



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

First batch of BrahMos missiles flagged off from Lucknow facility by Defence Minister and UP CM

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18-Oct-25

In a significant step towards self-reliance in defense manufacturing, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off the first batch of BrahMos missiles produced at the new BrahMos Integration and Testing Facility in Lucknow on October 18, 2025. This facility, a cornerstone of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor, was inaugurated in May 2025 and aims to produce approximately 100 missile systems annually. The BrahMos missile, renowned for its supersonic speed and precision, has become a vital asset for India's armed forces, with Singh asserting that every inch of Pakistan is now within its striking range, emphasizing the operational success of this missile during "Operation Sindoor." Such advancements not only bolster India's defense capabilities but also signal a shift in the nation's role in global defense, transitioning from a recipient to a provider, as seen with recent exports to the Philippines and contracts worth Rs 4,000 crore signed with other nations. The initiative highlights India's commitment to enhancing its indigenous defense production, fostering economic growth, and establishing Uttar Pradesh as a hub for innovation and job creation in the defense sector. This strategic development underscores the importance of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in shaping India's future as a self-reliant defense power.

DRDO's Zorawar Tank Successfully Test-Fires Nag Mk-II ATGM with Precision

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The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has marked a significant milestone by

successfully test-firing the Nag Mk-II anti-tank guided missile from the indigenous Zorawar light tank. This test, noted for its impressive range and accuracy, demonstrates India's commitment to enhancing its military capabilities amidst a heightened focus on indigenous defense systems. Developed in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro, the Zorawar tank exemplifies India's self-reliance in defense technology. Following Operation Sindoor, this achievement underscores India's strategic emphasis on bolstering its military readiness and capabilities to effectively counter potential threats, thereby reinforcing national security and regional stability.

Embraer opens New Delhi office to support India's C-390 aircraft MTA initiative.

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18-Oct-25

Embraer, a prominent Brazilian aerospace company, has inaugurated its new office in New Delhi, signifying a robust commitment to India's defense and aerospace sectors. This event coincided with a landmark Strategic Cooperation Agreement between Embraer Defense & Security and the Mahindra Group to locally manufacture the C-390 Millennium aircraft for the Indian Air Force's Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) program under the 'Make in India' initiative. The partnership aims to leverage India's manufacturing capabilities while enhancing regional defense ties. Embraer's C-390 Millennium is hailed for its multifunctionality, superior payload capacity, and operational versatility, which aligns with India's strategic needs. This collaboration not only bolsters India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing but also strengthens bilateral relations between India and Brazil, reflecting a shared vision for mutual growth in the aerospace domain. As the C-390 Millennium has been adopted by several air forces globally, its local production is expected to enhance India's defense readiness and support the government's aspirations for an Atmanirbhar Bharat. This pivotal development underscores India's ongoing efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in defense capabilities while

fostering international partnerships that are conducive to technological advancements and industrial growth.

Indian Navy boosts firepower logistics with 11th indigenous ammunition barge induction.



18-Oct-25

On October 17, 2025, the Indian Navy inducted its 11th Ammunition Cum Torpedo Missile (ACTCM) Barge, LSAM 25, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, enhancing its logistical firepower. Constructed by Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, these barges exemplify the Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, having been designed in collaboration with an Indian firm and rigorously tested for seaworthiness. With ten barges already delivered and additional contracts awarded for Sullage Barges, this initiative underscores the Navy's commitment to support MSMEs and enhance operational capabilities. The induction of these vessels is a significant step in bolstering the Indian Navy's logistical framework, ensuring efficient transportation of ammunition and supplies to naval platforms.

India to invest Rs 65,400 crore in 1,100 fighter jet engines by 2035.



18-Oct-25

India is projected to invest approximately Rs 65,400 crore in procuring 1,100 advanced fighter jet engines by 2035, as stated by S. V. Ramana Murthy, director of the Gas Turbine Research Establishment. The focus is on developing indigenous engines, notably the Kaveri, despite current technical challenges, with an urgent call for enhanced infrastructure, including a high-altitude testing facility. Additionally, efforts are underway to collaborate with international partners for engines to power India's first 5th generation stealth fighter, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, expected to debut in 2028. This initiative underscores the Indian government's commitment to boosting domestic defense manufacturing and reducing reliance on foreign suppliers, thereby enhancing national security and self-reliance in defense technology.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates Titanium & Superalloy Plant in Lucknow, boosting India's defense self-reliance.



18-Oct-25

On October 18, 2025, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated a Titanium and Superalloy Materials Plant at PTC Industries in Lucknow, marking a significant step towards India's self-reliance in critical defense and aerospace materials. This facility, established with an

investment of Rs 1,000 crore, aims to produce over 6,000 tonnes of aviation-grade materials annually, enhancing India's technological sovereignty and reducing dependency on foreign imports. The plant supports the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative by fostering innovation and job creation in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor. This development underscores India's commitment to advancing its defense manufacturing capabilities and signifies a shift toward becoming a global hub for defense technology and production.

India's Largest Military Conclave to Address Defense Challenges and Innovation



18-Oct-25

On October 17 and 18, 2025, Republic Media Network hosted the Forces First Conclave, described as India's largest military gathering to date, marking a significant milestone in the nation's defense discourse. This premier event brought together top military leaders including Chief of Army Staff Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, senior officials from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, strategic thinkers, policymakers, and defense experts to focus on pressing national security challenges and defense modernization. The conclave highlighted India's growing emphasis on indigenous defense innovation and self-reliance in military manufacturing. Keynote addresses and panel discussions explored advancements in military technology, border security, and the evolving strategic landscape amid rising regional tensions. The event also celebrated the valor and commitment of India's armed forces and reinforced the country's role in global defense dynamics. The conclave is seen as a crucial step in shaping India's future security agenda and enhancing its defense preparedness to counter emerging threats, reflecting a proactive and resilient national defense approach aligned with India's strategic goals.

