



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

Rajnath Singh: India's Defence Exports to Hit Rs 50,000 Crore by 2030

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19-Apr-25

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced that India's defence exports, which have surged from Rs 600 crore in 2014 to approximately Rs 24,000 crore, are set to reach Rs 50,000 crore by 2029-30. This ambitious target is part of the government's commitment to self-reliance in defence production, underpinned by the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, and supported by a robust domestic industrial base. Singh emphasized the shift from import dependency to indigenous capabilities, aiming to make India a global defence manufacturing hub while ensuring national security. The recent focus on reducing reliance on global supply chains aligns with emerging challenges in modern warfare, signaling India's readiness to play a significant role in global defence resilience and technological innovation. This trajectory not only enhances India's military capacity but also positions it as a credible player in the international defence market.

India invites UK investment in defence corridors for cost-effective solutions

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During his recent visit to the UK, India's Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh emphasized enhancing defence ties and invited UK firms to invest in India's defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. This initiative aims to foster collaboration between the two nations' defence industries, capitalizing on India's emerging start-up ecosystem in critical defence sectors such as drones and naval systems. The discussions were framed within the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and Roadmap to 2030, highlighting India's commitment to cost-effective military solutions while amplifying the #MakeInIndia initiative. Such

engagement underscores the potential for strengthened strategic partnerships and innovation-driven defence collaborations.

Indian Army Boosts Border Security with 9 New Laser Counter-Drone Systems

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The Indian Army is enhancing its border defense capabilities by acquiring nine additional advanced laser-based counter-drone systems to combat the increasing threat of unmanned aerial vehicles, particularly along the western front with Pakistan. These systems, developed by the DRDO, demonstrate effectiveness in neutralizing enemy drones, including a recent interception of a Chinese-origin drone. The operational 2-kilowatt systems are complemented by upcoming 30-kilowatt and future 300-kilowatt systems, positioning India among elite nations with advanced directed energy weapon technology. This strategic move underscores India's commitment to technological self-reliance and proactive border security in an evolving defense landscape.

Captain Jagmohan appointed to lead Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders until 2029.

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19-Apr-25

Captain Jagmohan, an experienced naval architect and former Indian Navy captain, has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited until September 2029. With over 25 years of service in the Navy and extensive expertise in naval design and project management, he previously held key roles at Goa Shipyard and Garden Reach Shipbuilders. His robust qualifications, including advanced degrees in Naval Construction and Ocean Engineering, will help bolster India's shipbuilding capabilities, which are critical for enhancing the Navy's operational readiness and supporting the defense sector's growth amidst regional security challenges. This strategic appointment exemplifies India's commitment to strengthening its naval infrastructure.

Egypt Nears \$1B Deal for 70 FA-50 Fighter Jets from South Korea

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19-Apr-25

Egypt is nearing a deal to acquire approximately 70 FA-50 light combat aircraft from South Korea, with plans for local assembly at its Helwan facility. This advanced negotiation emphasizes substantial technology transfer and a partnership that enhances Egypt's air force capabilities while reducing lifecycle costs due to the FA-50's common systems with the F-16. The initial batch of 36 aircraft, valued at around \$1 billion, signifies a strategic shift towards modernizing Egypt's military and deepening ties with South Korea, reflecting a broader trend of East Asian defense cooperation that could bolster Egypt's regional military standing and economic development.

India and Italy Strengthen Defense Ties for Joint Weapons Development

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19-Apr-25

India is strengthening its strategic defense partnership with Italy, as highlighted by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh's visit to Rome. The bilateral discussions focus on joint weapons system development, enhancing maritime security, and fostering industrial collaboration, aligning with India's Make in India initiative. Both nations aim to co-develop advanced technologies in naval systems, missile technology, and electronic warfare, reinforcing their shared interests in stabilizing the Indo-Mediterranean region. Despite challenges like aligning technological standards and bureaucratic hurdles, the partnership promises to enhance India's defense capabilities, reduce import dependency, and open opportunities for Italy within India's vast defense market, fostering mutual growth and innovation.

India's Private Defense Sector Grows, Talent Leaves PSUs

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19-Apr-25

India's defense industry is witnessing a significant shift with the private sector emerging as a key player, attracting talent from Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) like HAL and BEL due to competitive salaries and innovative work environments. This trend, fueled by government initiatives, has led to private firms securing substantial contracts and investing in advanced technologies. However, the talent drain poses strategic risks for PSUs, potentially hampering critical defense projects. While private firms enhance competition and innovation, experts caution that the decline of PSUs, which have been foundational to India's defense, could

weaken overall capabilities. A balanced approach, incorporating public-private partnerships, may mitigate these risks while fostering growth.

