



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

January 18, 2025 | Day 018

Defense Business and Industry

Pakistan to Unveil Advanced JF-17 Block 4 Fighter Jet in 2028



18-Jan-25

The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) plans to introduce the JF-17 Block 4 fighter jet in 2028, featuring advanced stealth capabilities and an Internal Weapons Bay (IWB) as part of its PF-X program. This development marks a significant upgrade over the existing JF-17 Thunder, aiming for a cost-effective yet advanced 4.5+ generation aircraft. The JF-17.7 variant focuses on reducing radar signature and enhancing stealth, capable of carrying 2-4 Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missiles internally. While this initiative reflects Pakistan's push for self-reliance in military aviation, India must continue to strengthen its own air force capabilities to maintain regional superiority amid evolving technological advancements in neighboring countries.

India and Israel Collaborate on Advanced Rotary UAV Production



18-Jan-25

India has partnered with Israel's Steadicopter to produce the advanced Rotary Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (RUAV), the Golden Eagle, under the "Make in India" initiative. This collaboration aims to enhance India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing by leveraging advanced technology and manufacturing capabilities at Lotus Advance Technologies in Uttar Pradesh. The Golden Eagle is designed for diverse military applications, including border surveillance and urban warfare, and incorporates cutting-edge features like precision strike capabilities and advanced sensor suites. This initiative not only strengthens India's defense capabilities but also reflects its commitment to reducing reliance on imports and fostering domestic innovation in military technology.

Philippine Army Pursues More BrahMos Missiles for Coastal Defense



18-Jan-25

The Philippine Army is advancing negotiations with India's BrahMos Aerospace for the acquisition of nine additional coastal missile batteries, enhancing its Integrated Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile System project. This initiative follows the delivery of the first BrahMos missiles and mobile launchers in April 2024, enhancing the Philippines' maritime defense amid territorial disputes in the South China Sea. The BrahMos missile, noted for its impressive speed and precision, reinforces the Philippines' deterrent capabilities. This collaboration signifies the growing defense partnership between India and the Philippines, reflecting India's commitment to regional stability and security through its advanced defense technology.

NewSpace Research Develops Abhimanyu CCA to Boost Aerial Tactics



18-Jan-25

Bengaluru-based NewSpace Research and Technologies (NRT) is developing the Abhimanyu, a Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) aimed at enhancing India's tactical aerial capabilities through unmanned systems. Designed for a variety of mission profiles, including Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Electronic Warfare, the Abhimanyu emphasizes low-cost, expendable operations, complementing larger drones like HAL's CATS Warrior. Its modular nature allows for swift adaptation to mission demands, promoting operational flexibility and reduced risk to human pilots. This initiative aligns with global trends towards unmanned aerial systems, potentially positioning India as a leader in innovative warfare strategies that prioritize cost-effectiveness and scalability in military operations.

Indian Navy Retires Searcher MK II UAV, Embraces MALE/HALE Focus SHARE

18-Jan-25

The Indian Navy has de-inducted its Searcher MK II UAVs after two decades of service, shifting its focus towards acquiring more advanced Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) and High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAVs. This strategic pivot reflects a need for enhanced operational capabilities, particularly for extended maritime surveillance and operations from aircraft carriers in the Indian Ocean Region. While the Indian Air Force continues to utilize these shorter-range UAVs, the Navy's transition signals a modernized approach to naval warfare, underlining the importance of endurance and multi-role capabilities in contemporary military operations. This decision aligns with global trends in military technology adoption and operational strategy enhancement.

Russia Seeks to Revive MTA Project with India Amid Engine Issues SHARE

18-Jan-25

Russia is attempting to revive the long-stalled Multirole Transport Aircraft (MTA) project with India, following India's withdrawal due to engine disputes. Despite Russia's offer to incorporate advanced Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC) technology, the Indian Air Force (IAF) prefers Western engines for their logistical advantages and operational reliability. This reflects India's experience with past projects where Russian engines posed maintenance challenges. The IAF's insistence on non-Russian engines presents a significant hurdle for the collaboration, potentially reshaping India's defense procurement landscape and affecting its longstanding defense ties with Russia if an agreement is not reached.