Paras Defence signs MoU with Cielo to enhance India's navigation tech capabilities.



18-Oct-25

Paras Defence and Space Technologies Limited has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Israel's Cielo Inertial Solutions to enhance India's self-reliance in precision navigation systems. This agreement, announced on October 13, 2025, focuses on adapting and producing advanced inertial sensors, particularly closed-loop Fiber Optic Gyroscopes (FOGs), essential for applications in missile guidance, aircraft avionics, and unmanned systems. By

potentially establishing local production facilities, Paras Defence aims to foster technology transfer and skill development, aligning with India's defense sector's growing demands. This collaboration not only strengthens India's indigenous capabilities but also signifies a critical step toward achieving greater autonomy in defense technologies, reflecting the nation's commitment to enhancing its strategic defense posture in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

DRDO's Netra Mk2 upgrades boost India's airborne surveillance capabilities.



18-Oct-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is enhancing India's airborne surveillance capabilities with the Netra Mk2 Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&CS), featuring a specialized de-icing system for its antennas to ensure operational reliability in harsh weather. The six retired Airbus A321 aircraft, repurposed from Air India, will undergo modifications in France before returning for the integration of advanced antennas and mission sensors, enabling them to serve as airborne command centers. This initiative, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security, aims to deliver six advanced platforms by 2033-2034, significantly improving detection ranges and situational awareness. The program reflects India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology, enhancing operational readiness in diverse terrains.

Solar Explosives Reveals M2 Motor for India's Project Kusha Defense Initiative



18-Oct-25

In a significant advancement for India's defense capabilities, Solar Explosives recently showcased the M2 solid rocket motor, integral to the Indian Air Force's Project Kusha long-range air defense initiative, during a visit by Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh. This program, aimed at developing an indigenous multi-tiered surface-to-air missile system comparable to the S-400, features the M2 motor designed for high-thrust propulsion, enabling hypersonic speeds and precision guidance. With over 80% indigenous content, the M2 aims to enhance India's aerial defense against various threats, including stealth assets, with trials anticipated in 2026 and a target for operational deployment by 2030. This development underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology, strengthening its strategic position in the region.

CVRDE and Ashok Leyland finalize design for advanced 800 HP Zorawar tank engine.



18-Oct-25

The Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) has partnered with Ashok Leyland to develop an advanced 800 HP engine for the Zorawar Light Tank, aimed at enhancing India's armored capabilities in high-altitude terrains. The design phase is complete, with a focus on delivering a compact engine that balances power and agility, featuring an 8-cylinder V90 layout optimized for battlefield conditions. This engine is expected to propel the Zorawar beyond 70 km/h while effectively maneuvering in challenging environments, addressing the need for superior performance against adversary forces. The development aligns with India's strategic focus on modernizing its defense capabilities and supporting indigenous defense manufacturing, thus reinforcing national security in contested regions.

Tejas MkII: India's first fighter with advanced Auxiliary Computer for enhanced mission capability.



18-Oct-25

The Tejas MkII has made significant advancements as India's first indigenous fighter aircraft equipped with an Auxiliary Computer (AC), enhancing its operational capabilities and redundancy. Developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, this triune computing architecture includes a Digital Flight Control Computer and a Mission Management and Display Computer, elevating mission support and safety in high-threat environments. By integrating the AC, which monitors system health and performs auxiliary tasks, the Tejas MkII enhances resilience and reduces pilot workload, positioning it as a critical asset for the Indian Air Force. This development aligns with India's goal of achieving aerospace self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and represents a significant step toward the future Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft program.

Indian Navy, IIT Delhi Collaborate on Innovative Crew-Centric Warship Design



18-Oct-25

The Indian Navy has signed a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) to enhance crew-centric warship design, marking a significant

stride in India's maritime capabilities. This partnership aims to improve habitability, safety, and operational efficiency onboard naval vessels, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision by reducing reliance on foreign design standards. Key areas of focus will include ergonomic layouts, environmental controls, and psychological support systems to boost crew morale and performance. This collaboration not only emphasizes the human element in naval architecture but also reflects a growing trend of academia-defence synergies in India, which is crucial for adapting to modern naval warfare demands.

Tonbo Imaging's Fury Sight Enhances Indian Infantry's Carl Gustaf Precision.

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18-Oct-25

Bengaluru-based Tonbo Imaging has successfully completed advanced firing trials of its Fury Thermal Imaging-Based Fire Control Sight for the Carl Gustaf recoilless rifle, a notable achievement showcasing effective collaboration with the Indian Army. Conducted under the supervision of Colonel Bharat Sethi, the trials demonstrated Fury's prowess in varied combat scenarios, enhancing target acquisition and engagement efficiency by over 40%. This advanced system integrates high-definition thermal imaging with AI auto-target tracking, offering significant tactical advantages for Indian infantry. With over 10,000 Carl Gustafs in active service, outfitting these with Fury could substantially elevate squad-level firepower along critical borders, underscoring India's commitment to indigenization and modernizing its defense capabilities.

Indian Army's drone trials reveal vulnerabilities, prompting ₹10,000 crore investment in indigenous capabilities.

 **SHARE**

18-Oct-25

The Indian Army's recent trials revealed significant vulnerabilities in its indigenous drone capabilities, particularly in GPS-denied environments during Operation Sindoor. None of the 46 domestic manufacturers successfully demonstrated resilience against advanced Pakistani electronic warfare tactics, leading to substantial asset losses and operational delays. The Army's reliance on imported components and unproven technologies highlights critical gaps in electronic warfare preparedness. In response, the Defence Secretary announced a ₹10,000 crore investment to develop new prototypes that prioritize secure navigation and countermeasures. This situation

underscores the urgent need for India to enhance its indigenous defense capabilities, ensuring that its drone ecosystem can effectively counter adversarial threats in future conflicts.

