



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

Astra Missile Trial Boosts IAF's Homegrown Combat Capabilities



16-Mar-25

The successful flight trial of the Astra missile by the Indian Air Force (IAF) marks a significant advancement in India's defense capabilities, particularly in the realm of air-to-air combat, with the missile exceeding a range of 100 km. This development is crucial as it reduces India's historical dependence on imported missile systems and highlights the nation's growing self-reliance in defense technology. The introduction of such homegrown systems is expected to enhance the lethality of the IAF and foster a competitive edge in aerial warfare, reflecting India's commitment to strengthening its defense infrastructure and national security in an evolving geopolitical landscape.

India and Brazil to Collaborate on Scorpene Submarine Maintenance



16-Mar-25

India and Brazil are set to enhance their defense collaboration with a forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focused on the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) of Scorpene-class submarines. This partnership, highlighted by General Heraldo Luiz Rodrigues' recent visit to India, aims to bolster India's naval capabilities by reducing reliance on foreign expertise for submarine maintenance. The collaboration taps into Brazil's proficiency in submarine upkeep, fostering mutual benefits in technological advancements and operational readiness. This strategic alliance reflects both nations' commitment to securing maritime domains and enhancing indigenous defense capabilities through innovative cooperation.

Turkey and South Korea Lead in Jet Engine Development; India Lags



16-Mar-25

Turkey and South Korea are advancing rapidly in indigenous jet engine development, with Turkey investing \$3-5 billion in the TF-35000 engine for its Kaan fighter jet and South Korea committing \$2.3 billion for an engine for the KF-21 Boramae. In contrast, India faces delays in its Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program due to indecision over partnerships and funding for engine development. India's reliance on foreign engines for its current fleet highlights the urgency for a domestic solution. To catch up, India must prioritize its engine program, increase funding, and foster collaboration between DRDO, HAL, and the private sector to build long-term propulsion capabilities.

GRSE and Apollo Micro Systems Launch Mini-Torpedo for UAVs



16-Mar-25

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and Apollo Micro Systems (AMS) have jointly developed a Mini-Torpedo for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) aimed at neutralizing small combat boats, enhancing India's maritime security against asymmetric threats. This innovative weapon features a range of approximately 5-7 kilometers and a 1-2 kg warhead, making it effective against agile vessels often used in piracy and coastal incursions. The collaboration, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding in January 2025, leverages GRSE's naval expertise and AMS's technological proficiency, providing the Indian Navy and Coast Guard with a lightweight, precision-guided solution to counter small, elusive threats in coastal waters.

Lockheed Martin Focuses on F-21, Abandoning F-35A for MRFA



16-Mar-25

Lockheed Martin has opted not to propose its F-35A for India's Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) tender due to

its small order size and stringent US technology transfer restrictions, instead focusing on the F-21 variant of the F-16. The F-21, designed specifically for the Indian Air Force, features modern upgrades but may struggle against competitors like the Rafale and Eurofighter due to its fourth-generation lineage. While Lockheed emphasizes economic benefits from local manufacturing and MRO services, India's strategic goals may prioritize advanced capabilities to counter regional threats, particularly from China's growing air power. The MRFA tender's outcome will significantly influence India's fighter fleet modernization efforts.

IAF Boosts Logistics with ₹24.71 Crore Deal for 114 BS VI Troop Carriers



16-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has awarded SML ISUZU Limited a significant contract worth ₹24.71 crores for the supply of 114 BS VI-compliant, 4-Wheel Drive (4WD) Troop Carriers. These vehicles, designed to accommodate 20 personnel each, will enhance the IAF's logistical capabilities by providing reliable transportation in challenging terrains, crucial for operations at remote airbases and border areas. The procurement, conducted transparently via the Government e-Marketplace, underscores the growing role of indigenous manufacturers in supporting India's defense needs while ensuring adherence to environmental standards. This deal highlights India's commitment to advancing its defense logistics through modern, efficient solutions.