Safran Unveils 110kN Engine for AMCA, Boosting India's Defense Tech SHARE

18-Jan-25

Safran has announced the development of a new 110kN thrust engine for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), which will be independently designed and distinct from the M-88 engines used in Rafale jets. This initiative, in collaboration with India's GTRE, emphasizes self-reliance in defense technology, as GTRE will retain ownership of the Intellectual Property Rights. The engine will incorporate advanced technologies for future aircraft, and it is projected that over 1,000 engines will be produced, indicating a scalable design for various Indian fighter jet programs. This partnership not only enhances India's aerospace

capabilities but also positions it strategically in the global defense market.

MiG-29K to Showcase Upgrades at Aero India 2025 SHARE

18-Jan-25

The Indian Navy's MiG-29K is poised to make a standout appearance at Aero India 2025, showcasing its upgraded capabilities from February 10 to 14 at Yelahanka Air Force Station. This pivotal asset, critical for extending India's maritime air power, will feature enhancements in avionics, new armament including indigenous Astra missiles, and a powerful mission computer developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. This modernization not only reflects the Navy's commitment to advanced technology but also signifies a strategic shift towards self-reliance in defense, especially after challenges in sourcing upgrades from Russia. The event underscores India's focus on maintaining a cutting-edge naval air force and enhancing operational effectiveness.

Indian Army's Pinaka III to Exceed Smerch with 120km Range SHARE

18-Jan-25

The Indian Army is poised to enhance its artillery capabilities with the development of the Pinaka III rocket system, which aims for a range of 120 kilometers, surpassing the 90-kilometer range of the Russian Smerch system. Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi highlighted the potential of the Pinaka III as a primary focus for long-range artillery, emphasizing a shift towards indigenous solutions. The new variant is expected to feature advanced guidance systems for precision strikes, thereby enhancing operational effectiveness while minimizing collateral damage. With trials set to commence later this year, successful outcomes could lead to its induction into the Indian Army, marking a significant advancement in India's defense strategy.

Dynamatic Unveils CHEEL VTOL Drone with Aussie Orbital Engine SHARE

18-Jan-25

Dynamatic Technologies Ltd is advancing India's UAV capabilities with the CHEEL VTOL surveillance drone, powered by an efficient Australian engine from Orbital Corporation. This drone boasts an impressive flight endurance of up to 8 hours, making it suitable for various tasks like reconnaissance and border surveillance. Its versatility in using different fuels enhances operational flexibility, while the vertical take-

off and landing feature allows deployment in constrained spaces. The CHEEL's capabilities are crucial for India's border and maritime security, reflecting a significant step in enhancing indigenous defense technologies and addressing increasing surveillance demands effectively.

CAG Audit Reveals Bias in IAF's Procurement Process Favoring Vendors



18-Jan-25

A CAG audit has uncovered irregularities in the IAF's procurement procedures, particularly in the formulation of Aircraft and Systems Qualitative Requirements (ASQRs), which appear biased towards specific vendors. The report highlights that ASQRs were tailored to favor products like the Apache and Chinook helicopters, limiting competition and potentially inflating costs for taxpayers. The CAG recommends adherence to Defense Procurement Procedure guidelines to ensure transparency and competition, suggesting that ASQRs should be based on operational needs rather than vendor specifications. This audit could prompt necessary reforms to enhance integrity and efficiency in defense acquisitions, aligning with the broader goals of national security and fiscal responsibility.

ADA Aims to Adapt TEDBF for IAF in Two Years, Boosting Capabilities



18-Jan-25

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has received approval to finalize the Critical Design Review for the Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF), intended for naval operations, and is optimistic about adapting it for the Indian Air Force (IAF) within two years. This adaptation could enhance the IAF's capabilities by providing a lighter, more versatile aircraft with increased fuel capacity and weapon hardpoints, serving as an interim solution until the AMCA and Tejas Mk2 are operational. The IAF's interest in this naval-derived design could significantly bolster India's self-reliance in defense technology, aligning with its fleet modernization strategy.

