



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

July 19, 2025 | Day 200

## Defense Business and Industry

### India commissions INS Nistar, boosting submarine rescue capabilities.



19-Jul-25

India commissioned INS Nistar, its first fully indigenous diving support vessel, during a ceremony held in Visakhapatnam on July 18, 2025. The event was attended by Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, and senior officials. Built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited at a cost of Rs 2,393 crore, the 118-meter vessel incorporates more than 80% locally sourced components and involved over 120 MSMEs. Weighing over 10,000 tons, INS Nistar is equipped with state-of-the-art features, including remotely operated vehicles, self-propelled hyperbaric lifeboats, and diving compression chambers, enabling it to conduct complex deep-sea saturation diving and submarine rescue operations up to a depth of 300 meters, with diver monitoring and salvage capabilities reaching 1,000 meters. The vessel serves as the mothership for deep submergence rescue vehicles, dramatically strengthening India's disaster response and submarine rescue readiness. With the commissioning of INS Nistar, India now joins an elite group of nations possessing advanced submarine rescue capabilities, reinforcing the country's strategic security posture in the Indian Ocean and underscoring its progress toward defence self-reliance.

### French CYGR and RRP Defence to invest \$50M in Navi Mumbai drone plant



19-Jul-25

French defense manufacturer CYGR and India's RRP Defence announced the launch of a cutting-edge drone manufacturing facility in Navi Mumbai on July 19, 2025, with an initial investment of \$50 million and plans to double that as operations scale. The partnership, supporting the 'Make in India' initiative, will produce advanced drones—including nano, fixed-wing, and ISR

models—for tactical, surveillance, and industrial use. The project features significant technology transfer, local skill development, and aims to position India as a global exporter of high-end UAVs. This move comes as India boosts domestic defense production policies and prepares for the Drone International Expo 2025 in Delhi, reflecting strong industry optimism and the expanding strategic value of drones across multiple sectors.

### India Develops World's First Dual Stealth Drone with Start-Ups



19-Jul-25

India's defense sector achieved a major milestone this week as Hyderabad-based start-ups Veera Dynamics and Binford Research Labs co-developed the world's first dual stealth drone for the Indian Armed Forces. The innovation leverages Project RAMA, an advanced stealth coating that cuts radar and infrared detection by up to 97%, allowing the drones to operate undetected in hostile environments. The drones have successfully completed field trials with the armed forces following Operation Sindoor and are engineered to perform in GPS- and RF-denied settings, greatly enhancing mission flexibility and survivability. The defense ministry's iDEX program supports the joint venture, with plans to deliver the first operational units to the Navy by the end of 2025.

### General Atomics to Assist ADE in HALE UAV Development



19-Jul-25

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) will support India's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) in developing its High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAV program. This collaboration focuses on five critical areas: aerodynamic optimization, flight control systems, payload integration, SATCOM and data link integration, and Ground Control Station design. The consultancy aims to enhance the UAV's performance to meet India's growing strategic surveillance and precision strike needs, ensuring the UAVs are equipped for diverse operational requirements across land, sea, and air

domains. This partnership marks a significant step in bolstering India's indigenous UAV capabilities and reducing reliance on foreign technologies.

## Indian Navy's XLUUV Strategy: Unmanned Subs to Boost Maritime Defense



19-Jul-25

The Indian Navy has taken a major step forward in autonomous maritime defense with the launch of the Jalkapi Extra-Large Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (XLUUV), India's most advanced unmanned submarine to date. Construction began with a ceremonial event on June 10, 2025, in Gujarat, positioning the 20-ton, 11-meter-long Jalkapi as a frontrunner in the Navy's push for technological dominance in the Indian Ocean. Designed for missions ranging from intelligence collection and surveillance to anti-submarine warfare and mine countermeasures, the Jalkapi can dive to depths of 300 meters and operate continuously for up to 45 days without surface support, matching advancements like Boeing's Orca XLUUV. The vessel incorporates modular payload bays, enabling future upgrades in sensors and potential weaponization, ensuring adaptability for evolving missions. The Navy plans to induct up to 12 XLUUVs once initial tests are successful, with the first units expected to enter service within the next two years and the broader fleet completed by 2027. Simultaneously, the Defence Research and Development Organisation is spearheading a more ambitious 100-ton XLUUV project, featuring enhanced payload capacity and endurance, to further strengthen India's monitoring of Chinese undersea activity and bolster the nation's maritime security posture. This strategy is central to India's vision of building cutting-edge indigenous defense technologies and closing capability gaps amid growing regional competition.

