31FP. The IAF's modernization plans could benefit from local manufacturing, aligning with the Make in India initiative, enhancing self-reliance in aero-engine technology. With its compatibility and advanced features, the 177S represents a strategic opportunity for India to boost its combat capabilities and technology independence in defense.

## Adani Group among finalists for India's SSLV privatization bid



16-Feb-25

Adani Group has emerged as a finalist, alongside two government-linked firms, for the privatization of India's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), developed by ISRO. This initiative, part of a broader push to energize

India's commercial space sector, aims to tap into the rapidly growing global satellite launch market, currently dominated by private entities like SpaceX. The winning bidder will gain access to critical technology and support, with the SSLV market projected to grow significantly by 2030. The government's strategic move to privatize the SSLV is a crucial step in enhancing India's presence in the global space economy, aiming to increase its share from 2% to \$44 billion by the decade's end.

## French Army Explores India's Pinaka MLRS, Strengthening Ties



16-Feb-25

A French Army delegation visited the School of Artillery in Devlali, India, on February 13, 2025, to explore the indigenous Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS). The delegation observed a detailed briefing and a live firing demonstration, highlighting the system's rapid deployment capabilities and effective firepower, with variants capable of striking targets up to 300 kilometers. France's interest in the Pinaka arises as it seeks replacements for its aging artillery systems, potentially positioning the Pinaka as a strong contender among other global options like the HIMARS. This visit underscores the strengthening defense ties between India and France, with the Pinaka's proven adaptability appealing to modern military needs.

## DRDO Launches Advanced Sensor Suite for Dornier Do 228 at Aero India 2025



16-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, the DRDO unveiled the Shyen GaN-based sensor suite for the Indian Navy's Dornier Do 228, significantly enhancing its maritime surveillance capabilities. This comprehensive system features a long-range AESA radar named Kshitij, which offers advanced operational modes, including SAR for high-resolution imaging and electronic warfare capabilities. The integration of AI for target classification, along with an EO/IR system for improved reconnaissance, underscores India's advancements in radar technology. The SDR communication suite ensures effective data relay for real-time decision-making, reflecting India's growing defense sophistication and commitment to enhancing naval operational readiness.

## Tata and DRDO Launch Passive Exoskeleton to Boost Soldier Endurance



16-Feb-25

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and DRDO have introduced an innovative Passive Exoskeleton designed to enhance soldier mobility and endurance in combat by significantly reducing the physical burden of heavy loads. This cutting-edge technology alleviates strain on key joints, transferring up to 75% of the carried weight to the ground, thereby minimizing fatigue and injury risk. Demonstrated in various combat scenarios, the exoskeleton proved effective for long marches and challenging maneuvers. This advancement not only bolsters military efficiency but also aligns with India's objective of self-reliance in defense technology, reinforcing the commitment to equip soldiers with state-of-the-art support systems for improved operational performance.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

## Jaishankar and Saar explore Trump's vision for India-Israel ties



16-Feb-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar at the Munich Security Conference, where they discussed the strategic importance of India-Israel relations and the geopolitical landscape of West Asia. They emphasized Donald Trump's vision of connecting India to Israel and Europe through enhanced logistical networks, which aims to bolster trade routes and secure freedom of navigation in international waters against threats like the Houthis and Iran. Jaishankar also interacted with leaders from other nations, showcasing India's commitment to strengthening global cooperation in security and economic matters amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics. This collaboration is pivotal for regional stability and highlights India's proactive role in fostering alliances that counter regional threats and promote economic interconnectivity.

## Zelenskiy urges a European army to boost defense against Russia.



16-Feb-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy proposed the establishment of a European army to enhance defense capabilities against Russia, citing a shifting relationship with the U.S. amid its focus on other priorities. This call



comes as the Trump administration seeks contributions from European nations for Ukraine's security in light of potential peace negotiations with Russia. Although NATO exists as a military alliance, skepticism remains regarding the formation of a unified European force, as some officials argue for increased defense spending and a unified European strategy. This development underscores the urgency for Europe to strengthen its military autonomy to ensure regional stability.