DRDO to Launch Advanced Armoured Platforms for Enhanced Army Mobility

 **SHARE**

18-Oct-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is set to unveil its Advanced Armoured Platforms (AAP), comprising both wheeled and tracked infantry combat vehicles (ICVs), later this month. Developed in collaboration with Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Bharat Forge, these vehicles promise enhanced battlefield mobility and adaptability for the Indian Army's diverse operational environments. With modular designs featuring a remote-controlled turret and advanced protection systems, the AAP vehicles aim to replace legacy BMP-2s, addressing shortcomings revealed during recent user trials. This initiative aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision, emphasizing indigenous production and the potential for export to allies. The rollout signifies a significant leap toward modernizing India's mechanized warfare capabilities, enhancing response times and operational readiness in contested zones.

NASM-SR Set for Key Helicopter-Launched Missile Testing Trial

 **SHARE**

18-Oct-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy are set to conduct a dynamic trial of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Short Range (NASM-SR), a significant advancement in India's indigenous defense capabilities. This test will involve a live launch from a helicopter, marking a transition from previous ground-based evaluations to real-world naval operations, with the missile designed to arm future MH-60R helicopters. The NASM-SR, a lightweight missile with a range of 55 km, has undergone successful earlier trials, and the upcoming demonstration is critical for ensuring its integration into the Indian Navy's Multi-Role Helicopter fleet by 2027. This development underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense and enhances its maritime strike capabilities amidst evolving geopolitical challenges.

HAL's Tejas Mk1A upgrades progress amid Astra missile integration hurdles.

18-Oct-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is advancing production of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A, with Chairman Dr. D.K. Sunil expressing optimism about quick software upgrades despite integration challenges with the Astra Mk1 missile, which are reportedly hampered by reliance on Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for software approvals. The Mk1A features significant upgrades, including an indigenous ELTA AESA radar, enhancing its operational capabilities for beyond-visual-range engagements. However, delays in missile testing and foreign dependencies pose risks to the Indian Air Force's operational timeline, with concerns over the pace of induction for the 83 Mk1As ordered. This situation underscores the importance of self-reliance in defense technologies as India aims to bolster its air capabilities while minimizing foreign reliance.

Indian Navy launches sixth ASW SWC BY 528 (Magdala) in Kochi.

18-Oct-25

On October 18, 2025, the Indian Navy launched the sixth Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), named BY 528 (Magdala), at Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi. This vessel, part of an eight-ship program, boasts over 80% indigenous content and features advanced capabilities such as a Hull Mounted Sonar, Low Frequency Variable Depth Sonar, and a suite of torpedoes and rockets, enhancing India's underwater defense. The launch underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing, particularly in securing maritime interests in the Indian Ocean Region. This development marks a significant step in bolstering the Indian Navy's operational capabilities amid increasing regional maritime challenges.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Defence Secretary stresses structured policy for Aatmanirbharta and public-private collaboration.

18-Oct-25

Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh emphasized the necessity of a structured policy framework to bolster India's domestic defense industry through public-private collaboration during the Strategic Insight Conference on Indigenous Development of

Critical Technologies for Air Power. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to Aatmanirbharta, advocating for advancements in aero technologies and missile systems to enhance air power capabilities. Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari stressed the importance of expertise in electronic warfare and advanced sensors, while DRDO's Dr. K Rajalakshmi Menon highlighted innovations such as UAVs and artificial intelligence in defense operations. This initiative reflects India's strategic aim for technological self-reliance amidst evolving regional security challenges, underscoring the critical role of indigenous development in maintaining aerospace dominance.

Politics

Cornered by Taliban and Operation Sindoor Setbacks, Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir Escalates Anti-India Nuclear Rhetoric

18-Oct-25

Recent articles reveal Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir has escalated anti-India rhetoric amid growing unrest within Pakistan, particularly following a significant military setback during Operation Sindoor, where the Indian Air Force destroyed numerous Pakistani aircraft and bases. Munir issued stern warnings of a "decisive response" to any provocation from India, threatening beyond expectations military and economic repercussions. His statements, delivered during a graduation ceremony, also reflect the broader internal turbulence, with Pakistan grappling with Taliban attacks, border clashes along the Durand Line, and political unrest linked to anti-government protests and crackdown on groups like TLP. These developments are set against the backdrop of Pakistan's increasingly fragile security environment, with unrest intensifying domestically and on its western frontier, significantly impacting regional stability. Despite these tensions, Munir's provocative remarks appear aimed at diverting attention from internal crises and asserting military strength amidst ongoing challenges. The situation underscores a tense regional nexus where military rhetoric and internal instability intensely intertwine.

Amit Shah assures timely restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.



18-Oct-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that statehood for Jammu and Kashmir will be restored at an appropriate time, emphasizing the positive changes following the abrogation of Article 370, which has led to a decline in local terrorism. Shah noted that democratic processes, including local elections, have resumed in the region. He addressed concerns regarding the delay in restoring statehood, suggesting that discussions would take place with political leaders like Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Furthermore, he asserted that the government's efforts against Maoist insurgency have been significant, aiming to completely eradicate it by the end of 2026. This commitment reflects the government's focus on improving security and governance in conflict-affected areas, thereby reinforcing national integration and stability.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Pakistan and Afghanistan initiate peace talks in Qatar after border clashes.



