



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### HAL Enhances Tejas Mk1A Production via Private Sector Collaboration



17-Aug-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is enhancing the production of its Tejas Mk1A fighter aircraft by integrating private sector companies into its manufacturing process, establishing an "invisible fourth production line" to increase annual output to 24-30 aircraft. This outsourcing model allows HAL to focus on final integration while private firms manage airframe production, crucial for modernizing the Indian Air Force's aging fleet. Furthermore, HAL plans to expand this collaboration for the more advanced Tejas Mk2, reflecting a significant step towards achieving self-reliance in defense manufacturing under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. This strategic partnership is poised to streamline production and bolster India's defense capabilities.

### Philippines Considers Local Production of India's NGOPV for Coast Guard



17-Aug-25

The Philippines is considering local manufacturing of India's Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) to enhance its Coast Guard capabilities, reflecting deepening defense ties between the two nations. This initiative supports the Philippines' maritime security goals in the contested West Philippine Sea, particularly following its acquisition of the BrahMos missile from India. The NGOPV, designed for diverse maritime operations, boasts advanced technology and operational endurance, making it suitable for various missions. This collaboration signifies India's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific defense landscape, emphasizing the potential for technology transfer and job creation in the Philippines' shipbuilding industry while promoting self-reliance in defense.

### DRDO Unveils Quantum Sensing Tech for Submarine Detection



17-Aug-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has announced the development of cutting-edge quantum sensing technology aimed at enhancing India's anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities. On August 17, 2025, DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat revealed that these quantum magnetometers can detect subtle disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field, enabling detection of submarines at greater depths—a decisive advantage against the expanding undersea fleets of China and Pakistan in the Indian Ocean Region. This indigenous breakthrough is part of a broader effort, including the recent opening of the Quantum Technology Research Centre (QTRC) in Delhi, to promote sovereign innovation in quantum sensing and secure communications. Integration with key Indian platforms such as the P-8I Poseidon and UAVs is expected within the next 2–3 years, signaling a strategic leap for India's maritime security and deterrence posture. This initiative underscores India's commitment to maintaining technological superiority and safeguarding its interests in a contested maritime environment.

### Feasibility of Air-Launched Pralay Missile: Challenges Ahead



17-Aug-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is advancing the development of an air-launched variant of the Pralay ballistic missile, targeting a significant leap in the country's tactical strike capabilities. The integration of the nearly 9-meter-long, solid-fuelled, short-range Pralay, which boasts a range of 150–500km and a variable payload of 350–1,000kg, onto airborne platforms presents major engineering challenges—most notably weight reduction, size optimization, and ensuring safe separation at hypersonic speeds. Unlike cruise missiles, adapting this ballistic system for launch from fighter aircraft involves overcoming complex aerodynamic and guidance

constraints. The ongoing project, which entered advanced stages in mid-2025, is intended to allow the Indian Air Force to strike strategic and tactical targets more flexibly and with minimized response times. Ground-launched Pralay missiles recently completed successful user evaluation trials, paving the way for its broader induction. Testing of the air-launched variant is scheduled for 2028–2029, marking India's drive to join a select group of countries with such advanced capabilities and reinforcing its deterrence posture in the region.

## India and Russia Partner for Local Production of Aircraft Engines



17-Aug-25

India and Russia have solidified their strategic partnership by signing an agreement for the local production of small aircraft piston engines, enhancing India's indigenous defense manufacturing capabilities. This collaboration, aimed at fulfilling the demand for UAVs and loitering munitions, aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The engines, designed for advanced UAVs and kamikaze drones, will bolster operational readiness and reduce foreign reliance. With the inclusion of Transfer of Technology, Indian manufacturers will gain vital knowledge to innovate and maintain these engines, fostering a self-sustaining defense ecosystem and strengthening India's position in modern warfare.

## LCH Prachand Enhances Anti-Drone Capabilities with New Drones



17-Aug-25

The HAL Prachand, India's indigenous Light Combat Helicopter, is expanding its capabilities to serve as an anti-drone hunter, addressing emerging threats from advanced UAVs like Pakistan's YIHA drones. Collaborating with the Indian Army and private firms, HAL plans to integrate air-to-air missiles and air-launched drones for ISR and interception missions, enhancing the helicopter's versatility. This development reflects lessons from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, focusing on a robust counter-drone strategy. The Prachand will also incorporate loitering munitions to target ground assets, increasing operational effectiveness in contested environments and ensuring a strategic advantage for Indian forces against evolving aerial threats.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### Modi's Push for Indigenous Jet Engines: Can India Deliver?