MDL and DRDO to Rival in Indigenous Diesel Submarine Designs

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19-Apr-25

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) is set to independently design a conventional diesel-electric submarine to compete with the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Project-76, showcasing India's commitment to self-reliance in defense. MDL's experience and collaboration with the Indian Navy aim to provide two distinct indigenous options for the submarine fleet, enhancing operational flexibility. While DRDO focuses on indigenous research, MDL leverages its shipbuilding expertise, with both designs potentially available by 2035 to bolster the Navy's capabilities amid a dwindling submarine fleet. This competition may stimulate innovation, reflecting a strategic approach to strengthening India's maritime defense.

India Set to Approve Pralay Missile Supply to Armenia Amid Tensions

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19-Apr-25

India is set to approve Armenia's request for the Pralay surface-to-surface tactical ballistic missile following extensive negotiations. This deal marks a significant development in defense cooperation between India and Armenia, particularly amidst rising tensions with Azerbaijan. The Pralay missile, with a capped range of 290 kilometers due to India's adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, offers Armenia enhanced capabilities for precision strikes, thereby bolstering its deterrence posture. This agreement reflects India's increasing role as a defense exporter and its strategic outreach in the South Caucasus region, reinforcing military ties and addressing Armenia's pressing defense requirements.

HAL Enhances Private Sector Involvement to Accelerate Tejas Mk1A Production

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19-Apr-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) plans to enhance private sector participation in its ₹650 billion (\$7.8 billion) order for 97 Tejas Mk1A fighters, aiming to expedite production amid the Indian Air Force's (IAF) urgent needs. This initiative follows a previous contract for 83 aircraft and seeks to address production delays by leveraging private companies like L&T and Tata

Aerospace for assembly components. Despite challenges like engine supply delays from GE Aerospace and skepticism from the IAF regarding delivery timelines, HAL's strategy aligns with the Make in India initiative, working toward modernizing the IAF's aging fleet and increasing its operational capacity.

DRDO's Vision: Advancing Magnetic

Materials for Defense Innovation SHARE

19-Apr-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is advancing its mission to develop advanced magnetic materials for strategic applications through a comprehensive roadmap from 2015 to 2035, aimed at enhancing India's self-reliance in defence technology. This initiative addresses dependence on rare earth materials, focusing on high-performance magnets for military aviation and naval applications. Key milestones and future goals include the development of rare earth-free magnets and smart materials, which will significantly enhance the performance of systems like the Tejas MkII and UAVs. While challenges remain in material performance and infrastructure, successful collaboration with industry partners could position India as a leader in innovative defence technologies.

JCBL Group to Propose Eva-M2 Howitzer for Indian Army Tender SHARE

19-Apr-25

The JCBL Group has signed India's first defence MoU with Slovakia, positioning itself to co-develop advanced combat technologies, including the Eva-M2 155mm/52-calibre self-propelled howitzer for the Indian Army's Mounted Gun System tender. This partnership leverages Slovakia's expertise in artillery and India's industrial capabilities to design systems tailored for diverse terrains, particularly the Himalayas. The Eva-M2 features automation for enhanced efficiency and safety, with a firing rate of up to 5 rounds per minute and a range of 41 km. This development represents a significant step in bolstering India's artillery capabilities and enhancing firepower along its borders while ensuring compatibility with NATO-standard ammunition.

IAF Partners with Private Sector for Advanced Take-Off and Landing System SHARE

19-Apr-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is collaborating with private sector firms to develop an advanced Automatic Take-Off and Landing Recording System to modernize

operations at its air bases. Currently reliant on manual recording methods, the IAF faces limitations such as poor resolution and night-time inefficacy. The new automated system aims to enhance safety through high-definition, all-weather cameras and sensors that provide real-time monitoring of runways, addressing risks from vehicles and wildlife. This initiative aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat framework, showcasing the IAF's commitment to leveraging domestic industry to improve operational efficiency and safety in its critical flight operations.

JSR Dynamics Launches MGLD-W: Innovative Ground-Launched Missile Drone SHARE

19-Apr-25

JSR Dynamics Pvt. Ltd. has unveiled the Miniature Ground Launched Drone-Weaponized (MGLD-W), a groundbreaking 400 kg missile drone capable of striking targets up to 297 km away at speeds of 0.85 Mach. This innovative drone employs a GNSS-aided inertial navigation system for accurate guidance and carries an MK-81 warhead, allowing versatility against various threats. Its ground-launched configuration enhances operational flexibility for Indian forces, especially along its borders with China and Pakistan, enabling rapid deployment without aircraft reliance. The MGLD-W's precision strike capabilities position it as a significant asset for India's defense strategy, emphasizing the country's commitment to advancing its indigenous defense capabilities.

