



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

Italy and France Compete to Supply Torpedoes for Indian Navy



20-Jul-25

Italy's Whitehead Alenia Sistemi Subacquei (WASS) and France's Naval Group are vying to supply heavyweight torpedoes to the Indian Navy for its Kalvari-class submarines, with a tender for 48 torpedoes issued amid a total requirement exceeding 200 under the Make in India initiative. The Italian Black Shark torpedo, now backed by the restructured company Fincantieri, presents itself as a cost-effective option, featuring advanced capabilities such as a range of 50 km and speeds over 50 knots. In contrast, France's F21 torpedo, already operational in the French and Brazilian navies, offers proven technology and established support. The competition is intensified by the absence of German options following TKMS's withdrawal and the Indian Navy's reliance on outdated Russian torpedoes, highlighting an urgent operational need. WASS's strategy includes local production partnerships, aligning with India's defense aspirations and enhancing self-reliance in defense capabilities, bolstered by the DRDO's ongoing indigenous developments like the Varunastra torpedo. The upcoming decision will not only shape India's underwater warfare capabilities but also influence future defense partnerships and technology transfers, making cost considerations and industrial collaboration critical factors in the selection process.

LRDE Issues RFP for Su-30MKI's Virupaksha AESA Radar Upgrade



20-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.

Indian Army to Receive First Apache Helicopters on July 22



20-Jul-25

The Indian Army is set to receive its first batch of Apache AH-64E attack helicopters on July 22, 2025, after a delay of over 15 months, marking a critical enhancement to its combat capabilities along the western border, particularly following Operation Sindoor. Initially part of a \$600 million deal with the United States signed in 2020, the Apache helicopters, often referred to as "flying cannons," boast impressive firepower with advanced weapon systems, including Hellfire missiles and 30 mm guns. Their deployment is expected to significantly bolster the Army's Aviation Corps, enhancing offensive and defensive operations while improving coordination with ground forces. The Indian Air Force currently operates 22 Apache helicopters, and this addition to the Army is crucial amid evolving security threats from Pakistan and China. The rapid modernization of the Indian Armed Forces, particularly after recent operational successes, underscores India's commitment to strengthening its military capabilities and ensuring readiness in a complex geopolitical landscape. Overall, the arrival of these helicopters is a pivotal step in enhancing India's defense posture and operational readiness in a challenging regional environment.

GTRE to Enhance STFE Engine for Next-Gen Reusable UCAVs



20-Jul-25

India's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) is set to upgrade its Small Turbo Fan Engine (STFE) for

the next-generation reusable unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs), transitioning from its previous cruise missile application. This essential enhancement will focus on durability and maintainability, marking a strategic shift towards multi-mission operations. The upgraded STFE, crucial for the Swift-TD UCAV program, underscores India's commitment to achieving self-reliance in aerospace propulsion, ensuring operational flexibility and reliability. As the program evolves, GTRE's advancements will not only support the UCAV fleet but also bolster India's indigenous defense capabilities significantly.

AMCA Engine Funding: Prioritizing International Co-Development Over Kaveri



20-Jul-25

The Indian government's allocation of ₹61,000 crores for the development of a new 120kN thrust engine for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) has underscored a major policy turn, prioritizing international partnerships over the full indigenization path attempted with the earlier Kaveri program. According to recent defence ministry recommendations, French engine manufacturer Safran is set to partner with India, providing complete technology transfer and aligning the engine development schedule with planned AMCA prototypes, expected to roll out by 2026-27 and undertake maiden flights by 2028. Initial AMCA batches will utilize US-made GE F414 engines until the Indo-French project is ready. The Kaveri engine, started in the late 1980s, struggled with chronic underfunding and technical hurdles, offering only about 49-51kN thrust, falling short for advanced fighter applications. Nonetheless, a derivative is now being developed for unmanned aerial vehicles, marking renewed interest in tapping indigenous expertise. While critics argue that earlier robust investment might have made Kaveri suitable for fifth-generation jets, the government's current strategy aims to combine high-technology collaboration with strengthened domestic R&D and production capabilities for future self-reliance.