18-Oct-25

In the wake of escalating tensions, Pakistan and Afghanistan have convened peace talks in Doha following a series of violent border clashes that have resulted in significant casualties on both sides. The discussions are spearheaded by Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and the Afghan Taliban's Defence Minister Mohammed Yaqub, with a primary focus on addressing cross-border terrorism and restoring stability along their 2,600-kilometer border. This latest round of fighting was prompted by Islamabad's airstrikes in Afghanistan, which Pakistan claims targeted militant camps responsible for recent attacks against its military, including a suicide bombing that killed several Pakistani soldiers. Conversely, the Taliban has denounced the airstrikes as violations of Afghan sovereignty and has reserved the right to respond while asserting a commitment to a peaceful resolution. This dialogue represents a critical juncture for both nations, as they attempt to navigate complex geopolitical dynamics amid accusations of harboring militants and destabilizing each other's security. The outcome of these negotiations could significantly influence regional stability, particularly in light of Pakistan's concerns over increasing militant activity emanating from Afghan territory. The situation underscores the delicate

interplay of diplomacy and military action in South Asia, as both nations grapple with historic grievances and the pressing need for a collaborative approach to security and governance.

Indian Army Chief and Bangladesh LG discuss enhancing defense cooperation and regional security.



18-Oct-25

Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi engaged in productive discussions with Lieutenant General Md Mainur Rahman of the Bangladesh Army on October 18, 2025, during the UNTCC 2025. Both leaders emphasized enhancing defense cooperation, training, and coordination in UN peacekeeping efforts. Additionally, the Border Security Force (BSF) Director General highlighted ongoing legal actions against illegal Bangladeshi immigrants and the efficient handling of nationalities at the border, reaffirming a well-established mechanism for deportations between India and Bangladesh. This dialogue and cooperation underscore India's commitment to strengthening regional security partnerships while managing sensitive border issues, reflecting a proactive approach in addressing both defense and humanitarian concerns in South Asia.

India and Russia partner on rare earths to reduce China's dominance.



18-Oct-25

India is actively pursuing partnerships with Russian firms to enhance its supply of rare earth magnets and critical minerals, aiming to reduce its dependency on China, which currently dominates global rare earth exports with a 90% share. Amid escalating export restrictions from China affecting various sectors, including automobiles and electronics, the Indian government has engaged domestic companies such as Lohum and Midwest to explore collaborations with Russian entities adept in rare earth processing. The initiative reflects a broader strategy of India-Russia cooperation in critical materials, with plans including a significant investment of Rs 7,300 crore to bolster domestic magnet production. This move is pivotal for India's defense and technology sectors, ensuring strategic autonomy and resilience against geopolitical pressures.

Trump urges Ukraine and Russia to halt conflict and maintain positions. SHARE

18-Oct-25

US President Donald Trump, following a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, called for an immediate ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia, suggesting both sides maintain their current battle lines. Trump's remarks marked a shift in his stance, as he previously supported Ukraine's territorial claims. He expressed hesitation in supplying Ukraine with long-range Tomahawk missiles, which Zelenskyy argued were crucial for striking deep into Russian territory. This development raises questions about the dynamics of US support for Ukraine amidst ongoing tensions with Russia, reflecting the complexities of international diplomacy in the region and the challenges in achieving a lasting resolution to the conflict. Trump's approach indicates an inclination to prioritize negotiations over military escalation, impacting the future of US-Ukrainian relations.

Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt to reopen Monday. SHARE

18-Oct-25

The Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt is set to reopen on Monday, as confirmed by the Palestinian embassy in Egypt. This development marks a significant shift, as the crossing has been largely closed since May 2024. The reopening will facilitate the return of Palestinians residing in Egypt back to Gaza, potentially easing humanitarian concerns in the region. This move highlights ongoing tensions and the humanitarian situation in Gaza, emphasizing the need for effective communication and collaboration among neighboring nations to address the plight of affected populations. The reopening of this crucial crossing might also have broader implications for regional stability and the Palestinian conflict, underscoring the importance of diplomatic efforts to resolve ongoing disputes.

India-Russia Celebrate 25 Years of Strong Strategic Partnership Achievements SHARE

18-Oct-25

The recent seminar at the Vivekananda International Foundation in New Delhi commemorated the 25th anniversary of the India-Russia Strategic Partnership, with Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov emphasizing the strong and evolving bilateral ties across trade, technology, and military cooperation. The event highlighted key achievements in joint space exploration

and energy security initiatives, reflecting a forward-looking engagement despite global changes. Preparations for President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit to India in December were discussed, aiming to enhance collaboration in defense and emerging technologies. This celebration not only underscores the maturity of India-Russia relations but also reaffirms their mutual respect, marking a significant step in strengthening strategic ties amidst a complex geopolitical landscape.

Pakistani columnist claims India aids Afghanistan in MANPADS revival against PAF incursions. SHARE

18-Oct-25

In a controversial column, Pakistani journalist Javed Chaudhry accused India of supporting Afghanistan in refurbishing Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems (MANPADS) to counter the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). He alleged that India is aiding Kabul in establishing production facilities and training Afghan forces, particularly following recent PAF strikes in Afghanistan. While these claims reflect escalating tensions and a narrative of betrayal, they lack independent verification and echo previous unsubstantiated accusations in Pakistani media. Indian officials have dismissed such narratives as disinformation, emphasizing their respect for Afghan sovereignty. This situation underscores the complex dynamics in the region, where military capabilities and alliances are increasingly pivotal amidst ongoing security challenges and potential proxy conflicts.

China expels top general and officials in Xi's anti-corruption campaign. SHARE

18-Oct-25

China's second-highest ranking general, He Weidong, along with eight other senior officials, has been expelled from the Communist Party amid an anti-corruption campaign led by President Xi Jinping. This move, part of a broader effort to enforce loyalty within the military hierarchy, targets serious misconduct involving large sums of money. Notably, He, previously in charge of the Eastern Theater Command responsible for operations against Taiwan, has not been seen publicly for months, indicating potential political trouble. Analysts view this purge as a strategic maneuver to reinforce Xi's authority ahead of a significant party meeting, reflecting ongoing tensions in Chinese governance and the military's role in political dynamics.