Sri Lanka and India Collaborate on Small-Arms Manufacturing Facility



16-Mar-25

Sri Lanka is in discussions with India to establish a small-arms manufacturing facility, reflecting deepening defense cooperation amid shared security concerns in the Indian Ocean. This initiative follows a successful Indian defense exhibition in Colombo, highlighting India's role as a trusted partner in enhancing Sri Lanka's military capabilities. The proposed facility aims to reduce Sri Lanka's reliance on imports, boost operational readiness, and create local employment opportunities, aligning with the country's modernization efforts. Ultimately, this collaboration not only strengthens bilateral relations but also supports regional stability in the face of evolving threats like terrorism and maritime piracy.

Successful MPATGM Ejection from Archer Drone Demonstrated



16-Mar-25

A recent video has demonstrated the successful safe ejection trial of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) from the Archer Short Range Unmanned Aerial Vehicle-Weaponised (SRUAV-W), a tactical UAV developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). This advancement highlights the Archer's capability to execute precision strikes and conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions, enhancing the Indian Armed Forces' battlefield effectiveness. The successful trial signifies improved operational flexibility and redundancy, allowing for precision engagements against armored targets, which is crucial in modern warfare. The Archer's integration of MPATGM underscores India's commitment to advancing indigenous defense technology to bolster military capabilities.

IAF Aims for Complete Indigenization by 2047 to Boost Self-Reliance



16-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF), under Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, has set an ambitious goal for complete indigenization by 2047, aligning with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. This roadmap aims for a fully indigenous inventory of aircraft, weapons systems, and infrastructure, reducing reliance on foreign suppliers and enhancing operational independence. Current initiatives like the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas exemplify this shift, with orders for advanced Mk-1A versions and future Mk-2 integration planned. The IAF's push for collaboration with domestic industries, research institutions, and innovation within its ranks is crucial for realizing this vision of technological sovereignty by the 100th anniversary of India's independence.

Pravaig's VEER stealth vehicle triumphs in military trials, earns iDEX accolade.



16-Mar-25

Pravaig Dynamics' all-terrain stealth vehicle, VEER, has successfully completed military trials and received the iDEX award from the Ministry of Defence, marking a significant advancement in India's defense autonomy. As the world's first operational electric tactical all-terrain vehicle, VEER is designed for reconnaissance and ISR operations, emphasizing India's commitment to developing indigenous defense technologies. The iDEX

initiative, aimed at fostering innovation, highlights the importance of reducing dependency on foreign military technologies, which has historically impacted India's strategic capabilities. Pravaig's achievement reinforces India's mission to build and operate its own advanced military systems, ensuring sovereignty over national security infrastructure.

India's Defence Exports to EU Set for Major Growth Amid Demand

📞 SHARE

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India's defence exports are poised for significant growth, particularly to the European Union, driven by Europe's manufacturing limitations and workforce shortages. As NATO faces increased pressure to enhance its defence capabilities amid a reduction in US military aid to Ukraine, Indian manufacturers like Bharat Electronics and Hindustan Aeronautics stand to benefit from the EU's ambitious 800 billion defence spending plan. With Indian defence exports reaching a record 21,083 crore in FY 2023-24, a 32.5% increase from the previous year, India's competitive pricing for advanced systems like Akash and BrahMos positions it as a key player in the global market, aligning with the government's target of 500 billion in defence exports by FY29.

India and France's Mega Defense Deals Await CCS Approval

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Two significant defense deals between India and France are poised for approval by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), focusing on the acquisition of Rafale-M jets and Scorpene submarines. The Rafale-M deal aims to enhance the capabilities of the INS Vikrant aircraft carrier, while the Scorpene submarines will build on previous collaborations, incorporating design advancements. These agreements reflect a commitment to bolster Indo-French defense cooperation, encompassing joint production and technology transfers. With the impending finalization of these deals, India is strategically positioning itself to enhance its maritime defense capabilities and further strengthen its defense ties with France, vital for regional stability.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Portugal Shifts from F-35s to French Rafales Amid U.S. Concerns

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16-Mar-25

Portugal has decided to forego the purchase of the U.S. F-35 fighter jet, primarily due to concerns over U.S. foreign policy and its reliability as a NATO ally under a potential second Trump administration. This shift prompts Portugal to consider European alternatives like the Eurofighter Typhoon and Dassault Rafale, which offer greater autonomy from U.S. supply chains. The implications of this decision could ripple through NATO, influencing other member states to reassess their reliance on American military hardware, thereby potentially diminishing the strategic significance of the F-35. This scenario underscores the rising need for European defense autonomy amid uncertainties in U.S. commitments.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