17-Aug-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for indigenous jet engines during his Independence Day speech emphasizes India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing, particularly for fighter jets like Tejas and AMCA, which currently depend on foreign engines. The Kaveri engine, developed by DRDO, has faced setbacks, necessitating significant investment and international collaboration for its revival to meet modern thrust requirements. Analysts suggest that a revamped Kaveri could bridge engine gaps and enhance India's aerospace capabilities, but success hinges on overcoming bureaucratic and technical challenges while securing intellectual property rights. The government's push for public-private partnerships could further bolster India's defense ecosystem towards achieving its Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### India-US trade talks for August canceled amid tariff tensions.



17-Aug-25

Recent trade talks between India and the U.S., originally set for August 25-29, have been called off, raising concerns over a proposed bilateral trade agreement amidst escalating tensions due to U.S. tariffs on Indian goods. Following President Trump's imposition of a 25% tariff, which could rise to 50% if negotiations fail, India faces a significant disadvantage compared to competitors like Vietnam and Indonesia, jeopardizing nearly \$40 billion in exports. The U.S. demands greater access to India's protected agricultural and dairy sectors, which India is reluctant to concede, citing the need to protect domestic farmers. Despite the tensions, both sides maintain a constructive dialogue and express hope for a resolution; however, the geopolitical dynamics, particularly concerning Indian imports of Russian oil and arms, add complexity to the discussions. India's firm stance on its national interests reflects its commitment to safeguarding local industries while navigating these challenging trade negotiations. The situation remains fluid, as developments in U.S.-Russia relations may influence

the outcome, but Indian policymakers are preparing for potential impacts while holding out for a favorable breakthrough that doesn't compromise domestic agricultural priorities.

## **INS Tamal Completes Naples Visit, Strengthening India-Italy Ties** **SHARE**

17-Aug-25

INS Tamal, the Indian Navy's latest stealth frigate, visited Naples, Italy, from August 13-16, 2025, emphasizing the strengthened strategic partnership established in 2023. The visit included a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Italian Navy's ITS Trieste, showcasing collaborative operations and professional exchanges. Notably, the ship's crew celebrated India's 79th Independence Day with a ceremonial parade and cultural programs on board, furthering defense cooperation and bilateral ties. This port call underscores India's commitment to maritime diplomacy and its proactive approach to enhancing defense collaborations globally. Following Naples, INS Tamal will continue its journey to other European and Asian ports, further solidifying international maritime partnerships.

## **India Gains Diplomatic Strength from Trump-Putin Talks, Says Expert** **SHARE**

17-Aug-25

The recent talks between US President Trump and Russian President Putin have strengthened India's diplomatic position, as noted by foreign affairs expert Robinder Sachdev. While the meeting primarily benefitted Putin, it averted potential sanctions against Russia that could have affected India, and may lead to the revocation of tariffs on Indian goods. Sachdev argues that the outcome could deter closer ties between Russia and China, thereby enhancing India's leverage in upcoming discussions with China, especially with PM Modi's visit on the horizon. This strategic positioning allows India to foster negotiations from a place of strength, promoting more respectful dialogue with China.

## **India Urges Russia to Stop RD-93 Engine Supplies to Pakistan** **SHARE**

17-Aug-25

India is strategically positioned to leverage its longstanding partnership with Russia to address the security concern posed by the supply of RD-93 engines to Pakistan for its JF-17 fighter jets. With U.S. scrutiny over India's Russian oil purchases escalating, New Delhi can press Moscow to halt these supplies, weakening

Pakistan's air capabilities while strengthening its own security. The JF-17 has been pivotal in recent India-Pakistan conflicts, and India's consistent protests to Russia have seen limited success. However, the financial strains on Pakistan's military capabilities due to U.S. sanctions on Russia present an opportune moment for India to advocate for regional stability and assert its defense priorities.

## **Russia prepares to test nuclear-capable cruise missile, claims Ukraine.** **SHARE**

17-Aug-25

Russia is reportedly preparing to test its new nuclear-capable cruise missile, the 9M730 Burevestnik, aiming to bolster its negotiating power with the West amid ongoing tensions regarding Ukraine. Ukrainian military intelligence indicated that this test could validate the missile's capabilities, which President Putin claims are invulnerable to missile defenses. However, experts question the missile's effectiveness and reliability, citing a history of poor test outcomes. This situation underscores the persistent geopolitical maneuvering in the region, as Russia seeks to leverage advanced military technology to strengthen its diplomatic position, despite skepticism from global defense analysts.