Trump claims India will stop buying Russian oil, but officials disagree.



18-Oct-25

Former President Trump has reiterated claims that India will soon cease purchasing Russian oil, asserting that Prime Minister Modi informed him of such plans. However, Indian officials have dismissed this assertion, stressing that their energy relationship with Russia is dictated by national interests and market conditions, not external pressures. As India maintains a policy of strategic autonomy, officials emphasize that ongoing oil purchases, particularly at discounted rates, are crucial for domestic economic stability amidst fluctuating global prices. This situation reflects the complexity of India's diplomatic balancing act between its strategic partnerships with the West and Russia, underscoring its commitment to energy security and geopolitical neutrality. The discourse highlights the broader challenges faced by India in navigating its foreign policy amidst global geopolitical tensions.

Military Operations

Two more Pakistan-linked operatives convicted in Indian Navy espionage case, total now four.



18-Oct-25

A Special Court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has sentenced two more individuals, Mohammad Haroon Haji Abdul Rehman Lakdawala and Imran Yakub Giteli, linked to a Pakistani ISI espionage case involving the leaking of sensitive Indian Navy information, bringing the total convictions to four. Both were found guilty under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and received five and six-year sentences, respectively, amid revelations of their connections with Pakistani intelligence operatives. This case, which has seen 15 arrests including Navy personnel, underscores serious threats to India's national security and highlights the ongoing efforts to dismantle espionage networks undermining the country's integrity. The continued legal proceedings reflect the Indian government's commitment to countering external threats effectively.

BRO ADG inspects crucial defense roads in Arunachal Pradesh's Project Arunank.



18-Oct-25

The Additional Director General of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Jitendra Prasad, recently

concluded a five-day inspection of strategic infrastructure under Project Arunank in Arunachal Pradesh, which is vital for maintaining defense readiness along India's border with China. Emphasizing the importance of road connectivity for troop movement and local socio-economic development, Prasad acknowledged the efforts of the BRO and the 23 Border Roads Task Force in overcoming challenging terrain and climate. Arunachal Pradesh Governor K.T. Parnaik highlighted the significance of well-maintained roads for rapid military mobilization and long-term defense infrastructure needs. This initiative not only strengthens national security but also fosters local trade and healthcare access, underscoring the dual benefit of enhanced infrastructure in border regions.

Army Chief: Land is Key to Victory and National Integrity



18-Oct-25

At India's largest military conclave, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi emphasized that land remains the critical element in achieving victory, reinforcing the nation's commitment to counter cross-border aggression with autonomous capabilities. He highlighted ongoing operations aimed at neutralizing terror infrastructure while managing perceptions through proactive misinformation strategies. The Army's approach involves adapting existing structures based on lessons learned, ensuring preparedness for multiple escalation scenarios. This strategy not only aims to maintain operational momentum and surprise but also seeks to recalibrate adversarial assumptions, underscoring India's resolve to safeguard its territorial integrity while minimizing conflict escalation. Such a comprehensive defense posture is vital in the current geopolitical landscape, where perceptions and rapid responses can dictate outcomes.

British military reports tanker fire in Gulf of Aden after projectile strike.



18-Oct-25

A ship caught fire in the Gulf of Aden off Yemen after reportedly being struck by a projectile, as confirmed by the British military. The incident, occurring approximately 210 kilometers east of Aden, has not yet been claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels, who have increasingly targeted maritime vessels amidst rising tensions linked to the Israel-Hamas conflict. The vessel, identified as a Cameroon-flagged tanker, is associated with an Iranian "ghost fleet" allegedly evading sanctions. The broader implications of the Houthi attacks threaten regional shipping security, crucial for

global trade, highlighting the need for vigilant maritime operations and international cooperation to safeguard vital shipping lanes in the area.

Raksha Mantri to honor ten policemen killed by Chinese troops in 1959 at Police Commemoration Day.

18-Oct-25

On October 21, 2025, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will commemorate Police Commemoration Day at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi, honoring the sacrifices of ten policemen ambushed by Chinese troops in 1959. This annual observance, established to recognize police personnel's contributions to national security, includes a joint parade by Central Armed Police Forces and Delhi Police. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the memorial in 2018, symbolizing the valor and commitment of police forces. Events from October 22 to 30 will feature various commemorative activities, reinforcing the unity and purpose of police forces across India, while reminding citizens of their enduring sacrifice for the nation. This commemoration emphasizes the need for national security vigilance amidst ongoing regional tensions.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

NIA charges Bihar laborer for aiding LeT terror plots in India.

18-Oct-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against Mohammed Akhlaque Mujahid, a migrant labourer from Bihar, for allegedly supporting terrorist activities linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Jammu & Kashmir and Tamil Nadu. Mujahid, employed at a construction site in Chengalpattu, was arrested for his anti-national activities, which included attempting to procure weapons to execute a Jihadi attack. The NIA's investigation revealed his connections with LeT handlers in Pakistan and his intent to target non-believers. This case underscores the ongoing threat of radicalization and terrorism in India, highlighting the importance of robust counter-terrorism efforts by Indian security agencies to maintain national security and public safety.

Three Afghan cricketers killed in Pakistani airstrike near border.