Kaveri Engine Upgrade to 78.4kN Aims to Rival GE F-404 Performance SHARE

19-Apr-25

India's Kaveri Engine program is set to receive a significant upgrade with the development of a new afterburner by BrahMos Aerospace, aiming for a total thrust of 78.4kN. This enhancement is crucial for the Kaveri Derivative Engine (KDE), which currently produces 49kN of thrust, making it suitable for unmanned combat vehicles but insufficient for crewed fighter jets. The upgraded engine, which could rival the GE F-404 in Indian conditions, promises to boost India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing. However, successful testing and optimization challenges must be addressed to ensure it meets the Indian Air Force's stringent requirements, marking a pivotal step in indigenous aerospace capabilities.

Air India's Boeing 747 Auction: A Game-Changer for Kaveri Engine Testing



19-Apr-25

India's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) is considering acquiring Air India's Boeing 747, set for auction on May 6, 2025, to serve as a dedicated Flying Testbed (FTB) for its Kaveri engine and the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) engine projects. This acquisition would allow India to reduce reliance on foreign testing facilities, ensuring better control over testing schedules and costs. The 747's four-engine design offers safety and versatility for engine testing, which is crucial for India's aerospace self-sufficiency. This move aligns with India's strategic aim to develop indigenous aerospace technologies and capabilities, especially in light of the Indian Air Force's increasing demand for domestically produced fighter jets.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

India Revises Nuclear Liability Law to Attract U.S. Tech Firms



19-Apr-25

India is revising its nuclear liability law to attract U.S. technology firms by capping accident-related penalties for suppliers, which have been deterred by potential unlimited liability risks. The amendments aim to facilitate negotiations for a trade deal with the U.S., seeking to increase bilateral trade significantly by 2030. By limiting the compensation operators can claim from suppliers to the contract value, India hopes to create a more inviting environment for American companies like General Electric and Westinghouse, thereby bolstering its nuclear power capacity to meet rising energy demands and net-zero commitments. This move is also seen as a strategic effort to enhance India's energy security while fostering international trade relations.

Revamping India's Military Aviation for Enhanced Self-Reliance



19-Apr-25

India's military aviation sector faces significant inefficiencies that threaten its self-reliance and operational effectiveness. A fragmented ecosystem with overlapping agencies hampers timely production, notably impacting crucial projects like the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas. Retired Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur advocates for organizational reforms, including consolidating research and development entities and enhancing governance by

including Indian Air Force representatives on boards. A cohesive national strategy for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) is also essential to keep pace with global advancements, particularly those of adversaries like China. Streamlining these processes is critical not just for efficiency but for bolstering national security and export potential.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Sri Lanka Cancels Naval Exercise with Pakistan Amid Indian Concerns



19-Apr-25

Concerns from India have led to Sri Lanka shelving a planned naval exercise with Pakistan near the strategic Trincomalee, a vital area for India's maritime security in the Indian Ocean. The cancellation underscores India's proactive diplomatic engagement to ensure regional stability, especially given Pakistan's naval ties with China. In recent efforts, India is focusing on enhancing infrastructure and energy security in Trincomalee, having signed a defense pact with Sri Lanka to strengthen military cooperation. This move highlights India's commitment to countering Chinese influence in the region and reinforces its strategic partnership with Sri Lanka, vital for regional security and economic growth.

India rebuffs Bangladesh's comments on West Bengal violence, urges focus on its own minority issues.



19-Apr-25

India has firmly rejected remarks from Bangladeshi officials regarding recent violence in West Bengal, asserting that Bangladesh should prioritize the protection of its own minorities instead of making "disingenuous" comments. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized that Bangladesh's focus should be on addressing the ongoing persecution of minorities within its borders. This diplomatic spat reflects the deterioration in India-Bangladesh relations, particularly following recent sectarian violence in West Bengal and the interim government's failure in Bangladesh to protect minority communities, especially Hindus. The situation underscores the complexities in regional dynamics and highlights India's commitment to defending its sovereignty while advocating for minority rights in its neighboring countries.

General Munir's Speeches Reveal Military Frustrations in Pakistan

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19-Apr-25

Pakistan's army chief General Asim Munir's speeches highlight his assertion of military dominance over the government, indicating a bleak future for democracy in Pakistan. His use of religious rhetoric and explicit Islamic credentials reflect a growing Islamisation within the military, raising concerns about the army's role in promoting terrorism. Munir's emphasis on the Two-Nation Theory and the distinct differences between Muslims and Hindus signals anxiety about internal unrest and potential fragmentation within Pakistan. While India can regard these statements as desperate rhetoric stemming from Pakistan's instability, they underscore a deeper crisis facing the nation as Munir struggles to maintain control amid rising separatism and terror threats.