China Delivers Second Submarine to Strengthen Pakistan Navy

📞 SHARE

16-Mar-25

China has delivered a second Hangor-class submarine to Pakistan, part of an agreement for eight submarines aimed at enhancing Pakistan's naval capabilities in the Indian Ocean region. This collaboration, rooted in a 2015 defense pact, reflects deepening military ties between the two countries, with the submarines featuring advanced air-independent propulsion systems and the ability to launch missiles like the Babur-3. The delivery underscores China's role as Pakistan's primary arms supplier, fulfilling 81% of its advanced military needs in recent years. As Pakistan aims to counterbalance India's naval advancements, this partnership is poised to significantly impact regional dynamics, strengthening Pakistan's maritime deterrence and enhancing its strategic position in the face of growing tensions.

US Warns: China's Nuclear Surge Poses Challenge for India

📞 SHARE

16-Mar-25

The US has projected a significant increase in China's nuclear arsenal, estimating it could rise from 600 warheads in 2025 to 1,500 by 2035, while India's

stockpile remains static at around 172, raising concerns about India's deterrence capabilities. China's modernization includes diverse delivery systems and higher yields, challenging India's No First Use policy and minimal deterrence strategy. To maintain credible deterrence, India may need to triple its arsenal and enhance warhead yields, despite strategic, economic, and political constraints. This disparity underscores the urgent need for India to reassess its nuclear strategy in an evolving security landscape in the region.

Ex-Pakistan Envoy Urges Rejection of Jadhav's Mercy Plea SHARE

16-Mar-25

Former Pakistan Ambassador Abdul Basit has controversially called for the rejection of Kulbhushan Jadhav's mercy petition, labeling him an alleged Indian spy involved in destabilizing Pakistan. His remarks come amid heightened tensions following India's denial of involvement in the Jaffar Express train incident, which some in Pakistan speculate was sabotage. Basit also criticized Pakistan's decision to engage the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding Jadhav, claiming it allowed India to internationalize the issue. He argues that handling the case unilaterally would have been a better approach, asserting that Jadhav's case should be treated as a domestic matter rather than one of international law.

European Nations Weigh Conscription Amid US Withdrawal and Russian Threats SHARE

16-Mar-25

European nations are contemplating reintroducing conscription to bolster military capabilities in light of perceived US disengagement and ongoing Russian aggression, particularly following the invasion of Ukraine. With NATO facing recruitment challenges, countries like Poland and Germany are exploring various forms of military training for civilians, while France's President Macron aims to mobilize young people without reinstating mandatory service. Public support varies, with significant backing for conscription in France and Germany, yet political and societal resistance remains strong. This debate highlights Europe's vulnerability and the urgent need for enhanced defense readiness amidst shifting geopolitical dynamics.

Russia and Ukraine clash with aerial strikes amid ceasefire talks. SHARE

16-Mar-25

Russia and Ukraine engaged in significant aerial attacks, with Ukraine reporting over 100 enemy drones targeted at its territory, just after President Putin discussed a U.S.-proposed 30-day ceasefire. While Kyiv expressed conditional support for the truce, President Zelenskyy accused Russia of military build-up and continued aggression, indicating a lack of faith in Moscow's commitment to peace. The U.S. Secretary of State communicated with Russia to restore dialog, amidst ongoing bombings that severely damaged Ukraine's energy infrastructure. The situation underscores the complexities of diplomacy in wartime, as both sides brace for continued conflict despite calls for ceasefire.

US, Russia diplomats seek dialogue amid Ukraine conflict complexities SHARE

16-Mar-25

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov discussed the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, aiming to restore communication between the two nations. While Kyiv has tentatively agreed to a US-brokered ceasefire if Moscow halts its attacks, President Putin has not accepted any truce, demanding conditions outside the US proposal. This situation underscores the complexities of diplomatic negotiations amid military actions in the Middle East, particularly following US strikes against Huthi rebels in Yemen. The talks, facilitated by Saudi Arabia, reflect ongoing geopolitical challenges and the need for effective dialogue to achieve stability in the region.