## **Pakistan's Rocket Force: A Response to Failed Attacks on India** **SHARE**

17-Aug-25

Western analysts interpret Pakistan's establishment of the Army Rocket Force as a reaction to its inability to significantly damage Indian military bases during the May 2025 conflict, Operation Sindoor. Despite Pakistan's claims of victory, the lack of credible evidence, such as satellite imagery, undermined its narrative while India showcased verifiable damage to Pakistani bases. This strategic pivot to enhance missile capabilities is viewed as an acknowledgement of Pakistan's operational shortcomings and a psychological deterrent against India's advanced air defenses. Ultimately, while the Rocket Force may enhance Pakistan's options, it does not fundamentally shift the existing imbalance of power between India and Pakistan.

## **PM Modi's Sudershan Chakra Project Raises Alarm in Pakistan** **SHARE**

17-Aug-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of Mission Sudershan Chakra on August 15, 2025, has elicited alarm and strong reactions in Pakistan,

particularly among analysts and the military establishment. The multi-layered defense initiative, revealed during India's 79th Independence Day, seeks to shield key civilian and military infrastructure using a comprehensive system of advanced surveillance, missile defense, and cyber protection, developed entirely with indigenous technology over the next decade. Pakistani reactions have been marked by unease, especially in light of recent hostilities and statements by their military leadership threatening Indian assets in case of conflict. Some Pakistani commentators have compared the move to Israel's Iron Dome and voiced concerns over an escalating regional arms race, questioning the strategic balance and warning that such a project could trigger further military responses from Islamabad. The timing—just months after cross-border clashes and reciprocal threats—has only heightened apprehensions in Pakistan about India's heightened security posture and its ambitions for technological self-sufficiency in defense.

## USS Santa Barbara's Colombo Visit: Routine Stop or Spy Mission?

17-Aug-25

The USS Santa Barbara, an Independence-class Littoral Combat Ship of the U.S. Navy, arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on August 16, 2025, for its inaugural port call, officially described as a replenishment and partnership visit scheduled to last until August 22. The arrival was marked by high-level interactions between U.S. and Sri Lankan defense officials, highlighting ongoing maritime cooperation and technical exchanges. This visit coincides closely with India's Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for a major missile test off the Odisha coast between August 20 and 21, which has drawn regional attention due to the test's extended range and strategic significance. The proximity in both timing and location has prompted speculation within strategic circles that the U.S. Navy ship's deployment may facilitate covert surveillance of sensitive Indian missile activities, underscoring persistent wariness about foreign monitoring of India's critical defense programs. While both U.S. and Sri Lankan sources emphasize the scheduled and collaborative nature of the stop, the incident highlights heightened sensitivities and the complex interplay of military presences in the Indo-Pacific region as India continues to advance its missile capabilities amid evolving regional dynamics.

## Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir Denies Interest in Presidency

17-Aug-25

Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, has refuted rumors regarding his interest in becoming the country's president, emphasizing his commitment to being the nation's guardian instead. He stated that political reconciliation requires genuine apologies from all parties and underscored the need for unity to strengthen Pakistan's democratic institutions amid its socio-political crisis. Munir's comments came in the wake of speculation about President Asif Ali Zardari potentially stepping down, which has been dismissed by top officials, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. This situation reflects the ongoing political turmoil and the army's pivotal role in Pakistan's governance.

## Zelenskyy to meet Trump after unproductive US-Russia summit

17-Aug-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is set to meet with US President Donald Trump following Trump's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, which yielded no agreement to resolve the ongoing war in Ukraine. Despite the lack of progress, Trump indicated that future negotiations might depend on Zelenskyy and involve European nations as well. The situation highlights the complexities of international diplomacy and the challenges Ukraine faces in securing a favorable outcome amid competing interests from major powers. Zelenskyy's upcoming meeting with Trump underscores Ukraine's strategic reliance on US support in its efforts to counter Russian aggression.