Rajnath Singh: Honoring Indian heroes is vital for unity

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19-Apr-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the importance of recognizing national heroes like Maharana Pratap and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, arguing that glorifying figures such as Aurangzeb insults Indian Muslims and misrepresents history, as he criticized post-Independence historians for their biased narratives. He highlighted the inclusive nature of Maharana Pratap's army, which included Adivasis and Muslims, asserting that both leaders stood for unity rather than division. Singh advocated for renaming places associated with Aurangzeb, reinforcing the BJP's stance of equality among all Indians. His remarks underscore the ongoing efforts to reshape historical narratives in a way that fosters national pride and unity.

Iran and US Set for Crucial Nuclear Deal Talks in Rome

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19-Apr-25

Scheduled for April 19, 2025, Iran and the United States convened a second round of indirect nuclear negotiations in Rome—following a “constructive” inaugural session in Muscat—with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi leading their respective delegations. Hosted at the Omani Embassy and mediated by Oman's foreign ministry, the expert-level meeting aimed to establish a framework to address Tehran's uranium enrichment capacity and the phased lifting of U.S. economic sanctions. International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Grossi's concurrent visit to

Tehran underscored the agency's pivotal role in verifying compliance under any prospective deal. Despite President Trump's reiteration of military action should diplomacy falter and Iran's insistence on preserving its centrifuges and missile program, both sides described the talks as “constructive.” Regional tensions—exacerbated by the Israel-Hamas conflict and U.S. airstrikes in Yemen—have heightened the stakes for Middle East stability. Italy's willingness to host subsequent technical sessions and Russia's readiness to support negotiations reflect a broader international push for diplomacy. India's Ministry of External Affairs labelled the talks a “positive development,” highlighting New Delhi's stake in Gulf security and uninterrupted energy flows. Ultimately, the outcome in Rome may not only recalibrate U.S.–Iran relations but also reshape the strategic equilibrium across the Middle East, impacting Gulf diplomacy and India's security interests.

Israel Considers Targeted Strike on Iran's Nuclear Sites Amid Tensions

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19-Apr-25

Israel is contemplating a limited military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, despite U.S. reluctance to support such action, as a means to prevent Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu expressed urgency, suggesting that this might be an opportune moment for a strike given recent regional dynamics, including the weakening of Iranian allies in Gaza and Lebanon. While Israeli officials seek less U.S. military involvement for a potential attack, they still require assurances from Washington for self-defense against any Iranian retaliation. This situation underscores the ongoing tensions in the region and the complex interplay between military strategy and diplomatic negotiations over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Germany Halts Eurofighter Sale to Turkey Amid Political Tensions

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19-Apr-25

Germany has banned the sale of Eurofighter jets to Turkey amid rising political tensions following the arrest of opposition leader Ekrem Imamoglu. This decision disrupts Turkey's military modernization plans, particularly its efforts to replace ageing F-16s after being excluded from the U.S. F-35 program due to its S-400 acquisition. The veto highlights fractures within the Eurofighter consortium and poses challenges to NATO's strategic posture in the region, potentially benefiting Greece as it upgrades its air force. Ultimately, this move reflects a tension between ethical foreign policy and strategic alliances, with implications for

Turkey's defense capabilities and the broader European defense industry.

PM Modi's Saudi Visit: Boosting Trade, Energy, and Defense Ties



19-Apr-25

Prime Minister Modi's upcoming visit to Saudi Arabia aims to enhance strategic partnerships, focusing on trade, energy, and defense cooperation, following the Saudi Crown Prince's visit to India in September 2023. Key discussions will revolve around the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and expanding Saudi investments in various sectors within India. With bilateral trade reaching approximately \$43 billion, and energy cooperation remaining crucial as Saudi Arabia supplies about 18% of India's crude oil imports, the visit is also expected to address regional security concerns. This engagement underscores India's commitment to strengthening ties with Saudi Arabia and fostering stability in the region amidst ongoing geopolitical challenges.

Pakistan Air Force's Bold Jet Acquisitions Amidst Financial Concerns



19-Apr-25

The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has allocated about 21.3% of its defense budget, roughly \$1.62 billion, for ambitious acquisitions, including 40 J-35A stealth jets from China and participation in Turkey's KAAN program, despite budget constraints. With expenditures potentially exceeding \$3 billion, the PAF's funding sources are questionable, relying on a mix of commercial enterprises and possibly illicit operations to bridge the financial gap. This situation highlights the military's autonomy in Pakistan, prioritizing air superiority over economic stability, reflecting a broader strategy to enhance military capabilities despite economic challenges. India's defense posture remains vigilant as Pakistan pursues such aggressive military modernization.