Modi's Sri Lanka Visit to Strengthen Ties and Energy Cooperation SHARE

16-Mar-25

Prime Minister Modi's upcoming visit to Sri Lanka next month aims to bolster bilateral relations, focusing on energy collaboration and regional security. Key highlights include signing new Memoranda of Understanding and inaugurating the 135 MW Sampur solar power station, developed jointly by NTPC and Sri Lanka's Ceylon Electricity Board. This visit, marking Modi's fourth since 2015, emphasizes India's commitment to strengthening economic ties and strategic partnerships in the region. Additionally, it reflects Sri Lanka's balanced foreign policy, maintaining neutrality while fostering close ties with India, crucial for regional stability and cooperation against common challenges.

Military Operations

India Boosts Air Defense with Indigenous Radars Amidst China Tensions SHARE

16-Mar-25

India is set to enhance its air defense capabilities by deploying 18 indigenous LLTR Ashwini radars, developed by DRDO and manufactured by BEL, marking a significant step towards self-reliance in defense technology. This mobile radar system will strengthen the Indian Air Force's ability to track and neutralize aerial threats, including drones and missiles, with a detection range of up to 200 km. The deployment comes amid increasing Chinese surveillance efforts along the Line of Actual Control, highlighting the strategic necessity of improving India's early warning systems. Overall, this advancement signifies India's commitment to bolstering its defense capabilities in response to evolving regional threats.

India, Kyrgyzstan Strengthen Ties in Joint Military Exercise SHARE

16-Mar-25

The Indian Army and Kyrgyzstan military are currently engaged in the 12th edition of the joint special forces exercise Khanjar in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, from March 10 to March 23. This exercise focuses on urban warfare scenarios, counter-terrorism tactics, and precision sniping, enhancing operational capabilities and camaraderie between the two nations. The participation of elite troops from the Indian Parachute Regiment and the Kyrgyz Scorpion Brigade highlights the evolving strategic partnership and commitment to combat international terrorism. Additionally, cultural exchanges, including the celebration of Nowruz, aim to strengthen bilateral ties further, reflecting India's dedication to fostering regional peace and security.

Indian Army's New Mortar System in Sikkim Enhances Defense Readiness SHARE

16-Mar-25

The Indian Army has deployed the Vehicle Mounted Infantry Mortar System (VMIMS) in the sensitive Sikkim region to bolster its artillery capabilities. Developed under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, this system enhances mobility, quick reaction, and firepower, allowing for rapid deployment in challenging terrains. The VMIMS, which features an 81 mm mortar mounted

on an Armored Light Specialist Vehicle, demonstrates India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology. This deployment signifies a significant advancement in India's military preparedness, ensuring the Army can respond swiftly to threats in high-altitude areas, underscoring the importance of indigenously developed defense systems.

Army Dismantles IED in Kupwara, Ensuring Regional Safety SHARE

16-Mar-25

Security forces in Kupwara successfully recovered and destroyed an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in the Narikut forest area, averting a potential terror incident. The Chinara Corps of the Indian Army, along with the Border Security Force (BSF), emphasized their commitment to maintaining peace in Kashmir through heightened search operations to eliminate further threats. This operation reflects the Indian Army's proactive stance against terrorism, showcasing their effectiveness in safeguarding civilians and securing the region. Such efforts reinforce India's resolve to ensure a terror-free environment in Jammu and Kashmir and highlight the ongoing challenges faced by security forces in countering insurgency activities.

Trump's Major Strikes on Houthis Leave 31 Dead in Yemen Escalation SHARE

16-Mar-25

The recent escalation in Yemen has seen U.S. President Trump launch significant strikes against the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels, reportedly killing at least 31 people. This military action, aimed at countering Houthi attacks on shipping routes, marks the largest U.S. operation in the region since Trump's tenure began. The Houthis, who have increasingly engaged in maritime aggression amid the ongoing Gaza conflict, have vowed retaliation, underscoring their alignment with Iran and groups like Hamas. The situation reflects a broader geopolitical struggle, as the U.S. aims to protect crucial shipping lanes while combating Iranian influence in the region. The Houthis, although part of the "Axis of Resistance," maintain a domestic agenda, complicating the narrative surrounding their motivations. This conflict emphasizes the need for a strategic approach to ensure regional stability and protect international trade routes.