## Rubio backs Israel's goal to eliminate Hamas, jeopardizing Gaza ceasefire.



16-Feb-25

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has strongly supported Israel's objective to eradicate Hamas, complicating the fragile ceasefire in Gaza. During his visit, he emphasized that Hamas must not remain a governing or military force, while Israel conducted airstrikes that Hamas claimed violated the ceasefire. The U.S. is pushing for Arab nations to develop a postwar plan without Hamas, sparking concerns over potential mass displacement of Palestinians. Arab leaders, wary of both expulsion scenarios and internal backlash, are working on alternatives, highlighting the geopolitical complexities surrounding the ongoing conflict and the delicate balance of U.S. influence in the region.

## Rubio and Lavrov Discuss Trump's Push for Ukraine Conflict Resolution



16-Feb-25

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio recently spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, reiterating former President Trump's commitment to resolving the Ukraine conflict. This dialogue follows a phone call between Trump and President Putin, signaling a resumption of direct U.S.-Russia communications after years. The discussions also included potential bilateral collaborations and aimed at preparing for upcoming peace talks in Saudi Arabia, which notably exclude European allies. This shift raises concerns about the implications for transatlantic relations, particularly as the U.S. seeks to negotiate an end to what Trump termed a "ridiculous war," emphasizing the need for a swift resolution to minimize further loss and destruction.

## India-Bangladesh Border Talks: Tackling Security and Fencing Issues



16-Feb-25

India and Bangladesh are set to engage in border talks next week, focusing on measures to prevent attacks on Border Security Force (BSF) personnel and Indian civilians by Bangladeshi miscreants, alongside strategies to curb cross-border crimes. With 864.482 km of the border unfenced, the discussions will address challenges like land acquisition and difficult terrain. India aims to highlight increased infiltration attempts linked to human trafficking and smuggling, while Bangladesh seeks a revision of certain border agreements. The meeting will also cover infrastructure development and joint efforts under the Coordinated Border Management Plan, vital for enhancing security along the extensive 4,096 km border.

## Jaishankar Engages with Former NATO Chief on Global Security



16-Feb-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar engaged in pivotal discussions at the 61st Munich Security Conference, meeting with figures such as former NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg and various foreign ministers. The talks emphasized evolving global security architecture, enhanced India-Nordic cooperation, and expanding trade relations with Argentina, Denmark, and Romania. Jaishankar's engagements reflect India's strategic intent to bolster bilateral ties and address complex global challenges, demonstrating India's proactive role in international security dialogues. Such initiatives are crucial for solidifying India's position as a key player in global geopolitics while fostering collaboration on issues like trade, connectivity, and climate action.

## Misri Seeks Stable India-Bangladesh Ties After Modi-Trump Talks



16-Feb-25

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's concerns regarding recent developments in Bangladesh during his discussions with US President Donald Trump at the White House. Misri expressed hope for stable and constructive relations between India and Bangladesh, especially following the turmoil that led to the ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Trump's remarks indicated a hands-off approach, emphasizing that the situation was for Modi to manage. India remains committed to maintaining good relations with its neighbor despite the

challenges, showcasing its proactive diplomatic stance in the region.

## Military Operations

### Security Forces Seize Arms in Kupwara Amidst Enhanced Vigilance SHARE

16-Feb-25

In a recent operation in Kupwara, J&K, joint security forces recovered arms, including pistols and ammunition, reflecting intensified efforts against terrorism in the region. Union Home Minister Amit Shah convened multiple security review meetings, resulting in the deployment of additional battalions to enhance counter-terrorism initiatives. Lt Governor Manoj Sinha emphasized a zero-tolerance policy towards infiltration and terrorist support networks. Despite recent challenges, including casualties among soldiers and open infiltration routes due to minimal snowfall, the Indian Army maintains high vigilance along the Line of Control to ensure national security and stability in J&K. This proactive stance underscores the government's commitment to eradicating terrorism.