## Military Operations

### Army conducts rescue operations in Kathua cloudburst; 7 dead

17-Aug-25

A devastating cloudburst in Kathua district, Jammu and Kashmir, has resulted in at least seven fatalities and multiple injuries, prompting urgent rescue operations led by the Indian Army. Ground teams have been mobilized to provide food and medical care, while Dhruv helicopters airlifted injured individuals to hospitals in Pathankot, Punjab. The situation is further complicated by reports of significant infrastructure damage, including to roads and railway tracks, as heavy rainfall continues to pose risks in the area. Union ministers



have assured full assistance from the central government, with ongoing communication between local administration and higher authorities to facilitate relief efforts. This incident follows another cloudburst in nearby Kishtwar just days earlier, emphasizing the region's vulnerability to such extreme weather events. The Indian Army's swift response, along with local administration and volunteer support, reflects a strong commitment to safeguarding lives and providing essential services amid the crisis. The collaborative efforts showcase the resilience of the defense forces and the importance of emergency preparedness in mitigating the impacts of natural disasters in the region.

## Indian Army Reviews Jammu Region Security in Core Group Meeting



17-Aug-25

The Indian Army convened a core group meeting to assess the security situation in the Jammu region at the White Knight Corps headquarters in Nagrota. Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma commended the effective collaboration among various security agencies, including the Army, Police, and CRPF, which is crucial for maintaining stability in the region. This meeting underscores the Indian defense forces' proactive approach in addressing security challenges, demonstrating their commitment to safeguarding national integrity and ensuring a coordinated response among agencies. The focus on synergy highlights the importance of inter-agency cooperation in tackling threats effectively.

## High-tech drones create lethal zones, hindering medical evacuations.



17-Aug-25

High-tech first-person-view (FPV) drones have sharply increased the risks for Ukrainian medics in eastern Ukraine, turning areas up to 20 kilometers from the front line into deadly kill zones as of August 2025. With drones capable of striking both soldiers and evacuation teams, medical vehicles can no longer approach the front as they once did, greatly complicating and delaying evacuations and significantly raising mortality rates among the wounded. Medics now report most casualties result from drone strikes rather than gunfire, with injuries ranging from burns to amputations. This shift has forced crews to become highly mobile, relocate stabilization points, and emphasize self-aid and self-evacuation training for soldiers as they adapt to an environment where immediate medical help is often out of reach.

## Assam LoP calls for enhanced BSF measures against border infiltration.



17-Aug-25

Assam's Leader of the Opposition Debabrata Saikia has urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to review the Border Security Force (BSF) strategies along the India-Bangladesh border in light of concerns over infiltration and demographic changes. He highlighted gaps in coordination between agencies and the need for enhanced border surveillance and diplomatic engagement with Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma emphasized the threat posed by infiltrators to the state's land and cultural integrity, calling for public awareness and action. The discourse underscores the importance of a cohesive national strategy to effectively address border security challenges while maintaining diplomatic ties.

## Operation Sindoor's Precision Strikes Deal Major Blow to Pakistan's AWACS



17-Aug-25

In May 2025, India's Operation Sindoor inflicted severe financial and strategic damage on the Pakistan Air Force by destroying two Saab 2000 Erieye AWACS, valued at \$340 million, which represented a 22% reduction in Pakistan's AEW&C capabilities. The Indian Air Force utilized advanced weaponry, including BrahMos missiles and the S-400 system, to successfully target multiple PAF assets, highlighting vulnerabilities in Pakistan's air defense. While Pakistan lost several fighter jets, their impact was less significant due to operational redundancy in its fleet. The operation underscored India's superior precision strike capabilities, firmly establishing its military dominance in the region and enhancing its strategic deterrence posture.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

## Indian Army Transforms Silent Boy's Life Through Compassionate Care



17-Aug-25

In the remote village of Duggan, Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army has made a profound impact on the life of a young boy, Akshay Sharma, who had been silent for eight years due to a cleft lip and palate condition. An Army doctor, moved by the family's hardships, took it upon himself to study speech therapy techniques and dedicated his free time to help Akshay, eventually

enabling him to speak. This act of compassion not only changed Akshay's life but also resonated deeply within the community, showcasing the Indian Army's role in uplifting lives beyond its primary duty of national defense.