Chinese fighter jet pilot safely ejects after crash in Hainan



16-Mar-25

A Chinese training fighter jet crashed in southern Hainan province, with the pilot successfully parachuting to safety, as reported by the People's Liberation Army Navy. Fortunately, there were no casualties at the crash site. This incident underscores the ongoing challenges faced by the Chinese military in maintaining flight safety and operational readiness. While the Indian Air Force continues to enhance its capabilities through rigorous training and modernization, such incidents highlight the importance of robust safety protocols and advanced technology in aviation, reinforcing India's strategic advantage in the region amidst rising geopolitical tensions.

Indian Navy Enhances Anti-Ship Missile Capabilities Against China



16-Mar-25

The Indian Navy is enhancing its anti-ship capabilities with the development of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR) and the Long-Range Stand-Off Weapon (LRSOW), designated RudraM-IV, to counter increasing Chinese naval power. The NASM-MR, with over 350 km range, and the RudraM-IV, with a range of 1,000-1,500 km, will provide strategic standoff capabilities and precision targeting against Chinese aircraft battle groups. These indigenous systems complement existing missiles like BrahMos, establishing a versatile and layered response to maritime threats, thereby reinforcing India's maritime security and operational dominance in contested waters. This development underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense and its proactive approach to maintaining regional stability.

Government Gains Ground in Bastar as Naxal Threat Declines



16-Mar-25

The Indian government's decisive strategy against Naxal insurgency has led to a 53% reduction in violence from 2004-2024, showcasing significant gains in security, particularly in Bastar. The recent rise in encounters, arrests, and community engagement initiatives, including the Bastar Olympics, reflects a comprehensive approach that combines military action with socio-economic development. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's vision of transforming Bastar into a tourist hub underscores the importance of addressing underlying issues fueling Naxalism. While challenges remain, the shifting balance of power indicates a

promising trend towards stability and development in the region.

IAF Successfully Executes 27,000 Feet Free-Fall Jump with Indigenous Parachutes



16-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force successfully conducted a free-fall jump from 27,000 feet using an indigenous military combat parachute system developed by the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment in Agra. This advanced system, supporting high-altitude jumps, enhances the precision and effectiveness of special operations forces, enabling them to operate undetected in challenging environments. The successful execution of these jumps reflects India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology and underscores the sophistication of its military capabilities. This development is crucial for bolstering India's operational readiness and enhancing its strategic positioning in a complex geopolitical landscape.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Two Army Personnel Arrested for Hotel Robbery in Bathinda



16-Mar-25

Two army personnel, Gurdeep Singh and Sunil Singh, were arrested along with four accomplices in Bathinda for robbery and attempted murder, involving a stolen AK-47 rifle and ammunition. The incident occurred when Sunil, on leave, stole the weapon from his unit in Jammu and used it to rob a hotel, taking ₹8,000 and mobile phones. During police pursuit, one accomplice fired at officers and was injured in return fire. This case raises concerns about the misuse of military firearms and the need for stringent disciplinary measures within the armed forces to prevent such incidents from undermining public trust. Collaboration with military authorities is underway for a comprehensive investigation.

India to Co-Chair 14th ADMM-Plus Counter-Terrorism Meeting



16-Mar-25

The 14th meeting of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts Working Group on Counter-Terrorism will take place in New Delhi on March 19-20, 2025, co-chaired by India and Malaysia.

This marks India's first time co-chairing the EWG, which aims to develop a comprehensive strategy against terrorism and extremism and will involve delegations from 10 ASEAN members and eight dialogue partners. The meeting will lay the groundwork for activities from 2024-2027, emphasizing practical cooperation in various security areas, thereby reinforcing India's strategic role in regional defense collaboration and counter-terrorism efforts.

LeT's key terrorist behind Rajouri, Reasi attacks killed in Pakistan.