L&T's Midget Submarine Certified, Targets Indian Navy and Exports



20-Jul-25

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Defence has achieved a significant milestone with its SOV-400 midget submarine receiving certification from a European firm, enhancing its credibility in advanced naval design. This compact submarine, tailored for covert operations and

surveillance, aligns with the Indian Navy's interest in strengthening littoral defense capabilities. While the Indian Navy has shown interest in acquiring midget submarines, slow progress and high development costs remain hurdles for L&T. However, the international certification opens avenues for both domestic adoption and export, supporting India's goal of becoming a defense manufacturing hub with targets for \$5 billion in military hardware exports by 2025.

Indian Navy Enhances Maritime Surveillance with C-295 and MPA Program



20-Jul-25

The Indian Navy is accelerating efforts to bolster its maritime surveillance with a major acquisition of nine C-295 Medium-Range Maritime Reconnaissance (MRMR) aircraft, as well as the development of an indigenous Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) based on the Boeing 737-800 ERX platform. Formalized through a Request for Proposal issued earlier this month, the initiative will also see six additional C-295 Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft for the Coast Guard, all to be manufactured under the "Make in India" policy by the Tata-Airbus joint venture in Vadodara. The enhanced C-295 MRMRs will be equipped with state-of-the-art sensors, anti-ship missiles, and torpedoes to bridge the gap between the Navy's long-range P-8I Poseidon fleet and short-range Dornier Do-228s, providing improved anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare capability. The Ministry of Defence approved the ₹3.5 billion program in 2024, aiming for first deliveries by 2029. Meanwhile, the new MPA program is projected to take up to eight years, leveraging domestic technology and operational experience in the face of increasing Chinese activity in the Indian Ocean. The moves come alongside major upgrades to India's National Maritime Domain Awareness infrastructure, with new contracts inked in July 2025.

Germany's Skyraider 30 system reshapes future air defense.



20-Jul-25

Germany's Skyraider 30 mobile air defense system, showcased at the LandEuro 2025 exhibition, represents a significant advancement in military technology, particularly for NATO and European defense. This system, capable of simultaneously detecting and neutralizing multiple aerial threats, including drones, employs a 30mm cannon with programmable ammunition and features an adaptable open architecture. With a market forecast exceeding 15

billion euros over five years, the Skyranger 30 highlights the increasing importance of advanced air defense amid rising aerial threats. This development positions Germany as a key player in modern defense systems, potentially reshaping NATO's strategic landscape and response capabilities.

Indian Army Identifies Shortcomings in US Stryker Vehicle [SHARE](#)

20-Jul-25

The Indian Army's evaluation of the US Stryker combat vehicle revealed critical shortcomings, including a lack of amphibious capability and poor engine performance at high altitudes, highlighting its unsuitability for India's diverse operational environments. In contrast, indigenous programs like the Tata-DRDO Wheeled Armoured Platform and the Mahindra-DRDO NBC Reconnaissance Vehicle demonstrate significant advancements, reflecting India's commitment to self-reliance in defense. The rejection of the Stryker aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and emphasizes the focus on developing the Future Infantry Combat Vehicle program. This decision underscores India's growing confidence in its defense industry, aiming for tailored solutions to meet its unique military requirements.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

High Russian Missile Interception Rates Prompt India's Strategy Review [SHARE](#)

20-Jul-25

Recent developments in the Russia-Ukraine conflict have shown Ukrainian air defenses intercepting 67% of Russian subsonic cruise missiles such as the Kalibr and Kh-555/101, raising significant alarm for India amid its planned induction of the Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) by late 2025. The maiden LRLACM test occurred on November 12, 2024, and a second test is imminent, with the missile positioned as a backbone for India's future Rocket Force. However, the high attrition rates in Ukraine underscore the vulnerability of subsonic systems, pushing Indian defense policymakers to rethink their reliance on such platforms. In contrast, supersonic missiles like the BrahMos, derived from Russia's Onyx and showing much lower interception rates near 5.7%, remain highly effective but are prohibitively expensive for mass deployment. To address this, India is rapidly advancing indigenous programs, emphasizing the need for a new generation of affordable supersonic cruise missiles

without compromising on survivability or precision. Defense experts highlight the urgency for India to accelerate domestic production and integration of advanced avionics, stealth, and maneuver capabilities into upcoming platforms. The robust air defense lessons from Ukraine, along with India's recent ballistic missile tests and strategic bomber considerations, are collectively driving a comprehensive and urgent review of the nation's missile strategy as regional threats continue to evolve.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