18-Oct-25

Three Afghan cricketers, Kabeer, Sibghatullah, and Haroon, were killed in a Pakistani airstrike near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, an incident described as a "cowardly attack" by the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB). This event, which also claimed the lives of five civilians, has led Afghanistan to withdraw from an upcoming tri-nation cricket series, highlighting the heightened tensions in the region. The ACB has called for international condemnation and an investigation into the strike, pointing to an increase in cross-border operations by Pakistan, often tied to counter-terrorism efforts but risking civilian lives. This tragedy not only mourns the loss of promising athletes but also signifies the escalating conflict and instability affecting regional sports and diplomatic relations.

India nearing eradication of Maoist terrorism, says PM Modi.

18-Oct-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced at the NDTV World Summit in New Delhi that India is on the verge of eradicating Maoist terrorism, promising a future free from this threat. He emphasized the significant decline in Maoist influence, with only 11 out of 125 previously affected districts still facing challenges, and a notable surrender of 303 Naxalites, including high-value figures. Modi criticized past governance failures for neglecting rural development and infrastructure, while highlighting transformative initiatives in regions like Bastar. This optimistic outlook reflects the government's commitment to restoring peace and prosperity, aiming for a Diwali celebration untainted by fear, underscoring the importance of democratic values and development in countering extremism in India.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Northern Command's exercise enhances readiness against cyber, space, and cognitive threats.

18-Oct-25

The Indian Army's Northern Command recently conducted a significant four-day tri-service exercise, named Vidyut Vidhwhans, focusing on multi-domain warfare scenarios that addressed futuristic threats in cyber, space, electromagnetic, and cognitive domains. This exercise, which took place from October 13 to 16,

involved not only army personnel but also the Central Armed Police Forces, other sister services, central government agencies, and indigenous defense industry players, showcasing the importance of a comprehensive national approach to evolving security challenges. The exercise aimed to enhance operational preparedness against next-generation conflicts, with an emphasis on jointness, self-reliance (aatmanirbarta), and continuous innovation. Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma emphasized the need for strategic foresight and synergy across multiple domains to effectively safeguard India's territorial integrity and critical assets. This initiative signifies a pivotal step towards modernizing India's defense capabilities, reinforcing the nation's readiness against emergent threats, and underlining the commitment to self-sufficiency in defense production amidst an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape. By fostering collaboration among various agencies and leveraging advanced technologies, the Northern Command is better positioned to respond to contemporary warfare challenges.

Envoy Air faces cybersecurity breach linked to Oracle systems, raising aviation security concerns. **SHARE**

18-Oct-25

American Airlines' largest regional carrier, Envoy Air, has reportedly suffered a significant cybersecurity breach linked to Oracle systems. While details regarding the specific implications of the hack remain sparse, the incident raises serious concerns about the vulnerability of critical infrastructure within major airlines and their reliance on third-party software providers. This breach highlights the increasing threat posed by cyberattacks in the aviation sector, underscoring the need for enhanced security measures to protect sensitive data and operational integrity. As the aviation industry continues to recover from the pandemic, incidents like this could further complicate efforts to restore confidence among travelers and stakeholders, prompting a reevaluation of cybersecurity protocols across the sector.

Silver Fox's Winos 4.0 Malware Targets Japan and Malaysia Now **SHARE**

18-Oct-25

Silver Fox, a notorious Chinese cybercrime group, has expanded its malware operations, targeting Japan and Malaysia using the Winos 4.0 malware family and the HoldingHands RAT. These attacks primarily rely on phishing tactics that disguise malicious PDFs as official

documents, leading to multi-stage infections. Recent campaigns have highlighted the group's adaptability, shifting from targeting Taiwan to utilizing taxation-themed lures for malware distribution in Malaysia. The sophisticated nature of these attacks, including evasion techniques against security software, underscores a significant threat to both regional cybersecurity and individual privacy, emphasizing the need for heightened vigilance and robust defensive measures in the face of evolving cyber threats.

Microsoft warns Russia, China using AI for escalating US cyber-attacks. **SHARE**

18-Oct-25

A recent report by Microsoft reveals that Russia and China, alongside Iran and North Korea, have sharply increased their use of artificial intelligence (AI) to mount cyber-attacks and disseminate disinformation targeting the United States. In July 2025 alone, over 200 instances of AI-generated fake content and disinformation were documented, with tactics evolving to include AI-enhanced phishing and digital impersonations of officials. This alarming trend poses significant threats to businesses and critical services, raising concerns about the integrity of information and national security. The broader significance lies in the urgent need for enhanced cybersecurity measures and international collaboration to counter these advanced threats, ensuring the protection of democratic institutions and societal resilience against malicious cyber activities.

Europol dismantles SIMCARTEL network linked to 3,200 scams. **SHARE**

18-Oct-25

On October 10, 2025, Europol, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies from Austria, Estonia, and Latvia, successfully dismantled a significant SIM-box network known as "SIMCARTEL." This operation revealed that the network was implicated in over 3,200 fraud cases, leading to estimated losses of approximately €4.5 million. Utilizing 1,200 SIM-box devices and 40,000 SIM cards, the operation facilitated phishing, investment scams, impersonation, and extortion, allowing the creation of more than 49 million online accounts. Such cybercriminal activities not only undermine individual security but also pose serious risks to national telecommunications infrastructure, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in combating organized cybercrime.

SC directs MHA, CBI to devise plan against organized cyber-crime. SHARE

18-Oct-25

India's Supreme Court has directed the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to formulate a comprehensive action plan aimed at dismantling organized cyber-crime syndicates that exploit citizens, particularly vulnerable elderly individuals, through tactics such as "digital arrest" extortion. The court underscored the rising sophistication and scale of cybercrime, warning that such activities could severely undermine public trust and disrupt critical infrastructure. This development highlights the urgent need for robust cybersecurity measures and collaborative efforts among law enforcement agencies to safeguard citizens and maintain the integrity of digital ecosystems in India. The Supreme Court's intervention reflects a proactive stance in addressing emerging threats in cyberspace, emphasizing the importance of protecting vulnerable populations.