## AK-203 Rifle to Achieve Full Indigenisation by 2025



19-Jul-25

India's AK-203 assault rifle will achieve full indigenisation by the end of 2025, significantly enhancing domestic production capabilities under the 'Make in India' initiative. Currently, 50% of its components are localised, and the Korwa facility aims to produce 600 rifles daily. The project, a joint venture with Russian firms, is expected to complete the delivery of over 600,000 rifles by December 2030, two years ahead of schedule. The initiative signifies robust India-Russia defence cooperation, with plans to expand production beyond the AK-203 and target international

markets, reinforcing India's position in the global arms industry while ensuring operational readiness for its armed forces.

## HAL Transforms Kiran MkII into Mothership for CATS UCAV by 2026



19-Jul-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is converting the Kiran MkII jet trainer into a mothership for the Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) Warrior UCAV, targeting its first flight in late 2026. This initiative is part of India's strategic push for unmanned aerial combat capabilities, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The modified Kiran will feature advanced command-and-control systems and will undergo trials in both autonomous and ground-controlled modes. HAL's collaboration with Rolls-Royce for a more powerful engine further bolsters the program, marking a significant step towards enhancing India's indigenous defense technologies and operational flexibility in Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T) operations.

## India and Russia to Co-Produce AK-19 and PPK-20 Small Arms



19-Jul-25

India and Russia are advancing towards a significant co-production agreement for the AK-19 carbine and PPK-20 sub-machine gun, enhancing their longstanding defense cooperation. This initiative aims to bolster India's defense production capabilities while facilitating exports to friendly nations, in line with the Make in India initiative. The planned technology transfer and joint manufacturing will support the Indian Army and paramilitary forces with modern small arms, replacing outdated inventories. By leveraging established Indo-Russian ties, India seeks to become a competitive supplier in regional and global markets, offering advanced, cost-effective military solutions to allies in Asia, Africa, and beyond.

## HAL to Gain Full Control of SSLV Program in Two Years



19-Jul-25

HAL will take full commercial control of the SSLV program in two years, having secured the technology through a ₹511 crore deal. This marks a significant milestone as HAL becomes the first public sector entity in India to independently own and operate a launch vehicle business. Under this agreement, HAL will manufacture, launch, and market SSLVs, while ISRO retains technology patents. This development is set to

enhance India's position in the global small satellite launch market, fostering public-private partnerships and driving commercial space capabilities. HAL's production aims to reach 612 SSLVs annually, potentially generating significant revenue and contributing to a robust launch ecosystem.

## India and Russia Collaborate on Advanced Hypersonic BrahMos Missile SHARE

19-Jul-25

India and Russia are making significant strides in hypersonic missile technology, with ongoing collaboration for a hypersonic variant of the BrahMos missile, as confirmed by Atul Rane, former Director General of BrahMos Aerospace. This advanced project, anticipated to yield a BrahMos-II missile, focuses on breakthrough propulsion and materials engineering. Additionally, a mini BrahMos missile is in development, designed for deployment on various fighter aircraft, enhancing the Indian Air Force's capabilities. This initiative reflects the deepening Indo-Russian defense cooperation, promising enhanced versatility and firepower for India's combat platforms and potential export opportunities, thus bolstering India's strategic defense posture.

## HAL Boosts Indigenization with Local Pilot Control Unit for ALH SHARE

19-Jul-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is advancing its indigenization efforts by issuing a Request for Information (RFI) for the Pilot Control Unit (PCU) of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), which is crucial for the Automatic Flight Control System. This move aligns with the Indian government's Make in India initiative, aiming to reduce dependency on foreign suppliers and enhance domestic manufacturing capabilities. By developing the PCU locally, HAL seeks to improve operational autonomy, streamline supply chains, and lower lifecycle costs for ALH variants used by both military and civilian sectors. This strategic step reflects India's commitment to self-reliance in defense production and innovation in the aerospace industry.