Tejas Programs Propel Growth in India's Composites Manufacturing



18-Jan-25

India is significantly enhancing its domestic composites manufacturing to support the Tejas Mk1A and Mk2 fighter jet programs, with a goal of producing over 300 aircraft by 2035. The National Aerospace

Laboratories (NAL) is leading this initiative, partnering with private companies to accelerate production and align with the "Make in India" initiative. The use of advanced composite techniques promises to reduce weight and improve performance, strengthening India's defense capabilities and potentially positioning it as an exporter of high-tech aerospace equipment. This endeavor marks a crucial step towards self-reliance in defense manufacturing, reflecting India's commitment to becoming a key player in the global aerospace industry.

Astra Mk2 to Strengthen IAF's BVR Arsenal; Mk1 Production Ongoing



18-Jan-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is advancing India's aerial combat capabilities by developing the Astra Mk2 missile, which will serve as the IAF's main Beyond Visual Range (BVR) weapon, with an extended range of 145-160 km and dual-pulse motor technology. While the Astra Mk1 continues production to establish a robust domestic supply chain, the Astra Mk2, expected to undergo full-range testing in 2025, will enhance India's strategic autonomy and combat effectiveness. This dual-pronged approach reflects India's commitment to maintaining cutting-edge capabilities while ensuring independent production, crucial for achieving parity in air-to-air missile technology on a global scale.

Italy Invites India to Join Eurodrone Program for ISTAR Missions



18-Jan-25

Italy is actively seeking India's participation in the Eurodrone program, a collaborative initiative with Germany, France, and Spain aimed at developing a sophisticated medium-altitude, long-endurance drone for ISTAR missions. This partnership could significantly enhance India's aerospace and defense capabilities while deepening defense ties with Europe. The Eurodrone is designed to operate alongside manned aircraft in both civil and military airspace, allowing for advanced intelligence gathering. India's involvement in this program would not only contribute to technological advancements but also position it as a key player in global defense cooperation, aligning with its strategic interests of enhancing operational independence and expanding market opportunities in the defense sector.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Defence Minister Calls for Strengthened Military Capabilities SHARE

18-Jan-25

India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the necessity to bolster both offensive and defensive capabilities in light of the evolving geopolitical landscape, particularly regarding maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). He acknowledged the complexities faced by the Armed Forces due to global conflicts and stressed the importance of planning and resourcing for national security. Singh highlighted the increasing role of the Indian Navy, noting its growth amid decreasing presence from other naval powers, and underscored the criticality of cyber security within maritime operations. Furthermore, he called for a collaborative approach involving civilians in defense, recognizing their vital contributions to operational success. The government's commitment to enhancing military readiness and ensuring the safety of sea routes is essential for India's economic prosperity and national security.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Israel Approves Ceasefire and Hostage Exchange with Hamas SHARE

18-Jan-25

The Israeli government has approved a ceasefire and hostage release deal with Hamas, marking a significant step after 15 months of conflict initiated on October 7, 2023. The agreement involves the release of 33 Israeli hostages and up to 1,000 Palestinian prisoners over three phases, while also facilitating humanitarian aid access to Gaza. Despite mixed reactions within Israel, particularly from hardliners, international support underscores the need for humanitarian relief amidst extensive casualties, with reports indicating over 46,700 Palestinian deaths. The deal, brokered by Qatar, the US, and Egypt, aims to halt hostilities and allow displaced Palestinians to return home, although ongoing Israeli strikes raise concerns regarding the safety of hostages. This development reflects a crucial moment in the search for stability in the region, highlighting the complex interplay of military actions and diplomatic negotiations.

Quad Foreign Ministers to Convene Post Trump's Inauguration SHARE

18-Jan-25

The foreign ministers of the Quad countries—Australia, India, Japan, and the US—are set to meet on January 21, following Donald Trump's inauguration as the 47th US President. This meeting is aimed at reinforcing US commitment to the Indo-Pacific strategy, indicating continuity in US foreign policy under the new administration. Dhruva Jaishankar from ORF America emphasized that this engagement reflects a recognition of the evolving global competition. Thus, the Quad's revival under Trump reinforces the collaborative approach among these nations, highlighting India's pivotal role in regional security and strategic partnerships amidst a shifting geopolitical landscape.