### India and Japan to Kick Off Joint Military Exercise at Mount Fuji SHARE

16-Feb-25

India is set to conduct the sixth edition of the Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian with Japan at Mount Fuji from February 25 to March 9, aimed at enhancing interoperability between the two forces in urban warfare and counter-terrorism operations. This exercise follows the Chief of Army Staff's successful visit to Japan, signaling a strengthening of bilateral defense ties. Concurrently, the India-Egypt Cyclone III exercise is taking place in Rajasthan, focusing on special operations tactics and interoperability between the two nations' special forces. Both exercises demonstrate India's commitment to fostering international military collaborations and enhancing operational readiness against contemporary security challenges.

### Indian Navy Joins Indonesia's International Fleet Review 2025 SHARE

16-Feb-25

The Indian Navy's INS Shardul and P8I aircraft have arrived in Bali, Indonesia, to participate in the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2025 from February 15-22. This prestigious event will be attended by the President of Indonesia and includes high-level

engagements such as the International Maritime Security Symposium. Additionally, the Indian Navy will partake in Exercise Komodo, enhancing regional maritime cooperation and interoperability. This participation underscores India's commitment to the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative, reflecting its dedication to fostering strong ties with Southeast Asian navies and promoting environmental sustainability through joint activities.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### UN Report: India Foils ISIS Large-Scale Attacks, Lone-Wolf Risk Remains SHARE

16-Feb-25

A recent UN report highlights that the Islamic State is unable to execute large-scale attacks in India, although it continues to incite lone-wolf attacks via local supporters. The report underscores the persistent threat from ISIL-K in Afghanistan, which poses risks to regional stability, as it exploits the Taliban's weaknesses. Despite global counter-terrorism efforts, the resilience of these groups remains concerning, with a call for international unity to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a terrorism hotspot again. This situation emphasizes India's ongoing vigilance and the need for strengthened counter-terrorism strategies to mitigate threats from these evolving terrorist networks.

### Israeli airstrike in Gaza kills three Hamas police officers. SHARE

16-Feb-25

An Israeli airstrike in the southern Gaza Strip reportedly killed three members of a Hamas-run police force, which the Hamas interior ministry condemned as a violation of a ceasefire meant to facilitate aid entry into Gaza. The Israeli military contended that the strike targeted armed individuals approaching its forces and urged Gazans to follow military instructions. This incident highlights the ongoing tensions and complexities in the region, where actions are often framed as part of broader security operations versus humanitarian considerations, underlining the fragile nature of ceasefire agreements and the challenges of ensuring peace amid continued hostilities.

## Tragic Explosion at Nagpur Explosives Firm Claims Two Lives SHARE

16-Feb-25

A tragic explosion occurred at SBL Energy Limited, an explosives manufacturing firm in Nagpur, Maharashtra, resulting in the deaths of two individuals and injuries to several others. The incident took place around 1:30 PM, prompting authorities to initiate an investigation into the cause of the blast, which also caused a minor fire that has since been extinguished. This event raises concerns regarding safety protocols in the explosives industry, highlighting the need for stringent regulations and oversight to prevent such incidents in the future. Enhanced safety measures are crucial to ensuring the well-being of workers and nearby communities in India's growing defense and industrial sectors.

### Miscellaneous

## US C-17 aircraft returns 116 illegal Indian immigrants to Amritsar SHARE

16-Feb-25

A US C-17 aircraft recently landed in Amritsar, returning 116 illegal Indian immigrants, marking the second such deportation under the Trump administration. Many deportees, including youths primarily from Punjab, Haryana, and Gujarat, were reportedly misled by travel agents into illegal migration routes. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann criticized the central government's choice of Amritsar as a landing site, calling it a conspiracy to defame Punjabis and raising security concerns due to the city's proximity to Pakistan. He questioned the absence of direct flights from Amritsar to the US despite its international status. The deportees, some reportedly handcuffed during their transport, are now returning to their homes after undergoing immigration checks. This situation highlights ongoing issues with human trafficking and illegal immigration in India, necessitating stricter regulations and better public awareness.