Kuwait backs India's UNSC bid, highlighting global support for reform.



19-Apr-25

Kuwait has expressed strong support for India's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), highlighting India's significant role on the global stage. Tareq Albanai, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN, emphasized the necessity of reforming the UNSC to make it more representative, noting that India would be a leading contender if the

council expands. France has also reiterated its commitment to advocate for India's permanent membership during its presidency of the UNSC, aligning with India's long-standing pursuit of better representation for the developing world. This growing international backing underscores India's rising influence and the accompanying push for institutional recognition within global governance structures.

Bangladesh urges Pakistan to apologize for 1971 war atrocities.



19-Apr-25

Bangladesh has formally requested Pakistan to apologize for the atrocities committed during the 1971 Liberation War, where an estimated three million Bengalis were killed. This demand includes a financial claim of USD 4.32 billion for pre-1971 assets and the return of over 300,000 stranded Pakistani citizens in Bangladesh. During recent bilateral talks, both nations emphasized the importance of resolving these historical grievances to lay a solid foundation for future relations. India's support during the liberation struggle remains a significant aspect of this context, highlighting the enduring geopolitical dynamics in South Asia and the potential for enhanced regional cooperation.

S-400's Ukraine Success Signals Major Threat to Pakistan Air Force



19-Apr-25

Recent incidents in Ukraine demonstrate the formidable capabilities of Russia's S-400 air defence system, which has successfully engaged advanced F-16 fighter jets. This development poses significant implications for the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), as India deploys the same system near its borders, compelling a reassessment of PAF strategies. India's S-400, operational along the Line of Control, can potentially detect PAF aircraft almost immediately upon takeoff, effectively challenging Pakistan's traditional air tactics. The integration of S-400 with India's advanced air defence network is set to drastically alter the strategic balance, limiting the PAF's operational scope and necessitating a reevaluation of its aerial posture amid evolving threats.

Military Operations

Second Tri-services Future Warfare Course Set for April 2025 SHARE

19-Apr-25

The second edition of the Tri-services Future Warfare Course will take place at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi from April 21 to May 09, 2025, building on the success of the inaugural course. Coordinated by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies, the program aims to prepare Indian officers for modern warfare challenges through an enhanced curriculum that emphasizes technological advancements and strategic thinking. The rank-agnostic course includes participation from various military ranks and representatives from the Ministry of Defence and the defense industry, reflecting India's commitment to fostering jointness and integration among its armed forces while aligning operational priorities with indigenous capabilities. This initiative reinforces India's proactive approach to evolving defense strategies in response to contemporary threats.

Army Boosts Mobile Connectivity in Ladakh, Elevating Morale and Development SHARE

19-Apr-25

The Indian Army has successfully enhanced mobile connectivity in the challenging terrains of Ladakh, including the Galwan Valley and Siachen Glacier, enabling troops to maintain contact with families and improving morale among soldiers stationed at extreme altitudes. This initiative, achieved through a partnership with telecom providers, not only benefits military personnel but also aids local communities by integrating remote villages into the national digital network, promoting socio-economic development and enhancing access to essential services. The installation of a 5G tower on the Siachen Glacier highlights India's technological advancements and commitment to national integration, reflecting the country's vision for a developed India by 2047.

Key Military Changes: Lt Gen Sharma to Lead Northern Command, Air Marshal Dikshit as New CISC SHARE

19-Apr-25

Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma is set to assume command of the Northern Army, a critical position

overseeing operational challenges such as the line of control with Pakistan and tensions in Ladakh with China, while Air Marshal Ashutosh Dikshit will take over as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, playing a vital role in implementing joint operations among the armed forces. This reshuffle reflects India's strategic focus on enhancing operational readiness in sensitive regions and underscores the importance of leadership in adapting to evolving security dynamics. The appointments aim to bolster India's defense capabilities amid ongoing geopolitical tensions, particularly in the northern theater.

Army Officers and Governor Bhalla Strategize on Manipur Stability SHARE

19-Apr-25

Three senior Army officers, including Lt. Gen. Ram Chander Tiwari, met Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla to discuss the state's law and order situation amidst ongoing tensions between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo-Hmar communities. The meeting highlighted the need to intensify operations for recovering looted arms, with approximately 1,000 weapons returned since mid-February. BJP MLAs urged the Governor to address provocative actions against communities and expedite peace talks. Concurrently, the Assam Rifles conducted operations against illegal timber smuggling, a crucial funding source for insurgent groups, showcasing the military's commitment to maintaining stability and security in the region.