## Indian Navy's 360 AESA Radar to Enhance Warship Firepower SHARE

19-Jul-25

The Indian Navy is advancing its maritime combat effectiveness with the planned induction of a sophisticated 360-degree Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar system, as revealed by official statements released on July 19, 2025. This cutting-

edge radar, for which a Request for Information was recently issued, will unify existing gun control systems on Indian warships, enabling centralized management and significantly faster response to both airborne and surface threats. Using thousands of electronic modules to steer beams instantly, the AESA radar eliminates mechanical rotation, providing flexible sector coverage, resilience against electronic countermeasures, and the ability to track and engage multiple targets simultaneously. The new system will seamlessly integrate with combat management suites and control a range of weaponry, including close-in weapon systems, medium, and large-caliber guns, thereby increasing firepower and reducing crew workload. The initiative marks a shift toward greater indigenization and innovation, with the Defence Research and Development Organisation playing a lead role and collaborations with private defense firms underway. This strategic move is expected to transform the Indian Navy's operational readiness, supporting its network-centric warfare objectives and bolstering maritime security in the region.

## DRDO's Pinaka IV Rockets to Utilize Quasi-Ballistic Trajectory SHARE

19-Jul-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is advancing its artillery capabilities with the new Pinaka IV rocket system, which boasts a range of 300 km and a quasi-ballistic trajectory inspired by the Pralay missile, making it hard for enemy air defences to intercept. This system features significant upgrades, including a larger 300mm calibre and a 250 kg warhead, enhancing precision to within 10 metres. The Pinaka IV is not only a cost-effective alternative to ballistic missiles but also reinforces India's military posture against adversaries like China. With trials expected to begin in 2028 and a strong export potential, this initiative embodies India's "Make in India" commitment in defense.

## MDL Competes with Navy-L&T on Project-76 Submarine Design SHARE

19-Jul-25

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) is intensifying competition with the Navy-L&T for the Project-76 submarine design by announcing its own next-generation diesel-electric submarine proposal, targeted for completion by 2028. This dual-track approach allows the Indian Navy to choose between two indigenous designs, reflecting a significant leap in India's naval modernization. MDL's rich legacy in

submarine construction and ongoing collaboration with the Navy positions it well in this initiative. Meanwhile, the Navy-L&T Project-76 aims for 90-95% indigenous content, incorporating advanced technologies for enhanced operational capabilities. Both projects promise to bolster India's strategic maritime capabilities in the long term.

## IAF to Integrate Astra MkII Missiles with Mirage-2000 Fleet [SHARE](#)

19-Jul-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) plans to upgrade its Mirage-2000 fleet by integrating the indigenously developed Astra MkII Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) to enhance its long-range combat capabilities. The current MICA missiles are insufficient against advanced adversaries like China's PL-15 and Pakistan's AIM-120C-7. Integrating the Astra MkII, which boasts a range of 160-180 km, will restore the Mirage-2000's competitiveness in air-to-air engagements, especially along critical borders. However, challenges, including obtaining the necessary radar source code from Dassault Aviation and budget constraints, could impede the modernization process, necessitating careful negotiations and potential alternative solutions.

## CVRDE's 600 HP Engine Completes Performance Tests, Starts Durability Trials [SHARE](#)

19-Jul-25

The Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE) has successfully developed a 600 HP engine in collaboration with Ashok Leyland, enhancing India's indigenous defense capabilities. This engine, designed for advanced combat vehicles, has passed performance tests and is now undergoing critical durability trials to ensure reliability under extreme conditions. The initiative aligns with India's Make in India campaign, emphasizing self-reliance in defense manufacturing. The collaboration with Ashok Leyland, known for its expertise in defense mobility solutions, underscores the commitment to advancing India's military vehicle programs, ultimately boosting operational efficiency and mobility in diverse terrains.