China starts building world's largest dam on Brahmaputra near Arunachal. [SHARE](#)

20-Jul-25

China has commenced construction of the world's largest dam over the Brahmaputra River in Tibet, near the Arunachal Pradesh border, with an investment of approximately USD 167.8 billion. This massive hydropower project, expected to generate over 300 billion kWh of electricity annually, raises significant concerns for India and Bangladesh as it could impact water flow in the downstream regions. The project highlights China's expanding infrastructure ambitions and may necessitate a strategic response from India to safeguard its interests in water security and regional stability. Addressing these developments will be crucial for India as it navigates its geopolitical landscape amid increasing Chinese assertiveness.

INS Sandhayak's first visit to Malaysia enhances hydrographic ties [SHARE](#)

20-Jul-25

The Indian Navy's indigenously built Survey Vessel Large (SVL), INS Sandhayak, made its maiden port call in Malaysia from July 16 to 19, 2025, marking a significant move in enhancing regional hydrographic cooperation. Commissioned in February 2024, the vessel is equipped with modern survey capabilities and humanitarian assistance provisions. The visit underscores India's commitment to maritime collaboration under the Indian Naval Hydrographic Department, fostering partnerships with Malaysian counterparts through knowledge-sharing and outreach activities. This initiative aligns with India's MAHASAGAR vision, reinforcing its role in promoting stability and collective maritime development in the Indo-Pacific region.

Kremlin open to peace talks with Ukraine but insists on goals. SHARE

20-Jul-25

The Kremlin has expressed openness to peace talks with Ukraine but insists that achieving specific goals, such as the withdrawal of Ukraine from annexed regions and limits on its military, remains a priority. This stance comes amid intensifying Russian attacks and a renewed hardline approach from U.S. President Donald Trump, who has threatened severe tariffs on Russia and pledged military support to Ukraine, including Patriot missile systems. The situation highlights the ongoing geopolitical tensions and the challenges in securing a resolution, with both sides entrenched in their positions, complicating diplomatic efforts. The U.S. commitment to bolster Ukraine's defense underscores its strategic interest in countering Russian aggression.

Iran to Discuss Nuclear Issues with Europe Next Week SHARE

20-Jul-25

Iran is set to hold nuclear talks with Britain, France, and Germany next week, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency. This development follows warnings from these European nations that a failure to resume negotiations could prompt the reimposition of international sanctions on Iran. While the principle of the talks has been agreed upon, details regarding the time and location are still under consultation. This situation highlights the ongoing geopolitical tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear ambitions, as well as the critical role of diplomacy in addressing nuclear proliferation concerns in the region, which remains a significant area of interest for India given its own strategic considerations.

India's Missile Tests Prompt Pakistan's Nuclear Concerns SHARE

20-Jul-25

India's recent missile activities have intensified security anxieties in the region as the country successfully carried out test launches of its nuclear-capable Prithvi-II and Agni-I ballistic missiles from the Integrated Test Range in Odisha on July 17, 2025. The tests, which were conducted by the Strategic Forces Command, are being viewed as both a demonstration of India's advancing strategic capabilities and a robust signal of its continuing focus on nuclear deterrence. This show of force comes against the backdrop of heightened Indo-Pakistani tensions following May's Operation Sindoor and retaliatory strikes, with new satellite imagery surfacing in the past 48 hours indicating Indian

missiles may have struck near Pakistan's sensitive Kirana Hills nuclear hub. Pakistani officials have publicly voiced concerns that such Indian missile activities could threaten the delicate deterrence balance, particularly as Pakistan remains wary of India's growing counterforce capabilities and hypersonic missile developments. While both governments officially committed to a ceasefire in May, the recent missile demonstrations and evidence of targeted strikes near nuclear infrastructure have prompted fresh warnings from regional analysts about the risk of miscalculation and uncontrolled escalation in South Asia.