India Commits to Strengthening Ties with Bangladesh for a Secure Border SHARE

18-Jan-25

India has reiterated its commitment to fostering positive relations with Bangladesh, emphasizing joint efforts for a crime-free border. The Ministry of External Affairs highlighted that recent measures, including fencing and technical devices, aim to secure the border and combat cross-border criminal activities. Following diplomatic exchanges, India clarified its stance on border security, advocating for cooperative approaches to address concerns. This proactive engagement underscores India's dedication to maintaining stability and mutual respect in bilateral ties, reflecting its strategic priorities in South Asia and the importance of addressing shared security challenges effectively.

India Engages US on Russian Sanctions' Impact on Energy Security SHARE

18-Jan-25

India is proactively engaging with US officials to assess the implications of new sanctions targeting Russia's energy sector, which aim to restrict Moscow's funding for the war in Ukraine. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal highlighted the government's commitment to safeguarding energy security while maintaining that India's oil purchases are driven by national interests and market conditions. Despite increased procurement of discounted Russian crude oil post-Western sanctions, India continues to navigate these geopolitical challenges, defending its energy strategy. This diplomatic effort underscores India's determination to stabilize its energy supplies amid evolving global dynamics, reinforcing its strategic independence in energy procurement decisions.

Jaishankar: India-China ties must evolve post-2020 tensions



18-Jan-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized that India must navigate the complexities of its relationship with China, particularly following the 2020 border situation, advocating for a balance founded on mutual respect, sensitivity, and interests. He highlighted the necessity of strengthening India's national power to counter China's rising capabilities while fostering deeper ties with Russia for global stability. Jaishankar also noted India's evolved realism in foreign policy, especially towards the U.S., enabling enhanced cooperation across various domains. He underscored India's commitment to multilateralism and regional partnerships, reflecting a growing diplomatic footprint that respects the independence of Global South nations amidst global competition.

India and Indonesia Enhance Naval Ties for Indian Ocean Security



18-Jan-25

India and Indonesia are enhancing naval cooperation to bolster maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, reflecting their shared Indo-Pacific vision. Efforts include port calls by Indian Navy ships, Indonesian military training in India, and increased joint exercises, particularly ahead of President Prabowo Subianto's visit to India. This collaboration aims to tackle pressing maritime security challenges such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, and terrorist movements. By fostering information sharing and strengthening bilateral mechanisms, both nations are committed to a more secure, open, and inclusive maritime environment, contributing to peace and prosperity in the region.

China Boosts Ties with Bangladesh Ahead of Diplomatic Milestone



18-Jan-25

China is intensifying its strategic partnership with Bangladesh by committing to enhance political mutual trust and deepen cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), particularly as they prepare to celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2025. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun emphasized the importance of mutual respect and cooperation, asserting China's steadfast support amid Bangladesh's recent political changes. Additionally, China's engagement with Sri Lanka, marked by the signing of 15 cooperation agreements, underscores its broader strategic interests in South Asia. This development illustrates China's ambition to solidify its influence in

the region, which could pose challenges for India's strategic positioning and regional dynamics.

Polish Envoy Highlights Growing India Ties Ahead of EU Chair



18-Jan-25

Polish Ambassador Domzalski has underscored India as a strategic partner ahead of Poland's EU chairmanship, emphasizing enhancement of bilateral relations following PM Modi's August 2024 visit. With a focus on security amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Poland aims to prioritize economic development and discuss a potential free trade agreement with India. The envoy also highlighted the anticipated EU-India summit in early 2025 to explore collaboration in trade, technology, and culture. This initiative reflects Poland's commitment to fostering a robust partnership with India, aligning with broader EU objectives in the face of current geopolitical challenges.

Military Operations

INS Mumbai Joins La Perouse Exercise to Strengthen Indo-Pacific Ties



18-Jan-25

The Indian Navy's guided missile destroyer INS Mumbai is participating in the fourth edition of the multinational naval exercise La Perouse, alongside naval forces from eight countries, including the US, France, and Australia, amidst rising geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific region. This nine-day exercise, which began on January 16, focuses on enhancing maritime cooperation, surveillance, and tactical interoperability through complex multi-domain operations like surface and anti-air warfare, while also addressing constabulary missions such as Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS). The event highlights India's commitment to a rules-based maritime order and its vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), reinforcing collaboration among like-minded nations to ensure maritime safety and security, particularly in strategically vital waterways. Overall, India's proactive engagement in such exercises showcases its role as a key player in maintaining stability and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Indian Army's Salvo Launch of BrahMos Missiles Boosts Strike Power SHARE