Over 330 ALHs Grounded, Impacting Indian Forces' Operations SHARE

19-Apr-25

The Indian armed forces are facing a significant operational setback due to the grounding of over 330 advanced light helicopters (ALHs) following a tragic crash in January. This disruption has severely affected military readiness and troop logistics, especially in high-altitude border areas with China and Pakistan. To mitigate the helicopter shortage, the Army has engaged private chopper services, successfully transporting supplies to remote posts. However, the urgent need for new helicopters remains critical, as HAL works to resolve safety concerns that have led to repeated grounding incidents. Swift resolution is essential for maintaining operational preparedness and ensuring the safety of personnel.

Indian Navy Enhances Underwater Surveillance Against Chinese Subs

🔒 SHARE

19-Apr-25

India's Navy is set to deploy an advanced underwater sensor network to enhance surveillance of Chinese submarines in the Indian Ocean, particularly around strategically vital zones like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The network will incorporate cutting-edge technologies, including passive and active sonar systems, magnetic anomaly detectors, and superconducting quantum interference devices. This initiative comes in light of the People's Liberation Army Navy's expanding submarine capabilities and Pakistan's recent acquisitions, necessitating a robust anti-submarine warfare framework for India. By leveraging indigenous technologies and potential international collaborations, particularly with the US and Japan, India aims to strengthen its maritime security and maintain strategic dominance in the region.

Poonch Anti-Terror Ops Enter Day Five Amid Rising Militancy

🔒 SHARE

19-Apr-25

The anti-terrorist operation in Poonch, J&K, has entered its fifth day, focusing on the Lasana forest area where terrorists are believed to be hiding. Launched by the Army's Rashtriya Rifles and the Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operations Group, the operation follows increased militant activity in the region. Authorities noted a resurgence in militancy over the past two years, prompting a coordinated action plan. A recent encounter resulted in the deaths of two terrorists, while four policemen were martyred, emphasizing the ongoing challenges in combating terrorism and the determination of Indian security forces to neutralize threats effectively.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

33 Maoists Surrender in Sukma After Amit Shah's Appeal

🔒 SHARE

19-Apr-25

Following Union Home Minister Amit Shah's appeal, 33 Maoists surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, with 17 of them being associated with significant bounties totaling ₹49 lakh. The surrender occurred alongside a successful security operation that confiscated laptops, cash, and explosives. The surrendered individuals benefited from a revised Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation policy, receiving ₹50,000

each and various support measures. Notably, the operation highlights the effective collaboration among local police, the District Reserve Guard, and the CRPF, particularly its elite CoBRA unit, in combating Maoist insurgency and promoting rehabilitation efforts, reflecting India's commitment to restoring peace and stability in affected regions.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Sebi urges banks to update cybersecurity measures by 2025

🔒 SHARE

19-Apr-25

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is pressing banks to update their implementation of the Cybersecurity and Cyber Resilience Framework (CSCRF) amid evolving cyber threats. Banks must report the number of controls adopted and any challenges faced, with compliance deadlines extended to June 30, 2025. Sebi has emphasized that no further extensions will be granted and is seeking stakeholder feedback to avoid delays. The framework requires banks to adhere to various cybersecurity standards while also addressing concerns around data localization, which has been temporarily paused for further consultation. This proactive approach underscores India's commitment to strengthening its financial cybersecurity landscape.

Is India's Social Media Boom Driving a Surge in Cybercrime?

🔒 SHARE

19-Apr-25

India's rapid digital expansion, with over 806 million internet users, has led to a significant rise in cybercrime, particularly deepfakes, which surged by 550% since 2019. As the country became the second most targeted for cyberattacks globally in 2024, individuals are increasingly vulnerable to identity theft and fraud, as AI tools exploit user-generated content from social media. To mitigate these risks, users should be cautious about data sharing, understand privacy policies, and employ multi-factor authentication. The Indian government and cybersecurity agencies must enhance public awareness and regulatory frameworks to protect citizens in this evolving digital landscape.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari Set to Become IAF's Next Vice Chief SHARE

19-Apr-25

Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari is poised to become the next Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force, succeeding Air Marshal S.P. Dharkar, who retires soon. Currently leading the South Western Air Command, AM Tiwari is an experienced fighter pilot and test pilot, particularly with the Mirage-2000 and indigenous Tejas aircraft. His distinguished career includes roles such as the Air Attache in Paris and significant positions within Air Headquarters. As the 49th vice chief, he will oversee critical operations and intelligence, positioning the IAF for continued modernization and strategic readiness in a complex geopolitical environment.