INS Tamal's Passage Through Finnish Waters Highlights Naval Reach SHARE

20-Jul-25

Indian Navy's newest stealth frigate, INS Tamal, commissioned on July 1, 2025, at Russia's Yantar Shipyard, drew attention as it transited Finnish waters in the Gulf of Finland on July 18. The vessel, built as part of Indo-Russian cooperation, had just been handed over in Kaliningrad and was en route to its homeport in Karwar, India. Finnish and Swedish authorities monitored its legal passage, which was conducted with prior notification and without incident, categorizing it as "innocent passage." The event marks the first time an Indian warship has been observed in the Baltic Sea, underscoring India's expanding naval aspirations and technological prowess amid heightened global maritime competition. No diplomatic or security concerns were reported during the transit.

Ex IAF Officer: Pakistan's Nuke Threat Would Leave It Uninhabitable SHARE

20-Jul-25

Former Indian Air Force officer Ajay Ahlawat has sharply rebuffed recent Pakistani nuclear threats, asserting that any nuclear attack from Pakistan would leave the country uninhabitable for over two centuries. His remarks were directed at Pakistani scholar Rabia Akhtar and followed inflammatory statements by Pakistani officials threatening nuclear retaliation in response to India's growing missile capabilities and ongoing water disputes. The exchange comes after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which killed 26 people and triggered Operation Sindoor, an Indian military response that targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan. Amid these escalations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi maintained that any engagement with Pakistan would focus solely on the

issue of terrorism, signaling India's unwavering policy on security and regional stability.

Jitendra Singh: Peace in J-K Achieved Without Appeasement



SHARE

20-Jul-25

Union Minister Jitendra Singh highlighted the positive changes in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370, emphasizing that peace is now achieved without appeasement. He noted that the region has seen greater integration and a sense of belonging among its citizens with the rest of India. Singh argued that past governments' attempts to negotiate with separatists yielded no results, whereas the current administration has fostered unity and revitalized development projects, including transportation. He stressed the importance of ensuring equal rights for women and refugees, marking a significant shift towards constitutional integrity and human dignity in the region.

INDIA bloc to address Pahalgam attack and Trump's ceasefire claims in Parliament.



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20-Jul-25

The Parliament's Monsoon Session, set to begin July 21, is expected to witness intense confrontations as the INDIA bloc of 24 opposition parties readies a coordinated campaign highlighting the government's response to the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack, with 25 tourists and a local killed. The opposition alleges a lack of justice for victims and claims an intelligence failure, demanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi address the House directly on the government's inaction. The bloc will also spotlight US President Donald Trump's repeated assertions that he brokered the May India-Pakistan ceasefire, a claim India has forcefully dismissed, asserting its sovereign right to set national policy. Electoral transparency will be another flashpoint, as new allegations arise that the Election Commission's rushed special revision of voter rolls in Bihar could disenfranchise millions, primarily from marginalized communities, just months ahead of the state's assembly elections. The opposition has accused the government of using Operation Sindhoor—a highly publicized military operation launched in response to the Pahalgam attack—primarily as an electoral tool to boost the BJP-led administration's nationalist image, overshadowing core issues like caste and economic policy. Opposition leaders acknowledge that Operation Sindhoor's success has eroded their poll prospects, stoking desperation to reclaim the narrative by focusing

on alleged government lapses, voter suppression fears, and disputed international claims.

India Confronts ASEAN Over \$45 Billion Trade Deficit



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20-Jul-25

India is confronting ASEAN over a significant trade deficit that has ballooned to \$45 billion, revealing structural imbalances favoring ASEAN countries and exacerbated by poorly negotiated trade terms. Indian officials, led by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, have expressed frustration over non-tariff barriers and lax rules of origin that allow Chinese goods to flood the Indian market, undermining the Make in India initiative. As negotiations stall, India is considering the termination of the FTA unless meaningful reforms are made, signaling a shift towards a more assertive trade stance aimed at protecting its domestic industries and ensuring fairer trade practices in the Indo-Pacific region.