 **SHARE**

16-Mar-25

Abu Qatal, a prominent Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist linked to several high-profile attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, was reportedly killed in Pakistan. His role in orchestrating the deadly June 2023 bus attack on Hindu pilgrims and the January 2023 Rajouri attack had made him a key target for Indian security agencies. His involvement in forming proxy groups like the People's Anti-Fascist Force (PAFF) and The Resistant Force (TRF) showcased LeT's strategy to maintain plausible deniability while continuing terror operations. While his death marks a significant blow to LeT's activities, analysts express concerns over the group's resilience and capacity to adapt by promoting new operatives. This development underscores the ongoing challenges faced by Indian security forces in combating terrorism, as LeT's organizational structure allows it to regroup despite the elimination of key figures.

Three Pakistan-linked operatives arrested for Nanded murder

 **SHARE**

16-Mar-25

Three operatives linked to Pakistan-based terrorist Harvinder Singh alias Rinda have been arrested in connection with a murder case in Nanded, Maharashtra. The arrests, made by Punjab police, include individuals actively involved in logistics and weapon procurement to support Rinda's operations from across the border. Authorities recovered firearms intended for further illegal activities, highlighting the ongoing threat posed by cross-border terrorism. This incident underscores the persistent challenges faced by Indian security forces in dismantling terrorist networks operating in collaboration with foreign entities, emphasizing the need for continued vigilance and robust counter-terrorism strategies to maintain national security.

60 Maoists Surrender in Telangana, Bolstering Anti-Insurgency Efforts

 **SHARE**

16-Mar-25

Sixty Maoists surrendered to the police in Telangana's Bhadrachalam district, marking a significant step in the ongoing efforts to combat insurgency in the region. This mass surrender, which included individuals from various Maoist cadres, was facilitated by the state government's rehabilitation initiatives aimed at encouraging militants to renounce violence. The police highlighted that this event follows previous surrenders, showcasing the effectiveness of sustained governmental efforts. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has expressed a commitment to eradicating Maoism by March 2026, emphasizing the objective of restoring peace and ensuring safety for civilians in affected areas.

Grenade attack on Amritsar temple raises fears of Pak involvement

 **SHARE**

16-Mar-25

In Amritsar, Punjab, two assailants launched a grenade attack on the Thakurdwara Temple, raising concerns over potential Pakistani involvement and communal tensions during Holi festivities. The Punjab Police, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, emphasized vigilance against cross-border terrorism and vowed to maintain peace. This incident marks the 13th grenade attack in the region since mid-November, prompting political leaders to criticize the AAP government for failing to ensure security. While Punjab Congress President Amarinder Singh Raja Warring called for serious attention to such violent acts, Mann defended the police's commitment to protecting the state's integrity and sovereignty amidst ongoing threats from external forces.

IED Blast in Quetta Claims Life of Anti-Terrorism Force Member

 **SHARE**

16-Mar-25

An IED blast in Quetta, Balochistan, resulted in the death of one Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF) member and injured six others, emphasizing the volatile security situation in the region. This incident follows a significant attack by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), which hijacked the Jaffar Express train, resulting in the claimed execution of 214 hostages due to failed negotiations with the Pakistani government. The ongoing violence and the BLA's separatist activities highlight the persistent challenges faced by Pakistani security forces in Balochistan, raising critical concerns

about regional stability and the effectiveness of current counter-terrorism strategies. Such incidents could potentially influence India's defense posture and security strategies in response to regional threats.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Indian Army's Viral Ban List: Safeguarding Against Digital Threats

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16-Mar-25

The Indian Army's poster of list of banned mobile applications for personnel has caught social media attention, highlighting security threats and strict usage guidelines aimed at safeguarding sensitive information. Notable bans include popular messaging platforms, e-commerce sites, dating apps, and various social media and gaming applications including Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, TrueCaller, TikTok and Chinese apps like WeChat, AliExpress and Shein, reflecting concerns over data security and espionage. This proactive cybersecurity measure, which prohibits smartphone usage in sensitive areas, reinforces the Army's commitment to national security amid rising digital threats. While many commend the initiative, concerns about potential communication hindrances for soldiers have been raised, indicating a need for a balanced approach to security and operational efficiency.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