Miscellaneous

Army Allegedly Assaults IGNOU Professor in Jammu: Inquiry Launched SHARE

19-Apr-25

On Thursday night, April 17, assistant professor Liaqat Ali of IGNOU alleged that army personnel conducting a vehicle check near Laam village in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir assaulted him and his family, leaving him with head injuries visible in a widely circulated video. Ali, whose relatives serve in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Army, says troops ignored his military ID cards and beat him without provocation. Late Friday, Nowshera police registered an FIR under Sections 126(2) and 115(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against unidentified army personnel. The Indian Army, citing inputs on possible terrorist movement, announced an inquiry and alleged that Ali attempted to snatch soldiers' weapons, precipitating a scuffle. In a social media post, Ali lamented the lack of apology and warned the episode "raises haunting questions" about civilian rights in sensitive border areas. Civil society groups and political figures have called for a transparent investigation and swift accountability to uphold trust in security forces.

IAF's Surya Kiran Team Dazzles Ranchi with Aerobatic Show SHARE

19-Apr-25

The Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team captivated Ranchi audiences on April 19 at the Namkum Army Ground with high-precision Hawk Mk-132 jet formations. On April 20, they will continue the two-day display, demonstrating dynamic low-level maneuvers and synchronized aerial choreography. The composite phase features all nine aircraft flying in tight formations just meters apart. During the synchro phase, smaller formations perform dives, rolls, and crossovers as low as 100 feet above ground. First established in 1996, Surya Kiran has completed over 500 performances across India and abroad, including Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China, Singapore, and the UAE. Adopting the motto "Sadaiva Sarvottam" (Always the Best), the team embodies excellence, precision, and teamwork in every sortie. A 200-meter no-fly zone prohibiting drones, paragliders, and hot-air balloons ensures safety. Following Ranchi, the team is scheduled to perform in Patna on April 22 and 23 along the JP Ganga Path as part of Shaurya Diwas commemorations. The outreach initiative aims to inspire youth towards aviation careers and increase public awareness of the Indian Armed Forces' capabilities. With enthusiastic crowds and stringent safety measures, the event underscores the IAF's commitment to community engagement and aerial excellence.

Tamil Nadu Governor and CDS Meet Vice President Amid Legal Changes SHARE

19-Apr-25

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi met Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on April 19, 2025, at the Vice-President Enclave in New Delhi. This meeting occurred shortly after the Supreme Court ruled that various Bills related to universities, re-adopted by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, were granted assent. The Supreme Court's judgment also imposed a timeline for the President and Governors to decide on state assembly-passed Bills, which led to Dhankhar's remarks questioning the court's role, drawing criticism from opposition parties. This meeting underscores the co-ordinated efforts within India's political leadership amidst ongoing constitutional discussions, highlighting the importance of governance and judicial authority in the nation's legislative processes.

Indian Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla to Launch into Space Next Month SHARE

19-Apr-25

Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is set to embark on the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station next month, marking a significant milestone in India's space exploration efforts. Selected under ISRO's Human Spaceflight Program, Shukla has undergone extensive training with NASA and will serve as the pilot on this mission aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. His journey is not only a step towards India's Gaganyaan program, which aims for its first crewed flight in 2026, but also reflects India's commitment to expanding international collaborations in space. The mission will enhance India's operational readiness and global integration in human space exploration, showcasing the country's growing prowess in space technology and public-private partnerships.

Former RAW Chief A.S. Dulat Advocates Dialogue with Pakistan SHARE

19-Apr-25

Former RAW Chief A.S. Dulat's recent statements at the launch of his book emphasized the need for India to engage in dialogue with Pakistan, despite ongoing concerns over cross-border terrorism. He dismissed claims that former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah supported the abrogation of Article 370, labeling such assertions as "absolute nonsense" and reflecting widespread opposition to the move within Kashmir. Dulat characterized Abdullah as a nationalist who has consistently backed India, highlighting his disappointment over the lack of communication during the abrogation process. The discourse surrounding Dulat's book has sparked controversy, with reactions varying from support to skepticism, illustrating the sensitive nature of Kashmir's political landscape and the complexities of India-Pakistan relations, where dialogue remains essential for progress despite historical grievances.

General Anil Chauhan and VP Jagdeep Dhankhar Strengthen Defense Ties SHARE

19-Apr-25

General Anil Chauhan recently met with Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, highlighting ongoing high-level discussions within the Indian defense establishment. This meeting underscores the strong collaboration between military leadership and government officials, which is essential for India's strategic defense planning and geopolitical positioning. Such interactions are vital

as India navigates complex regional security challenges and enhances its defense capabilities. The engagement also reflects the commitment of Indian leadership to bolster defense preparedness and maintain robust communication channels within the forces, ensuring that national security remains a top priority.