## India Moves Forward with Light Tank Project as Five Firms Submit Bid [SHARE](#)

19-Jul-25

India has made a major stride in its indigenous light tank procurement program, as the Indian Army confirmed receipt of bids from five domestic firms—

Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Tata, Bharat Forge, Mahindra, and AVNL—on July 14, 2025, for next-generation light tanks tailored for high-altitude operations in regions like Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. At the heart of this initiative is the Zorawar light tank, developed by L&T in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), featuring a 25-tonne platform geared for mobility, advanced protection, and rapid deployment in mountainous terrains. The government has committed an investment of ₹20,000–25,000 crore to acquire 354 tanks, with L&T poised for an initial order of 59 units to be followed by competitive user trials among the prototypes. Recent developments include the completion of high-altitude firing trials and an upcoming rollout of the second Zorawar prototype by September 2025, aiming for full induction by 2027. This project, launched in response to evolving border threats since 2020, signals a significant push for defense self-reliance and supports the Make in India initiative.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### Lakshadweep plans to acquire Bitra Island for defense purposes. [SHARE](#)

19-Jul-25

The Lakshadweep administration is contemplating the acquisition of Bitra island for defense purposes, driven by its strategic location and national security importance. A recent government notification has initiated the process for the Department of Revenue to acquire the land and transfer it to relevant defense agencies. This move aims to address logistical and administrative challenges posed by civilian habitation while enhancing India's maritime security. By consolidating control over such islands, India is reinforcing its defense posture in sensitive regions, reflecting a proactive approach to safeguarding national interests in the Indian Ocean.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### India Rejects EU Sanctions on Russia, Citing Energy Security Concerns [SHARE](#)

19-Jul-25

India has firmly rejected the latest sanctions imposed by the European Union (EU) on Russia, emphasizing its commitment to legal obligations and prioritizing energy security for its citizens. The sanctions, marking the EU's



18th package against Russia, specifically target Nayara Energy, a major refinery co-owned by Rosneft, by restricting the export of refined petroleum products to EU countries. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) criticized what it termed as double standards in energy trade, pointing out the inconsistency of European nations continuing their purchases of refined products from Russian crude via third countries. Additionally, the new sanctions reduce the price cap on Russian crude oil, potentially allowing India to access discounted oil while further tightening the noose around Russia's energy revenues. India's stance is clear: it does not subscribe to any unilateral sanctions outside the UN framework and will continue to pursue diverse and affordable energy sources to meet its domestic needs. This situation underscores the broader geopolitical implications, as India has emerged as a significant player in the global oil market, increasingly purchasing Russian oil amidst ongoing sanctions. The Indian government remains steadfast in its approach, advocating for fairness and energy access while navigating the complexities of international trade dynamics, thereby asserting its sovereignty in energy security.

## **INS Sandhayak's maiden visit to Malaysia strengthens maritime ties**

19-Jul-25

The Indian Navy's indigenously designed survey vessel INS Sandhayak made its maiden port call at Port Klang, Malaysia, from July 16 to 19, 2025, showcasing India's growing role in regional hydrographic capacity building and commitment to maritime cooperation under the MAHASAGAR vision. The visit facilitated technical exchanges and strengthened ties between India and Malaysia, emphasizing collaborative efforts in sharing survey technologies and enhancing hydrographic support. INS Sandhayak, commissioned in February 2024, is equipped for full-scale coastal and deepwater survey operations, as well as Search and Rescue (SAR) and humanitarian missions, highlighting the ship's versatile capabilities. Additionally, during this visit, activities included knowledge exchange sessions and official receptions aimed at fostering international goodwill and awareness of the strategic importance of maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region. The presence of INS Sandhayak not only reinforces India's commitment to enhancing regional maritime security but also demonstrates its proactive approach in establishing itself as a key player in maritime cooperation and capacity building, ultimately contributing to stability and security in the region.

## **Kyiv Endures Sleepless Nights Amid Intensified Russian Attacks**

19-Jul-25

Kyiv is facing increased strain as Russia intensifies nighttime drone and missile attacks, pushing residents to seek refuge in subway stations, with visits surging to 165,000 in June alone. The psychological toll is evident, as sleep deprivation leads to heightened stress and cognitive decline among the population. Experts warn that these conditions could have long-term health consequences and impact economic performance. Amid these challenges, residents are investing in makeshift shelters to secure a sense of safety, reflecting a grim adaptation to ongoing conflict and underscoring the resilience of a city determined to endure despite the relentless threat of violence.