18-Jan-25

The Indian Army's Western Command successfully conducted a test launch of BrahMos missiles, showcasing India's advanced military capabilities and technological prowess in missile warfare. This event, attended by senior military officials, underscored the importance of inter-command coordination and highlighted India's strategic deterrence, particularly in the geopolitically significant Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The salvo launch demonstrated the BrahMos missile's ability to engage multiple targets with precision, reinforcing India's offensive and defensive capabilities amidst regional tensions. This successful test exemplifies India's commitment to enhancing its defense readiness, sending a strong message to potential adversaries about its growing military strength.

12 Indians Dead, 16 Missing in Russia-Ukraine Conflict: MEA SHARE

18-Jan-25

The Ministry of External Affairs reported that 12 Indian nationals have died and 16 are missing while fighting for Russia in the ongoing war against Ukraine, with a total of 126 Indians identified as serving in the Russian Army. Among these, 96 have returned to India, while 18 remain in combat, with 16 classified as missing. Many Indians have reportedly been misled into joining the Russian military under false job pretenses. The Indian government is actively working to locate and repatriate these individuals, highlighting the need for better awareness to prevent such situations in the future.

BSF Conference Enhances Border Security Amid Rising Tensions SHARE

18-Jan-25

The Border Security Force (BSF) convened a Field Commanders' Conference to enhance border security in response to rising tensions, particularly along the India-Bangladesh border. Key discussions focused on leveraging emerging technologies for surveillance and improving coordination with local communities to address issues like human trafficking and cattle smuggling, which have implications for bilateral relations. The controversial Single Row Fence was also debated, balancing security needs with concerns from Bangladeshi officials about its local impact. This proactive approach underscores the BSF's commitment to maintaining border integrity while fostering

cooperative ties with Bangladesh, which is crucial for regional stability and security.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

India Reaffirms Strong Stance Against Terrorism and Its Sponsors SHARE

18-Jan-25

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India has reiterated its unwavering stance against terrorism, emphasizing the need to fight it in all forms and calling out nations that promote cross-border terrorism, particularly targeting Pakistan. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has highlighted the existence of terrorist training camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and underscored that the region remains a critical issue, asserting that PoK is vital to India's territorial integrity. He urged that Pakistan must dismantle these camps while criticizing the Pakistani leadership for inciting anti-India sentiments among the local population. Furthermore, India's efforts extend to strengthening counter-terrorism collaborations with countries like Malaysia and Kuwait, focusing on sharing intelligence and disrupting terrorist financing networks. The MEA's firm position is a reflection of India's broader foreign policy strategy, which combines assertiveness with diplomatic engagement, particularly in light of ongoing diplomatic tensions and accusations related to its international actions. This comprehensive approach underscores India's commitment to enhancing its security framework while fostering international partnerships to address the multifaceted challenges posed by global terrorism, illustrating India's proactive stance in maintaining regional stability and countering terrorist threats effectively.

EAM Jaishankar: Pakistan's Terrorism is a Self-Inflicted Wound SHARE

18-Jan-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized India's constructive role in its neighborhood while criticizing Pakistan for its support of cross-border terrorism, likening it to a cancer consuming its own political landscape. He highlighted India's generous assistance to smaller neighbors like Sri Lanka during crises and advocated for strategic autonomy to bolster India's growth and modernization amid global uncertainties. Jaishankar reaffirmed India's commitment to enhancing connectivity and trade within the region while addressing geopolitical challenges, noting that India's strategic interests remain aligned

with global partners despite non-Western affiliations. This stance underscores India's proactive diplomacy and its aim to lead through cooperation and stability in South Asia.

J&K Police offer Rs 5 lakh reward for info on four terrorists



18-Jan-25

The Jammu and Kashmir Police have released images of four active terrorists—Saifullah, Farman, Adil, and Basha—in Kishtwar district, offering a reward of Rs 5 lakh for credible information leading to their capture. This initiative aims to engage the public in enhancing security, especially given the recent rise in terror activities in the region, driven by Pakistan-based operatives. The police emphasize the importance of community cooperation, ensuring the confidentiality of informants. This proactive approach reflects India's commitment to counter-terrorism and maintaining peace in sensitive areas, underlining the need for vigilance against external threats to national security.