Kaspersky reports targeted ransomware attacks on Indian businesses highlight need for enhanced cybersecurity measures. SHARE

18-Oct-25

In the first half of 2025, ransomware attacks on Indian businesses remained relatively low at 0.28%, as reported by Kaspersky, which attributes this to attackers targeting high-value organizations rather than conducting mass attacks. Indian organizations faced an average of 665 ransomware attempts daily throughout 2024, highlighting the increasing sophistication of AI-powered ransomware groups. Kaspersky emphasizes the urgent need for proactive cybersecurity measures, suggesting practices such as enabling ransomware protection, updating software, and utilizing advanced threat intelligence. The rise in ransomware tactics poses significant risks to India's rapidly digitizing economy, underscoring the importance of robust cybersecurity strategies to safeguard critical sectors and maintain economic stability.

Maharashtra Police dismantle ₹58.13 crore digital scam; seven arrested. SHARE

18-Oct-25

Maharashtra Police have uncovered a massive digital arrest scam, involving the duping of a 72-year-old businessman of ₹58.13 crore, marking it as one of the

largest fraud cases in India. Seven individuals have been arrested, linked to a sophisticated network that utilized fake law enforcement impersonations and staged court proceedings to pressure victims into transferring funds. The investigation revealed extensive use of foreign IP addresses and over 6,500 money mule accounts, highlighting the alarming rise of organized cybercrime targeting vulnerable citizens. This incident underscores the urgent need for public awareness and vigilance against such scams, as well as the importance of robust cybersecurity measures to protect citizens from financial exploitation.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

RAF enlists Indian Air Force instructors to enhance pilot training cooperation. SHARE

18-Oct-25

In a historic development for India-UK defense collaboration, the Royal Air Force (RAF) has announced that Indian Air Force (IAF) instructors will begin training RAF pilots on Hawk T2 advanced jet trainers, marking the first such engagement since World War II. This unprecedented partnership, set to commence in October 2026 at RAF Valley, emerges as the British military grapples with a significant shortage of qualified flight instructors, primarily due to technical issues with its Hawk T2 jets and a long-standing underinvestment in military training capabilities. The agreement, highlighted during UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's recent visit to India, aims to enhance bilateral defense ties and build trust through shared training practices. Indian instructors, known for their high proficiency with the Hawk aircraft, will undergo a rigorous acclimatization process to integrate into RAF procedures effectively. This collaboration not only addresses immediate training needs but also positions India as a prominent player in global defense, showcasing the quality of its flight instructors and fostering deeper strategic synergies. The initiative reflects a broader trend of increasing military cooperation between India and the UK, as both nations seek to bolster their air combat capabilities and operational interoperability amidst evolving geopolitical challenges. Overall, this partnership signifies a shift in historical dynamics and underscores India's rising status in international defense collaboration, contributing positively to its global reputation while enhancing the RAF's training infrastructure.

Rear Admiral Alok Ananda takes command of Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet in Visakhapatnam.



18-Oct-25

In recent developments within the Indian Navy, Rear Admiral Alok Ananda has taken command of the Eastern Fleet, succeeding Rear Admiral Susheel Menon in a ceremony held in Visakhapatnam. Rear Admiral Ananda, a Navigation and Direction specialist commissioned in July 1993, boasts a wealth of operational experience, having commanded several significant vessels, including the Landing Ship INS Ghorpad and the frigate INS Satpura. His accolades include the Yudh Seva Medal for his contributions during Operation Rahat in Yemen, underscoring his capability in crisis situations. Additionally, Rear Admiral Shantanu Jha has assumed the role of Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area, succeeding Rear Admiral Anil Jaggi. Like Ananda, Jha is also a July 1993 commission and a specialist in Navigation and Direction, having served on six frontline warships and held numerous key positions, including Chief Staff Officer (Operations) at the Eastern Naval Command. Both admirals are distinguished alumni of prominent military colleges and have received multiple commendations for their service, highlighting the Indian Navy's continued commitment to leadership excellence and operational readiness. These appointments reflect the Navy's strategic focus on enhancing maritime security and operational effectiveness in a dynamic geopolitical environment.

Lt Gen CG Muralidharan takes charge as Director General of Army Medical Services.



18-Oct-25

Lt Gen CG Muralidharan has officially assumed the role of Director General of Medical Services (Army), succeeding Lt Gen Sadhna S Nair, who retired after over 40 years of esteemed service. An alumnus of the Armed Forces Medical College, Lt Gen Muralidharan brings a wealth of experience as a radiologist, having held various command and staff positions across operational theatres. His leadership will prioritize holistic medical care for service personnel and veterans while enhancing the medical readiness of forward establishments amid evolving security challenges and technological advancements. This transition reflects the Indian Army's commitment to maintaining high standards of healthcare for its forces, crucial for sustaining operational efficiency in modern warfare contexts.

Miscellaneous

THINQ 25 Zonal Rounds conclude; 16 teams advance to semifinals.



18-Oct-25

The Indian Navy's prestigious quiz competition, THINQ 25, successfully held its Zonal Rounds on October 13 and 14, 2025, with top teams from the North, South, East, and West battling for semifinal spots. Sixteen teams have qualified for the semifinals, set to take place at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, on November 4, 2025, where eight will advance to the Grand Finale on November 5. This year's theme, MAHASAGAR, emphasizes the Navy's commitment to fostering intellectual engagement and competition among the youth. Such initiatives not only enhance awareness about maritime affairs but also cultivate a spirit of inquiry and patriotism among students, which is crucial for the nation's security and defense preparedness.