## Miscellaneous

### Parliament to Discuss Shubhanshu Shukla's Space Mission Impact SHARE

17-Aug-25

The Indian Parliament will hold a special session on August 18, 2025, to discuss the impact of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's landmark mission aboard the International Space Station, following his return to Delhi on August 17. Shukla, the second Indian to visit space and selected through the Gaganyaan program, spent 18 days on the ISS as part of the NASA-SpaceX Axiom-4 mission, conducting experiments critical for India's own human spaceflight goals. His journey, marked by national celebrations and addressed by President Murmu and Prime Minister Modi, is viewed as a significant milestone for the Gaganyaan mission and the planned Bharatiya Antariksh Station, reinforcing India's ambitions for space self-reliance and development by 2047.

### IAF officer duped of Rs 1 crore by fake trading app scam SHARE

17-Aug-25

An Indian Air Force officer, Wing Commander Robin Sebastian, was duped of over Rs 1 crore by fraudsters through a fake trading app after joining a WhatsApp group. The deception began when he was lured to download an app for IPO trading, leading to substantial transfers from his bank account. Upon trying to withdraw his funds, he discovered additional demands for payments, prompting him to report the fraud. The Sriganganagar Cyber Police swiftly intervened, managing to freeze Rs 7 lakh in various accounts, highlighting the increasing vulnerability of individuals, including military personnel, to cyber fraud and the need for greater vigilance against such scams.

### IAF Band Celebrates Independence Day with Patriotic Performance SHARE

17-Aug-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) band recently performed at the Suresh Bhat Auditorium in Nagpur, marking the 79th Independence Day with a blend of patriotism and

melody. The event, highlighting Operation Sindoor, showcased India's progress in indigenous defense under the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, emphasizing self-reliance and innovation within the IAF. Junior Warrant Officer Pratap Kumar Nanda remarked on the dual identity of band members as both air warriors and artists, resonating deeply with the audience. This cultural event served as a bridge between the armed forces and the public, reinforcing feelings of pride, sacrifice, and the spirit of independence among attendees.

### Kishtwar cloudburst: Death toll at 61, rescue operations ongoing. SHARE

17-Aug-25

A cloudburst in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir, has resulted in a death toll of 61, with search and rescue operations ongoing for the fourth day. The Indian Army engineers are working to establish a Bailey bridge to restore connectivity to Chisoti village and expedite rescue efforts. The flash floods caused significant destruction, impacting multiple structures and leaving over 100 injured. Despite the challenging conditions, the efforts to locate and assist the missing individuals continue, showcasing the resilience and commitment of the rescue teams in managing this natural disaster.

### Nayara seeks UCO Bank's help to bypass EU sanctions on Russian oil. SHARE

17-Aug-25

Nayara Energy Ltd, partly owned by Russian Rosneft, is negotiating with India's UCO Bank to process payments for Russian crude oil imports, circumventing EU sanctions. After facing reluctance from foreign banks post-sanctions, Nayara aims to leverage UCO Bank's limited exposure to global markets to facilitate these transactions. The Indian refiners, benefiting from discounted Russian crude, have established alternative mechanisms for trade, including settling payments in rupees through special vostro accounts. This situation highlights India's strategic efforts to maintain energy ties with Russia while navigating complex geopolitical challenges posed by Western sanctions.

### 1,220 MW of Southern India's nuclear power set to resume this year SHARE

17-Aug-25

A total of 1,440 MW of nuclear power capacity in Southern India is currently shutdown, with 1,220 MW expected to resume operations this year. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) units affected

include the Kudankulam Unit 1, MAPS in Kalpakkam, and Kaiga Unit 1, which are undergoing maintenance and refuelling. Notably, the Kudankulam Unit 1 will restart by September 25, 2025, while MAPS Unit 1, inactive since January 2018, is expected to resume by December 1, 2025. This recovery in nuclear power generation underscores India's focus on enhancing its energy security and sustainability.

## Beating the Retreat ceremony at Attari-Wagah now starts at 6 PM.



17-Aug-25

The timings for the Beating the Retreat ceremony at the Attari-Wagah joint check-post on the Indo-Pak border

have been adjusted due to changing weather conditions. The ceremony will now commence at 6 pm and conclude at 6.30 pm, a shift from the previous schedule of 6.30 pm to 7 pm, as stated by Border Security Force (BSF) authorities. This alteration reflects the Indian government's commitment to ensuring the smooth conduct of events while adapting to environmental factors, further emphasizing the importance of maintaining traditions and security at the border. Overall, this timely adjustment showcases the proactive measures taken by India's defense apparatus in managing ceremonial protocols effectively.

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