UP Man Arrested for Posting Pro-Pakistan Slogan Online



18-Jan-25

A 25-year-old man named Imran from Nawabganj, Uttar Pradesh, was arrested for allegedly posting a pro-Pakistan slogan, "Pakistan Zindabad," on his Instagram account, which was deemed offensive by local authorities. The police acted upon information received about the post, highlighting the sensitivities surrounding national sentiments in India. This incident underscores the ongoing vigilance against actions perceived as undermining national integrity, especially in a context where social media can amplify divisive narratives. India's commitment to maintaining social harmony and security is evident through such proactive measures, reflecting the importance of upholding patriotic values in a diverse society.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Army Chief Confirms Use of Indigenous Sambhav Phones for Secure Talks with China



18-Jan-25

The Indian Army has confirmed the use of indigenous "Sambhav" smartphones equipped with the M-Sigma app for secure communication during recent talks with China. Approximately 30,000 of these phones, designed

to curb document leaks previously rampant on conventional messaging apps, facilitate secure information sharing among officers. Developed with contemporary 5G technology, the Sambhav phones feature end-to-end encryption and a directory of essential contacts to enhance operational security. This initiative underscores India's commitment to strengthening its defense capabilities through indigenous solutions, reflecting a proactive approach to safeguarding sensitive communications in a volatile geopolitical landscape.

FBI Investigates Baicells, Ex-Huawei Firm, Over Security Risks



18-Jan-25

The U.S. Commerce Department and FBI are investigating Baicells Technologies, a Chinese telecom firm founded by former Huawei executives, over national security concerns regarding its equipment potentially enabling cyberattacks. Despite no evidence of misuse, the FBI's warnings have led to contract cancellations in places like Las Vegas and raised alarms near sensitive military sites. Baicells claims it is cooperating with the inquiry and insists its products are secure. This situation underscores ongoing U.S. apprehensions about Chinese telecom companies and their equipment's potential links to espionage, reflective of broader geopolitical tensions and vigilance regarding cybersecurity risks.

India and US Strengthen Digital Security and AI Cooperation



18-Jan-25

India and the U.S. have reaffirmed their commitment to secure digital connectivity and AI collaboration during the 2024 ICT Working Group discussions. Focus areas include promoting open and resilient 5G and 6G networks, establishing an Open RAN Academy in India, and developing a framework for reciprocal investments in AI technology. The initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) continues to facilitate cooperation across sectors, enhancing technological partnerships and supply chains. This collaboration underscores the critical role of technology in strengthening the strategic relationship between India and the U.S., aiming to foster innovation, economic growth, and address global challenges effectively.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Indian Army Chief Calls for Resumption of Gorkha Recruitment



18-Jan-25

Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi has urged Nepal to resume the recruitment of Gorkha soldiers, which has been halted for over four years due to the pandemic and concerns over India's Agnipath scheme. The Gorkhas, known for their valor, are crucial to the Indian Army's historical military ties with Nepal. The absence of new recruits has led to a manpower shortage and a disruption in the continuity of traditions within the Gorkha regiments. General Dwivedi's appeal highlights the significance of renewing this recruitment process to strengthen bilateral military cooperation and uphold the legacy of Gorkha service in the Indian Army.

Eastern Naval Command Hosts Inaugural Veterans Day Parade



18-Jan-25

The Eastern Naval Command celebrated the 9th Armed Forces Veterans Day with its inaugural Veterans Day Parade at RK Beach, Visakhapatnam, featuring over 500 veterans and their families. Flagged off by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, the event highlighted the nation's commitment to honoring military service. It included specialized helpdesks for veterans' issues and a health camp offering orthopedic consultations. This gathering reinforced bonds between active and retired personnel, reflecting a collective respect and gratitude for those who protect India's sovereignty and integrity, ensuring that their legacy continues to be honored and their welfare prioritized.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth Lauds NCC Cadets at 2025 Camp



18-Jan-25

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth visited the NCC Republic Day Camp 2025 in Delhi, commending cadets as Ambassadors of Viksit Bharat @2047 and expressing support for the plan to enroll 20 lakh cadets. He praised their dedication to the Armed Forces and nation-building, urging continued efforts toward this vision. The event featured a Guard of Honour, cultural performances, and an exhibition showcasing innovative projects by the cadets, reflecting their creativity and technical skills. This engagement underscores the government's commitment to youth empowerment and

fostering patriotism, crucial for India's defense and resilience in the upcoming decades.