Kalyani Advocates Aatmanirbharta as India's Defense Imperative at Conclave



18-Oct-25

At the Forces First Conclave 2025, Baba N Kalyani, Chairman and MD of Bharat Forge, underscored the urgent need for self-reliance in India's defense sector amid a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape. He asserted that becoming 'Aatmanirbhar' is crucial for survival, advocating for swift modernization timelines of 18-24 months instead of lengthy programs, and emphasized that true self-reliance involves cultivating internal capabilities rather than merely reducing imports. Kalyani highlighted the global trend of weaponization in trade, technology, and finance, contending that India's growth hinges on its domestic production capacity. This perspective reinforces the significance of strengthening India's defense industrial base, ensuring national security, and enhancing global competitiveness.

India's largest dredger, Dredge Godavari, launched at Cochin Shipyard.



18-Oct-25

Dredge Godavari, India's largest dredger, was launched at Cochin Shipyard Limited on October 18, 2025, by DCIL Chairman M. Angamuthu. This 12,000 cubic meter Beagle Series dredger enhances Dredging Corporation

of India Limited's (DCIL) capacity from 60 to 80 million cubic meters, showcasing cutting-edge technology and design. The vessel's advanced features reflect India's commitment to strengthening its indigenous dredging capabilities and supporting sustainable maritime growth under the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. This achievement not only bolsters DCIL's mission to enhance port-led development and maintain navigable waterways but also reinforces India's aspirations to emerge as a global maritime power, significantly contributing to the nation's blue economy vision.

DCI to invest ₹2,000 crore in new dredgers, plans ₹500 crore rights issue.



18-Oct-25

The Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) has announced a significant investment of ₹2,000 crore for the acquisition of two new dredgers, aiming to enhance its operational capacity in maritime projects. Additionally, DCI plans a rights issue worth ₹500 crore to support this funding initiative. This investment is poised to bolster India's dredging capabilities, aligning with the government's broader objectives of improving port infrastructure and maritime logistics. By modernizing its fleet, DCI is not only addressing the increasing demands of coastal and inland waterways but also strengthening India's position in the regional maritime domain, ultimately contributing to the country's economic growth and strategic interests.

INS Gomati to be showcased at Lucknow's new Naval Museum.



18-Oct-25

The Nausena Shaurya Sangrahalaya, a naval museum in Lucknow, is progressing with 20% of its construction completed, focusing on the logistics for transporting naval artifacts, including relics from the decommissioned INS Gomati. Built with a budget of Rs 23 crore, the museum will feature a TU-142 Naval aircraft and an SK-42B helicopter, aiming to inspire youth towards naval careers and enhance tourism. The collaboration between the Uttar Pradesh government and Indian Navy ensures authenticity in displays, which will include interactive exhibits and simulations of naval operations. This initiative not only honors India's maritime heritage but also serves as a testament to the Indian Navy's contributions to national security, thereby fostering pride and knowledge among future generations.

Navy's Commanders Conference in Delhi to enhance combat capabilities from October 22-24.



18-Oct-25

The Indian Navy will convene its biannual Commanders Conference in New Delhi from October 22 to 24, focusing on enhancing combat capabilities and interoperability amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific region. This year's conference, significant due to "Operation Sindoor," will feature addresses from the Defence Minister and Cabinet Secretary, emphasizing the strategic vision towards Viksit Bharat 2047. The gathering serves as a crucial platform for naval leadership to align operations with national interests and address multi-dimensional challenges. The high tempo of Navy operations reflects India's commitment to deter emerging threats and reinforce maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, showcasing the Navy's preparedness and collaborative approach with other armed forces.

Shangumugham Beach to be renovated for Navy Day celebrations.



18-Oct-25

Shangumugham Beach in Thiruvananthapuram is set to undergo significant renovations ahead of the Navy Day celebrations on December 4, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slated to be the chief guest. The State government has approved a ₹14 crore plan for emergency works aimed at enhancing the beach's aesthetics and protection, following a proposal from the Irrigation Department. Navy Day commemorates Operation Trident, a historic naval assault during the 1971 Indo-Pak War, and is marked by an operational demonstration highlighting the Indian Navy's capabilities. This celebration marks only the third time Navy Day will be observed outside a major naval station, reflecting the Indian Navy's growing prominence in national pride and maritime heritage.

Gitex Global 2025 concludes in Dubai, highlighting AI and tech advancements.



18-Oct-25

Gitex Global 2025 successfully concluded in Dubai, showcasing innovations across AI, cybersecurity, and biotechnology with participation from over 6,800 exhibitors and 2,000 startups. High-profile discussions emphasized the UAE's strategy in AI leadership, focusing on regulatory frameworks and international cooperation to foster a robust digital ecosystem.

Noteworthy partnerships emerged, such as collaborations between Presight and Dubai Taxi Company for smarter urban transport, highlighting a strong push towards sustainable development. As Gitex prepares for its 2026 edition, the emphasis on public-private partnerships and immersive experiences reflects a commitment to advancing global tech initiatives, positioning Dubai as a pivotal player in shaping the future of AI and digital transformation. This development underscores the UAE's ambition to be at the forefront of technology and innovation on a global scale.

UK launches digital ID scheme, drawing parallels with India's Aadhaar system.



18-Oct-25

The UK government has launched its first digital ID scheme, initially aimed at former armed services

members, which resembles India's Aadhaar system that provides comprehensive biometric and demographic data for its citizens. The UK's digital ID will function through a smartphone app, requiring face ID or fingerprint verification, thereby enhancing security and reducing illegal employment by verifying residency status. Unlike India's extensive Aadhaar, which processes around 80 million authentications daily, the UK's initiative is still in its nascent stages. This development reflects a growing global trend towards digital identity solutions, underscoring the importance of secure verification methods in managing immigration and employment rights, while also drawing parallels with India's successful digital ID implementation.

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