## **Nepal PM Oli to visit India, timing hinges on preparations.**

19-Jul-25

Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has confirmed plans for an official visit to India, contingent upon necessary preparatory work by both nations. Despite local media speculation about a lack of formal invitation from India, which hints at strained relations, Oli expressed optimism about the trip. This visit could be crucial for bolstering diplomatic ties and addressing any bilateral concerns that have emerged recently, particularly in the context of India-Nepal relations, which have historically been significant for regional stability and cooperation. Strengthening these ties would reaffirm India's influence in the region and counterbalance any external geopolitical challenges.

## **US brokers Syria-Israel ceasefire amid escalating Druze conflict**

19-Jul-25

The U.S. has brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Syria amid escalating violence involving the Druze and Bedouins, which has resulted in at least 638 deaths and extensive displacement. The ceasefire, backed by Turkey and Jordan, aims to restore stability in Sweida, where clashes erupted after a kidnapping incident. Israel is providing support to the Druze community, reinforcing its commitment to their protection while potentially seeking to weaken Syrian military forces. The humanitarian crisis in the region is dire, with overwhelmed hospitals and a critical shortage of basic supplies. This situation underscores the complexities of regional dynamics and the ongoing challenges faced by minority communities in Syria.

## Pakistan Extends Airspace Ban on Indian Flights Until August 24



19-Jul-25

Pakistan has extended its airspace ban for Indian flights until August 24, restricting all Indian-operated aircraft, both commercial and military. This decision follows a reciprocal measure by India, which has barred Pakistani aircraft from its airspace since April 30, initiated after a terror attack in Pahalgam. The ongoing tit-for-tat airspace restrictions reflect heightened tensions between the two nations, emphasizing the fragile state of bilateral relations. This situation underscores India's commitment to maintaining security while asserting its airspace sovereignty, highlighting the need for continued vigilance and strategic planning by the Indian defense forces in response to such provocations.

### Military Operations

## Pakistan's Rahim Yar Khan Airbase Remains Closed Post-India Strike



19-Jul-25

The Pakistan Aviation Authority has extended the NOTAM for the Rahim Yar Khan airbase, marking its sixth notification since the Indian Operation Sindoor on May 7, 2025, which severely damaged the facility. The airbase remains non-operational due to extensive reconstruction needs, highlighted by satellite imagery showing significant destruction. This prolonged closure compromises Pakistan's military readiness and disrupts civilian air traffic, as the base serves dual purposes. The situation underscores the strategic impact of India's decisive military actions, which compelled Pakistan to consider a ceasefire, reflecting the operational consequences of India's proactive defense strategy in the region.

## Russia launches massive drone attack on Ukraine, killing 1 in Odesa.



19-Jul-25

Russia launched a significant drone assault on Ukraine, deploying over 300 drones and more than 30 cruise missiles, resulting in at least one death and several injuries in Odesa. This attack reflects an intensification of Russia's bombing campaign, with claims of record numbers of drones used in a single night. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy emphasized the importance of international support for bolstering Ukraine's defense capabilities, including cooperation in weapons

production and air defense systems. The ongoing hostilities underline the escalating tensions in the region, as Russia continues to target Ukrainian infrastructure amidst a protracted conflict.

## CISF's Parliament Security Wing Trains with Army Commandos in Kashmir



19-Jul-25

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is enhancing its operational capabilities by undergoing elite Army Commando training in Kashmir, particularly for its Parliament security wing. This specialized program aims to equip personnel with advanced skills in urban warfare, counter-terrorism, and anti-sabotage tactics, addressing complex threats to national institutions. Led by seasoned Army instructors, the initiative reflects a significant shift in preparedness and emphasizes inter-agency synergy, fortifying India's national security infrastructure. This proactive measure underscores the CISF's commitment to excellence and adaptability in response to evolving security challenges.

## Six Maoists Killed in Security Forces Operation in Chhattisgarh



19-Jul-25

In a significant operation in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur, security forces, including the DRG, STF, and ITBP, killed six Maoists during a coordinated search based on intelligence inputs. The encounter, which took place in the challenging Abujhmadan area, resulted in the recovery of an array of weapons and explosives, with no security personnel reported injured. This operation is part of the government's intensified efforts to eliminate Maoist influence by 2026, with Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai commending the forces for their successful engagement. The ongoing campaign reflects India's commitment to achieving a Naxal-Free Chhattisgarh, underscoring the resolve to enhance internal security and stability in the region.