India Honors General Bipin Rawat on His 67th Birth Anniversary

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16-Mar-25

On March 16, 2025, India commemorated the 67th birth anniversary of General Bipin Rawat, the nation's first Chief of Defence Staff, who passed away in December 2021. Tributes poured in from the Armed Forces, highlighting his transformative leadership and contributions, including the Agneepath scheme, which reformed military human resources. General Rawat's legacy includes successful counter-terrorism operations and a significant role in shaping India's military strategy. His commitment and strategic vision continue to inspire future generations of warriors, underscoring the crucial impact of leadership in enhancing national defense capabilities. General Rawat's enduring influence remains vital for India's armed forces and their ongoing evolution.

Miscellaneous

ISRO Unveils Cryogenic Stage for LVM-3's Bluebird Satellite Launch

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16-Mar-25

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has flagged off the Cryogenic Upper Stage (C25) for the LVM-3 rocket, which is set to launch the Bluebird Block-2 satellite under a commercial agreement with AST & Science, LLC. This stage, developed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), integrates an indigenous high-thrust Cryogenic Engine (CE20) with a propellant capacity of 28.5 tons. This achievement highlights India's advancements in space technology and its growing role in the global satellite launch market, showcasing the country's commitment to enhancing its indigenous capabilities and fostering international collaboration in space exploration.

ISRO Unveils Indigenous 32-Bit Microprocessors for Space Use

[SHARE](#)

16-Mar-25

ISRO, in collaboration with the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), has developed the VIKRAM3201, India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor for space applications, qualified for harsh launch vehicle environments. This processor builds on the success of the VIKRAM1601, operational since 2009, and showcases India's strides towards self-reliance in high-reliability microprocessors. Additionally, the KALPANA3201 microprocessor has been designed for compatibility with open-source software, representing significant advancements in India's avionics technology. The collaboration also focuses on miniaturization, exemplified by the development of integrated circuits for enhanced launch vehicle performance, further bolstering India's capabilities in space technology and defense.

India to Limit Satellite Permits to 5 Years, Challenging Starlink

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16-Mar-25

India's telecom regulator, TRAI, plans to recommend limiting satellite broadband permits to five years, aiming to gauge market adoption, contrary to Elon Musk's Starlink's request for a 20-year permit. This decision comes amid partnerships between Starlink and Indian telecom giants Reliance and Airtel, both advocating for shorter licenses. The shorter timeframe is expected to allow the government to reassess

spectrum pricing and market dynamics after five years, fostering a more adaptive regulatory environment. With the Indian satellite communication sector projected to grow significantly, this approach may bolster local competition while balancing international interests, ultimately benefiting consumers through improved services and pricing.

India to Build 18 Nuclear Reactors for 13,800 MW Power Boost [SHARE](#)

16-Mar-25

The Indian government plans to construct 18 new nuclear power reactors to generate a total of 13,800 MW, with five sites already receiving in-principle approval. Current projects under construction include a 2,700 MW reactor in Rajasthan and several units in Tamil Nadu expected to be completed by 2028. Notable future sites include Jaitapur in Maharashtra and Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh, emphasizing India's commitment to expanding its nuclear energy capacity, which currently represents 30% of its total installed power capacity. This strategic move not only aims to enhance energy security but also positions India as a leader in renewable energy initiatives amidst global climate challenges.

INS Imphal Strengthens Ties with Mauritius During Port Visit [SHARE](#)

16-Mar-25

INS Imphal recently concluded its port visit to Mauritius, participating in the 57th National Day celebrations and strengthening bilateral ties through various professional and cultural engagements. The ship conducted training for the Mauritius National Coast Guard, held community outreach activities, and facilitated public visits, showcasing India's commitment to maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region. Additionally, INS Imphal undertook a bilateral Passage Exercise and joint EEZ surveillance with Mauritius, reinforcing India as a preferred security partner. This visit not only underscored India's proactive approach in regional security but also promoted strong diplomatic relations with Mauritius.