Miscellaneous

Sheikh Hasina recounts her narrow escape from death in Bangladesh.



18-Jan-25

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recounted her narrow escape from death by just 20-25 minutes amid a student-led uprising that led to her ousting on August 5 last year. In an audio note, she expressed gratitude for surviving multiple assassination attempts, claiming a conspiracy against her and her sister Rehana. The protests, driven by widespread discontent over socio-economic issues, resulted in nearly 300 deaths, emphasizing the intensity of the unrest. Hasina's son played a vital role in her decision to flee to India for safety, marking a significant shift in Bangladesh's political landscape. Her statements reflect the precarious nature of political stability in the region, highlighting the challenges faced by leaders amid civil unrest.

India Applauds US Removal of Nuclear Entities, Enhancing Energy Ties



18-Jan-25

India has welcomed the US decision to remove three key Indian entities—Indian Rare Earths, Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre, and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre—from its Entity List, facilitating enhanced collaboration in nuclear and clean energy sectors. This move aligns with India's strategic interests in securing resilient supply chains for critical minerals and energy needs. The Ministry of External Affairs emphasized that India's oil purchases are guided by its energy security requirements, amidst ongoing sanctions affecting the Russian energy sector. Strengthening ties with the US through this cooperation reflects India's commitment to bolstering its energy independence and technological advancement in crucial sectors.

India Boosts Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan After Taliban Talks



18-Jan-25

India is set to enhance its humanitarian and development aid to Afghanistan following high-level talks with the Taliban government, marking significant engagement since the Taliban's takeover in 2021. The Ministry of External Affairs expressed its commitment

to support the Afghan people through initiatives in areas like healthcare, sports, trade via the Chabahar port, and refugee rehabilitation. India has already provided substantial assistance, including food and medical supplies, indicating its long-standing relationship with Afghanistan. Despite this engagement, India remains vigilant regarding the evolving political landscape in Afghanistan, with hopes of fostering a stable and cooperative relationship moving forward.

Army Vice Chief: Tackle Jobs and Borders for Viksit Bharat 2047 SHARE

18-Jan-25

India's Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen N S Raja Subramani, highlighted the importance of addressing unemployment, border issues, and the human development index to achieve the Viksit Bharat vision by 2047. He emphasized the necessity of resolving internal conflicts, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast, to ensure social harmony and national security. Despite challenges from external threats, especially from China and Pakistan, he noted improvements in J&K's situation and underscored the need for economic security linked to national stability. The goal is for India to be a peaceful, developed nation by 2047, fostering global desirability while maintaining dominance in the Indian Ocean region.

Kristi Noem Stands Firm on Trump's Immigration Policies in Hearing SHARE

18-Jan-25

Kristi Noem, nominated by President-elect Donald Trump for the role of secretary of homeland security, affirmed her commitment to his stringent immigration policies during her confirmation hearing. She plans to end the CBP One app for asylum processing, prioritize deporting migrants with criminal records, and focus on disaster relief without political bias. Noem faced skepticism from some Democrats regarding her qualifications and potential independence from Trump. Additionally, she emphasized the need for reforms in the Secret Service, which has been scrutinized for its recent performance, proposing to realign it with its core national security responsibilities. Overall, Noem's stance reflects a firm commitment to Trump's administration's priorities.

New Administration to Decide on TikTok Ban Implementation SHARE

18-Jan-25

The White House has stated that the responsibility for implementing the TikTok ban will fall to the incoming

administration due to the timing of the law's enforcement. Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre highlighted that President Biden believes TikTok should be accessible under ownership that mitigates national security concerns. As Trump prepares to take office, he has expressed a more favorable stance toward TikTok compared to his previous attempts to ban it, indicating a potential shift in how to address national security debates surrounding the platform. This transition underscores the complexities of balancing digital security with public accessibility in the rapidly evolving tech landscape.