## India's May 2025 Strikes Leave Sargodha Airbase in Disrepair



19-Jul-25

Following India's precision strikes on Sargodha airbase in May 2025, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has conducted rapid but superficial repairs to its runways, resulting in noticeable patchwork that highlights the lasting impact of India's military engagement. While basic operations have resumed for the PAF's elite No. 9 Griffins Squadron, the quality of these repairs raises concerns about long-term operational safety and

effectiveness. Indian defense circles have seized upon the visible scars as a symbol of India's strategic triumph, showcasing the PAF's struggles to restore full functionality amid ongoing regional tensions. This situation underscores the complexities of military recovery and the imperative for robust infrastructure in the face of operational demands.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### China Advocates Regional Anti-Terror Cooperation After TRF

#### Designation SHARE

19-Jul-25

China has strongly condemned the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in 26 civilian deaths, and has urged for intensified regional counter-terrorism cooperation following the United States' designation of The Resistance Front (TRF) as a foreign terrorist organization. The US formally classified TRF, widely seen as a proxy of Pakistan's Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, on July 18, 2025, prompting global calls to address cross-border terrorism. China's sudden shift—now publicly supporting global counter-terrorism actions—marks a departure from its past reluctance to name Pakistan-linked groups and follows mounting pressure as evidence further linked TRF to international attacks. The change is also viewed in the context of China's interests in regional stability, its Belt and Road projects in Pakistan, and the risk posed to Chinese nationals by unchecked militancy. China's foreign ministry said it firmly opposes all forms of terrorism, praised recent international actions, and urged neighboring countries to enhance collaboration to safeguard security and stability. India, which had launched Operation Sindoor against terror infrastructure in response, welcomed these developments as reinforcing global resolve against terrorism.

### Pakistan Claims Terror Networks Dismantled, Denies LeT

#### Involvement SHARE

19-Jul-25

Pakistan has reiterated claims of dismantling major terrorist organizations, asserting that it has comprehensively arrested extremist leaders and deradicalized cadres, while firmly denying any links between its agencies and the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) following the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed

26 civilians. The incident, considered India's deadliest since the 2008 Mumbai attacks, led to rapid escalation of diplomatic and military tensions as India accused Pakistan of facilitating the attackers and providing operational support. The U.S. responded this week by officially designating The Resistance Front (TRF)—a group considered a front for LeT and initially claiming responsibility for the attack—as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, prompting praise from Indian officials for the strengthened bilateral counterterrorism cooperation. Pakistan's foreign office, however, dismissed these designations as politically motivated, emphasizing the inconclusive nature of the ongoing investigation and highlighting its own steps against terrorism. Amid these developments, China and several other countries have urged for enhanced regional cooperation and independent investigations, as both nations exchange accusations and reinforce security along shared borders.

### Two Indians killed, one abducted in Niger terror attack SHARE

19-Jul-25

Two Indian nationals were tragically killed, and one was abducted in a terrorist attack in the Dosso region of Niger on July 15, as reported by the Indian Embassy. The attack targeted an army unit guarding a construction site and is a stark reminder of the growing threats in regions where Indian citizens work. The embassy is coordinating with local authorities to repatriate the deceased and secure the release of the abducted individual while advising Indians in Niger to remain vigilant. This incident underscores the need for enhanced security measures for Indian nationals abroad and highlights the complexities of India's global engagement in volatile regions.

### Software Engineer Detained for Threatening Golden Temple E-Mails SHARE

19-Jul-25

A software engineer from Faridabad, Shubam Dubey, was detained for questioning regarding threatening e-mails sent to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, which included threats to blow up the Golden Temple. The police, aided by Punjab's cybercrime unit and central intelligence, seized Dubey's laptop and phone. Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann reassured the public about state security and urged vigilance against rumors. SGPC chief Harjinder Singh Dharmi expressed concern over whether the threats were from an unstable individual or part of a larger

conspiracy, highlighting the need for a robust response to ensure the safety of devotees at the revered site.