## India and Chad Enhance Bilateral Relations in First Consultations SHARE

16-Feb-25

India and Chad recently held their inaugural round of Foreign Office Consultations in N'Djamena, focusing on enhancing bilateral ties across various sectors including defense, trade, and agriculture. The discussions, co-chaired by Indian and Chadian officials, emphasized collaboration in health, digital

infrastructure, and cultural exchanges. Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to deepening ties and expanding cooperation in multilateral forums, notably supporting the African Union's G20 membership. Despite a decline in bilateral trade due to reduced crude oil imports, India maintains a strong presence in Chad with significant investments from Indian companies, particularly in telecommunications and oil sectors, indicating a robust partnership with potential for growth.

## Police Seize Banned Books in Handwara to Uphold Public Order SHARE

16-Feb-25

In Handwara, Jammu and Kashmir, police conducted thorough inspections of bookshops to seize banned literature linked to Jamaat-e-Islami, emphasizing their commitment to maintaining public order. Several copies of these unlawful materials were confiscated, and shop owners were warned about the legal consequences of distributing such content. The operation aimed to curb the spread of materials that could potentially incite unrest, reflecting the government's proactive stance on security and law enforcement in sensitive areas. Authorities encourage community vigilance and cooperation to prevent the circulation of prohibited literature and ensure the region's stability.

## President Murmu: AI Set to Transform Industries and Education SHARE

16-Feb-25

President Droupadi Murmu emphasized the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning during her speech at the platinum jubilee celebrations of Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra. She highlighted the Government of India's proactive steps to integrate AI into higher education, with BIT Mesra leading the way through its newly launched courses. Murmu underscored the dramatic changes AI is likely to bring to industries and economies while advising innovators to respect the knowledge of traditional communities. This commitment to technological advancement reflects India's strategic focus on harnessing AI for future growth, enhancing its competitive edge in the global landscape.

## Indian Americans Applaud Modi's US Visit and Talks with Trump SHARE

16-Feb-25

The Indian American community has warmly welcomed Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to the U.S. and his

meeting with President Trump, emphasizing the importance of their dialogue and the potential for collaboration on global challenges. Prominent leaders noted the strong camaraderie between the two leaders, showcasing a commitment to prioritize the U.S.-India relationship. The presence of Indian Americans in significant roles within the Trump administration was highlighted as a testament to the diaspora's bipartisan support and their role as a bridge between the nations. This developing partnership signals a robust opportunity for both countries to enhance cooperation in various sectors, including security and innovation.

## Tharoor Welcomes Modi-Trump Meeting, Cites Key Concerns Addressed



16-Feb-25

Tharoor expressed satisfaction with the recent PM Modi-Trump meeting, highlighting the potential sale of F-35 stealth aircraft to India, which would enhance the Indian Air Force's capabilities alongside the Rafael. He emphasized the importance of constructive trade negotiations between the two nations to avoid adverse tariffs on Indian exports. Tharoor noted Modi's growing global stature, being the fourth world leader to meet Trump, and appreciated the latter's praise of Modi's negotiating skills. He advocated for humane treatment of Indian nationals being repatriated from the U.S., reinforcing the need for good governance and responsible dialogue in addressing such issues.

## Indian Navy Women Officers Triumph at Cape Horn Expedition



16-Feb-25

In a historic achievement, Indian Navy officers Lieutenant Commander Dilna K and Lieutenant

Commander Roopa A successfully navigated Cape Horn aboard INSV Tarini during the Navika Sagar Parikrama II expedition. This feat not only highlights their exceptional navigational skills but also underscores India's commitment to maritime exploration and the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The expedition, covering 23,400 nautical miles across four continents and three oceans, emphasizes India's growing capabilities in maritime endeavors. As the officers earn the title of Cape Horners, their journey serves to inspire future generations and showcases India's strengthening position in global maritime affairs.

## President Murmu unveils vibrant new Change of Guard Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



16-Feb-25

President Droupadi Murmu observed the inaugural show of the revamped Change of Guard Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on February 16, 2025. This new format, set to welcome more visitors starting February 22, will feature a dynamic visual and musical performance alongside military drills by the President's Bodyguard and Ceremonial Guard Battalion. The inclusion of a Ceremonial Military Brass Band, performing in a larger area, enhances the experience for attendees. This initiative not only promotes military heritage but also showcases India's commitment to engaging the public with its ceremonial traditions, reinforcing national pride and unity. Visitors can reserve slots online for this experience.

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