Elon Musk Welcomes India Global Forum at SpaceX, Boosting Ties SHARE

18-Jan-25

Elon Musk hosted a delegation from India Global Forum at SpaceX, featuring influential leaders from sectors like technology and renewable energy. The visit included a tour of SpaceX's Starbase and an overview of the successful Starship Flight 7 launch. Musk emphasized the potential for stronger US-India collaboration in technology and space exploration, advocating for reduced trade barriers to enhance bilateral commerce. This meeting underscores India's rising significance in global innovation and highlights the importance of fostering partnerships to address international challenges, aligning with the broader goal of sustainable technological development.

MEA Affirms No Conflict in Army Chief's Standoff Comments SHARE

18-Jan-25

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified that there is no contradiction between the Army Chief's remarks about a persistent standoff with Chinese forces and India's diplomatic stance, emphasizing a shared understanding of the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The spokesperson highlighted a recent agreement that facilitated troop disengagement at critical friction points and reiterated India's commitment to safeguard patrolling rights in accordance with traditional practices. This coordinated approach reflects India's prioritization of both military and diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions in the Ladakh sector, thereby reinforcing a unified strategy in managing relations with China.

PM Modi: SCOT's success is key to India's space industry growth SHARE

18-Jan-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the significance of the successful launch of the Digantara Space Camera for Object Tracking (SCOT) satellite, marking a milestone for India's burgeoning space industry and national security. Launched aboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 mission, SCOT is the world's first commercial Space Situational Awareness satellite, aimed at monitoring objects as small as 5 cm in Low Earth Orbit. Additionally, Bengaluru-based Pixxel launched its three satellites for India's first private satellite constellation on the same mission. This growth reflects India's commitment to enhancing space situational awareness and fostering innovation in the defense and space sectors, bolstering national capabilities in a competitive global landscape.

ISRO's SpaDeX Mission Achieves Historic Satellite Docking Success SHARE

18-Jan-25

ISRO has successfully conducted a historic space-docking test under its Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX), making India the fourth nation, after the US, Russia, and China, to achieve this milestone. The docking of satellites SDX-01 and SDX-02, completed on January 16, 2025, is pivotal for future missions like Chandrayaan-4 and Gaganyaan, as well as the establishment of India's own space station by 2035. This experiment enhances India's capabilities in executing multi-satellite missions, crucial for achieving complex space objectives. The success demonstrates ISRO's growing technological prowess and positions India as a key player in the global space arena, reinforcing its strategic ambitions in space exploration.

ISRO Achieves Milestone with Vikas Engine Restart Test SHARE

18-Jan-25

ISRO successfully demonstrated the restart capability of its Vikas liquid engine on January 17, 2025, marking a significant advancement towards reusability in launch vehicles. The test, conducted at the ISRO Propulsion Complex, involved a 60-second firing followed by a 120-

second shut-off and a subsequent 7-second restart, with all parameters meeting expectations. This successful demonstration builds on a previous shorter test in December 2024 and paves the way for future tests aimed at optimizing engine performance under varied restart conditions. This progress underscores India's commitment to enhancing its space capabilities and highlights the potential for more economical and efficient space missions through reusable technology.

BRP-Rotax Affirms Ownership, Addresses False Sale Claims SHARE

18-Jan-25

BRP-Rotax GmbH has clarified that its aircraft business remains under the ownership of BRP and has not been sold to a Chinese company, countering recent misleading reports. The company emphasizes the necessity of accurate information, given its potential impact on customers and shareholders. This response highlights concerns regarding the proliferation of unverified information, which could distort market perceptions. BRP-Rotax, a key player in the aerospace sector, produces high-performance engines for various aircraft, and this clarification reinforces its commitment to transparency and trust among stakeholders, while also addressing the need for responsible reporting in the media.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Takes Holy Dip at Mahakumbh 2025 SHARE

18-Jan-25

Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh visited Prayagraj to participate in the Mahakumbh 2025, marking the occasion by taking a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers. He emphasized the significance of the Mahakumbh as a grand spiritual and cultural festival that embodies the essence of Indianness, encouraging everyone to experience this unique event. During his visit, he also reviewed the arrangements for the festival, which highlights India's rich cultural heritage and reinforces the importance of such gatherings in fostering national unity and pride. This event showcases the Indian defense forces' commitment not only to security but also to cultural values.

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