## Several Most-Wanted Global Terrorists Operate Freely in Pakistan



19-Jul-25

Several of the world's most-wanted terrorists, including Hafiz Saeed, Masood Azhar, Dawood Ibrahim, Syed Salahuddin, and the Bhatkal brothers, continue to operate openly in Pakistan, with mounting evidence of official protection. Despite being designated global terrorists by the United Nations, the United States, and other international bodies, these individuals orchestrate and facilitate attacks from Pakistani soil, sharply escalating tensions with India. In the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which left 26 dead in Kashmir, India's government demanded decisive international action and highlighted Pakistan's ongoing failure to apprehend or prosecute these figures. Recent intelligence indicates that Masood Azhar, mastermind behind the 2016 Pathankot and 2019 Pulwama attacks, has relocated to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's Gilgit-Baltistan region, evading efforts by Indian authorities. Meanwhile, Hafiz Saeed reportedly continues to reside under heavy security in Lahore, contradicting Pakistani claims of imprisonment. On July 17, 2025, the United States formally designated The Resistance Front, an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba implicated in the April attack, as a terrorist organization. Pakistan, however, maintains that it has dismantled terror networks, a claim disputed by ongoing cross-border violence and persistent credible reports of terrorist leaders enjoying state-provided sanctuary. The situation poses a continued threat to regional stability and underscores glaring gaps in global counterterrorism enforcement.

## NIA links TRF to terrorist acts and online recruitment efforts.



19-Jul-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has linked The Resistance Front (TRF), a Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy, to the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians, the deadliest incident in India since 2008. Recent intelligence indicates that TRF has exploited encrypted social media for recruitment and has relocated its base from Muridke to Bahawalpur, Pakistan, following targeted Indian strikes under Operation Sindoor. On July 18, the United States designated TRF as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, freezing its assets and barring support, a move welcomed by India as a diplomatic win amid ongoing probes into TRF's funding and

operational networks. International support has grown for India's efforts to confront cross-border terrorism, as security forces remain on heightened alert.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### Microsoft program risks exposing U.S. national security to China.



19-Jul-25

A recent investigation revealed that Microsoft employs Chinese engineers to maintain sensitive Defense Department systems, which raises significant national security concerns. These engineers, overseen by U.S. citizens known as "digital escorts," work on critical data without sufficient technical supervision, potentially allowing malicious code insertion. Lawmakers, including Senator Tom Cotton, have called for an investigation into this program, highlighting its risks and demanding transparency regarding contractors using foreign personnel. This situation underscores vulnerabilities in U.S. cybersecurity practices, necessitating a comprehensive review to safeguard national interests against foreign adversaries, particularly in light of increasing cyber threats from China.

### Union Home Secretary calls for CISO in every Indian city to enhance cybersecurity.



19-Jul-25

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan emphasized the necessity for every city in India to appoint a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) to bolster cybersecurity amidst increasing digital threats, particularly as smart cities integrate more technology. The meeting, attended by key officials from various ministries and agencies, highlighted the need for cities to develop their own cybersecurity capabilities rather than relying solely on external consultants. The focus on data security is paramount, given the vulnerability of interconnected systems that manage critical services such as water supply and transportation. The government's plan to create a scheme for the 100 smart cities aims to enhance their technology integration and ensure robust cybersecurity measures.



## UK Sanctions Russian Spies for Cyber Attacks Amid Ukraine War

🔗 SHARE

19-Jul-25

The UK has imposed sanctions on Russian spies linked to a campaign of malicious cyber activities, including targeting phone spyware against individuals like Yulia Skripal. This move coincides with the EU's stringent sanctions aimed at crippling Russia's economy and its ability to finance the war in Ukraine. These sanctions, the 18th set since the invasion began, target key sectors like the Nord Stream pipeline and Russian oil transactions. Despite these efforts, Russia has managed to maintain oil exports, particularly to countries like China and India, highlighting the resilience of its economy amidst external pressures.

### Mil Personnel & Veterans

## CDS Stresses Tri-Services Coordination at DSSC Wellington

🔗 SHARE

19-Jul-25

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, during his visit to the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) in Wellington, Tamil Nadu, highlighted the critical need for tri-services synergy in contemporary military operations, referencing the success of the Indian armed forces during Operation Sindoor. He addressed the 81st Staff Course, which includes 500 officers, emphasizing the importance of integration, jointness, self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta), and understanding transformative changes in the Indian military. The emphasis on institutionalizing joint training, such as through the Deep Purple Division, demonstrates India's commitment to enhancing inter-services coordination to effectively respond to evolving geopolitical challenges, thereby fortifying national defense capabilities.