Sri Lanka Signals Unreadiness for India Land Connectivity Project SHARE

19-Apr-25

Sri Lanka has expressed its unpreparedness for a land connectivity project with India, deeming it unfeasible during President Anura Kumara Disسانayake's visit to New Delhi in December 2024. Concerns over migration, national security, and local opposition, along with environmental and economic considerations, have stalled the project despite its potential to enhance trade and counter China's influence in the region. The Sri Lankan government is currently reviewing all major connectivity initiatives with India, prioritizing energy projects instead, leaving the land bridge proposal on hold. Ultimately, while local hesitations are significant, the economic benefits of such connectivity remain compelling for both countries.

Tulsi Gabbard Unveils 10,000 Pages on JFK and MLK Assassinations SHARE

19-Apr-25

Tulsi Gabbard has announced the public release of over 10,000 pages of files related to the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., as part of a transparency initiative under Executive Order 14176. The files, digitized and published online, provide previously inaccessible insights into the investigations, although they do not confirm conspiracy theories. Additionally, around 80,000 pages of JFK assassination records have been declassified, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of these significant historical events. This move aims to rebuild trust in federal agencies and has been positively received by the Kennedy family and transparency advocates.

MoS Margherita Engages Malaysian Business Leaders to Boost Ties SHARE

19-Apr-25

During his visit to Kuala Lumpur, MoS Margherita emphasized strengthening India-Malaysia relations through tourism and economic diplomacy, participating in the MATTA Fair as part of the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism. He engaged with the Malaysian business community to enhance bilateral investments in sectors like manufacturing and technology, while also

promoting cultural collaboration through traditional arts like batik. Margherita's discussions with Malaysian officials focused on advancing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, reflecting both nations' commitment to deepening cooperation across economic, cultural, and strategic domains. This visit underscores India's proactive approach to fostering regional ties and enhancing its presence in Southeast Asia.

Gujarat Unveils India's First SpaceTech Policy for 2025-2030

[!\[\]\(c507f772dba2b921f86777f01218e570_img.jpg\) SHARE](#)

19-Apr-25

The Gujarat government has launched India's first dedicated SpaceTech Policy for 2025-2030, aiming to boost the state's space sector through various incentives and fiscal support. This policy includes collaboration with ISRO and IN-SPACe, focusing on manufacturing satellite components and establishing a Centre for Excellence in Space Technologies for skill development and innovation. The initiative aligns with the Union government's Indian Space Policy 2023, which promotes private sector engagement and FDI in the space industry. Overall, this policy enhances Gujarat's position as a hub for space technology, fostering an ecosystem that empowers entrepreneurs and attracts investment.

ISRO Qualifies PSLV's Fourth Stage Engine with Indigenous Alloy

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19-Apr-25

ISRO has successfully qualified the fourth stage engine of the PSLV by utilizing an innovative Stellite nozzle divergent, replacing the previously imported Columbium material. This new cobalt-based alloy, which withstands high temperatures up to 1150°C, not only enhances engine performance but also promotes Atmanirbharta (self-reliance), achieving significant cost savings of 90%. The qualification program involved three hot tests, culminating in a final test lasting 665 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri. This advancement underscores India's growing capabilities in aerospace

technology and its commitment to reducing dependence on foreign materials, reinforcing the strategic move towards self-sufficiency in defense and space sectors.

Gen Pande Calls for Bold Reform to Advance Atmanirbharta in Defense

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19-Apr-25

Former Army Chief General Manoj Pande emphasized the need for India to leapfrog in its quest for Atmanirbharta in defense during his address at The Week Defence Conclave. He advocated for a fundamental transformation in defense capabilities, balancing modernisation with indigenisation, and highlighted the importance of a collaborative approach in implementing reforms, particularly through the Agnipath scheme. Pande noted that defense reforms should not be isolated but part of a cohesive transformation effort to enhance operational readiness and efficiency. Additionally, he addressed the necessity of inter-departmental linkages and jointness among services to achieve optimal outcomes in the evolving defense landscape.

India's first fast-breeder reactor to launch by September 2026

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19-Apr-25

India's first prototype fast-breeder reactor (PFBR) in Kalpakkam is set for commissioning by September 2026, marking a significant advancement in the nation's three-stage nuclear program aimed at recycling spent fuel and reducing radioactive waste. This 500 MW reactor will utilize plutonium-based mixed oxide fuel and liquid sodium coolant, with the first criticality expected by March 2026. The government's nuclear energy mission seeks to expand installed capacity from 8.18 GW to 55 GW, enhancing India's energy security and sustainability. The PFBR is crucial for transitioning to thorium-based reactors, reinforcing India's position in advanced nuclear technology development and energy independence.

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