New Zealand PM Luxon Begins Historic Five-Day Visit to India [SHARE](#)

16-Mar-25

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon is on a historic five-day visit to India, aimed at strengthening bilateral ties across various sectors, including trade and defense cooperation. His itinerary includes meetings with Indian leaders, paying respects at Mahatma

Gandhi's memorial, and participating as the Chief Guest at the 10th Raisina Dialogue to discuss regional security issues. The visit highlights the enduring relationship between India and New Zealand, emphasizing cooperation in trade, technology, and cultural exchanges, while fostering economic ties through engagements with Indian business leaders in Mumbai. This visit signifies both nations' commitment to deepening their multifaceted partnership, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

Elon Musk: Starship to Mars by 2026, Human Landings by 2031 [SHARE](#)

16-Mar-25

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk announced plans for the Starship, the world's largest rocket system, to launch for Mars by 2026, with human landings expected as early as 2029, though 2031 is more likely. Starship aims to transport Tesla's humanoid robot, Optimus, to Mars, with Musk envisioning a future where one million people could inhabit the planet. Despite recent setbacks, including losing contact with the spacecraft during test flights, the mission aligns with Musk's ambition of establishing a lunar base and expanding human civilization beyond Earth. Such advancements in space technology may also bolster India's aspirations in aerospace and defense sectors, enhancing strategic capabilities.

India's Hyperloop Tube Set to Become World's Longest at 410m [SHARE](#)

16-Mar-25

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that India's Hyperloop tube, currently the longest in Asia at 410 meters, is set to become the world's longest. Developed in collaboration with IIT Madras, the project utilizes indigenous technology and aims to revolutionize high-speed transportation. The minister emphasized India's capabilities in electronics development, highlighting the success of Vande Bharat trains and the establishment of semiconductor facilities. He expressed confidence in India becoming a global leader across various sectors under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, showcasing the talent of Indian youth in innovation and technology. This initiative reflects India's commitment to advancing its infrastructure and technology sectors significantly.

India's Immigration Bill: Up to 7 Years for Forged Passports



16-Mar-25

The proposed Immigration Bill in India seeks to impose stringent penalties for using forged passports or visas, including a jail term of up to seven years and fines up to Rs 10 lakh. It mandates reporting by hotels and educational institutions on overstaying foreigners and requires international airlines and vessels to submit passenger manifests. Additionally, entering India without valid travel documents could result in up to five years of imprisonment and fines. This legislation reflects India's commitment to enhancing national security and effectively monitoring foreign nationals, aligning with global best practices in immigration control.

Amit Shah praises Bodo accord for peace, development in Assam



16-Mar-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah defended the Bodo accord, highlighting its success in fostering peace and development in Assam, where the government allocated Rs 1,500 crore for Bodoland's progress. He criticized the Congress party for ridiculing the agreement, asserting that 82% of its clauses have been implemented, with full execution expected in two years. During his address at the All Bodo Students Union conference, Shah encouraged Bodo youths to prepare for the 2036 Olympics, further emphasizing the positive changes brought by the accord. This reflects the BJP's commitment to regional development and national integration, enhancing stability and fostering a sense of unity in the diverse northeastern region of India.

Trump Praises Mexico's President Sheinbaum for Tough Leadership



16-Mar-25

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum's has been rising prominence, particularly in light of positive remarks from Donald Trump, who describes her as tough. While specific achievements of Sheinbaum are not detailed, her leadership style seems to resonate well with international observers, potentially positioning her as a significant figure on the global stage. The acknowledgment from Trump underscores her influence and effectiveness in governance, which may be indicative of changing dynamics in Mexico's political landscape. This development could have implications for U.S.-Mexico relations, suggesting a more assertive neighbor that the U.S. might find increasingly engaging in discussions on bilateral issues.

Rajnath Singh Unveils Advanced Research Centre for Space Psychology



16-Mar-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Centre for Advanced Research in Space Psychology, aimed at enhancing astronaut training for India's Gaganyaan program, set for 2026. This initiative emphasizes psychological selection and behavioral health to prepare astronauts for the mental challenges of space missions, highlighting the significance of aerospace medicine in addressing issues like microgravity and isolation. Singh's inspection of advanced aerospace training facilities underscores India's commitment to aerospace technology, which is crucial for national security and economic growth. The initiative represents a strategic step towards positioning India as a leader in space exploration, with potential benefits extending beyond military applications, similar to past technological advancements.

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