## Indian Army Honors Lance Naik Ghulam Mohammad Khan's Sacrifice

🔗 SHARE

19-Jul-25

On July 18, the Indian Army commemorated Lance Naik Ghulam Mohammad Khan on the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, honoring his ultimate sacrifice during the Kargil War in 1999. Khan, a member of the 12th Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry, displayed extraordinary bravery by engaging enemy personnel at Point 5203, ultimately succumbing to his injuries. His family was presented with a memento and a letter of gratitude, symbolizing the nation's appreciation for his heroism. This tribute underscores the Indian Army's

commitment to recognizing the valor of its soldiers, fostering a strong sense of national pride and remembrance for their sacrifices.

## Retired officers recognized for impactful post-service contributions

🔗 SHARE

19-Jul-25

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi honored three retired officers with the Veteran Achievers Award during a seminar, recognizing their significant contributions post-retirement. Maj AK Singh (Retd) has played a vital role in educating underprivileged children, Maj TC Rao (Retd) supports the families of fallen soldiers through his foundation, and Havildar Ramesh Ganpat Kharmale (Retd) is actively involved in ecological preservation in Maharashtra. Their exemplary service not only strengthens the nation but also serves as an inspiration for the youth to pursue careers in the Armed Forces, highlighting the lasting impact of military service beyond active duty.

## Indian Army mandates psychological tests for Agniveer recruits.

🔗 SHARE

19-Jul-25

The Indian Army has introduced mandatory psychological testing for Agniveer recruits, effective August 2025, marking a significant shift towards comprehensive candidate assessment beyond physical fitness. This 15-minute online test, developed by the Defence Institute of Psychological Research, will evaluate recruits' mental fitness and stress-coping abilities, aiming to reduce future stress-related incidents. The screening will occur post the 1600-meter race, with disqualification for those who fail. This initiative is a pioneering step for Agniveer-level candidates, previously applied only to officer recruitment, reflecting the Army's commitment to enhancing the psychological resilience of its personnel.

### Miscellaneous

## Bilal Gani Lone Calls for Kashmiris to Embrace Mainstream Politics

🔗 SHARE

19-Jul-25

Former separatist leader Bilal Gani Lone has declared the Hurriyat Conference irrelevant, criticizing its failure to act and Pakistan's detrimental role in Kashmir's progress. Advocating for a shift towards mainstream politics, he urges the younger generation to view India positively and seek opportunities within it. Lone

emphasizes the need for reconciliation among Kashmiris, highlighting that violence has only brought destruction. While recognizing the BJP government's military success in abrogating Article 370, he asserts it has psychologically suppressed Kashmiris. Lone calls for a new political narrative focusing on education, health, and business prospects for the youth, reflecting a crucial transition towards peace and development in the region.

## Crime branch to investigate irregularities in Chander Kunj Army Towers

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19-Jul-25

A criminal investigation into alleged irregularities in the construction of Chander Kunj Army Towers in Kochi is set to be taken over by the crime branch, following a private complaint by a retired Colonel. The high court previously declined a CBI investigation despite findings that the towers were built inappropriately and showed structural faults within a year. The Army Welfare Housing Organisation is under scrutiny for how it spent

Rs 130 crore collected from residents. The case highlights critical issues regarding construction standards and oversight in military housing, emphasizing the need for accountability in safeguarding the welfare of armed forces personnel.

## Indian Army Hosts Event in Batalik to Honor Kargil Heroes

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19-Jul-25

The Indian Army organized a Human Library event in Batalik to honor the bravery and sacrifices of soldiers from the Battle of Jubar Ridge during the Kargil War. The event featured war veterans, serving personnel, and local community members, highlighting personal stories of courage, including a recount by Col (then Captain) Ajay Rai. Local porters who contributed significantly during the war were also recognized. This initiative not only strengthens the bond between the Army and the community but also fosters patriotism and unity, showcasing the collective commitment to national security and the valor of the armed forces.

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