Military Operations

Satellite Images Indicate Indian Strike on Pakistan's Kirana Hills



SHARE

20-Jul-25

Multiple OSINT analyses and reports indicate that India's Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, 2025, in response to the Pahalgam massacre, included a precise missile strike on Pakistan's Kirana Hills, a site long linked to its nuclear program. Despite Indian officials' initial denials, expert analyses of latest satellite imagery claims clear blast scars at Kirana Hills and extensive damage at several Pakistani airbases, notably Sargodha and Rahim Yar Khan, which remain under post-strike repair with continued flight restrictions. Defense experts suggest the strike was a calibrated demonstration of India's capability to target sensitive locations while avoiding underground nuclear tunnels—delivering a warning without breaching nuclear thresholds. Pakistan's cautious response has centered on quick infrastructure repairs rather than escalation. Meanwhile, India's parliament is set to debate the operation, amid growing domestic scrutiny. The incident underscores how open-source intelligence is increasingly redefining transparency and shaping international discourse. As both nations weigh their next moves, the episode highlights the tenuous balance of deterrence in South Asia and the blurred lines between conventional and nuclear signaling in the region.

Operation Sindoor Highlights Indian Armed Forces' Tri-Services

Synergy  SHARE

20-Jul-25

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan highlighted the successful execution of Operation Sindoor, emphasizing the crucial tri-services synergy of the Indian armed forces during his address at the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington, Tamil Nadu. He underscored the importance of integration, jointness, and capability development, alongside national initiatives like Aatmanirbharta. Gen Chauhan's engagement with faculty and students aims to promote a deeper understanding of transformative military changes and the institutionalization of joint training programs, such as the Deep Purple Division, thereby strengthening inter-services cooperation and operational readiness in the Indian defense landscape.

BSF Intercepts Pakistani Drone in Punjab, Enhancing Border Security

 SHARE

20-Jul-25

The Border Security Force (BSF) intercepted a Pakistani drone near Khemkaran, Punjab, recovering a DJI Mavic-3 Classic from a paddy field before the border fence. It was found intact, with no payload, prompting a forensic examination to trace its origins and mission objectives. This interception illustrates the vigilance and commitment of the BSF to national security, especially as drone infiltration attempts have risen in the region. The BSF is enhancing its surveillance and response measures to combat these evolving technological threats, thereby safeguarding India's borders and reinforcing the integrity of national defense.

Nyoma Airbase in Ladakh Set for Operational Readiness in October

 SHARE

20-Jul-25

India's highest and most strategically vital airbase at Nyoma in eastern Ladakh is on track for full operational status by October 2025, marking a significant milestone in the country's push to bolster its military capabilities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Located at an elevation of 13,700 feet—and only about 50 km from the LAC—Nyoma is set to host advanced fighter jets such as the MiG-29 and Su-30 MKI, as well as transport aircraft, dramatically enhancing the Indian Air Force's reach and rapid deployment ability in this critical frontier. The newly built 3-kilometre runway, constructed amid harsh high-altitude conditions, represents a ₹214-crore investment launched with the laying of its

foundation in September 2023 and carried out by women officers of the Border Roads Organisation. In conjunction with the airbase, India is simultaneously constructing a 130 km alternate road connecting Sasoma to Daulat Beg Oldi, set to be fully operational by November 2026. This new axis will slash travel time for troop and equipment movement from two days to about 12 hours, strengthening logistics and strategic flexibility in the region. The Nyoma airfield and supporting infrastructure upgrades come as part of a broader surge in border development following recent disengagements with China in nearby friction zones, significantly improving India's military posture and regional connectivity.

Army and BRO Conduct Emergency Response Drill at Kargil Depot

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20-Jul-25

An Emergency Response Drill was conducted at the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) Depot in Kargil, involving the Army, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), and other local agencies to enhance disaster preparedness and inter-agency coordination. The drill simulated a fuel leakage and fire outbreak, showcasing the efficient response of emergency units, including firefighting actions and medical rescues. Senior officials praised the seamless collaboration among all participants, emphasizing the importance of such exercises in ensuring safety and readiness in strategically significant areas like Kargil. This initiative highlights India's commitment to robust emergency management frameworks in high-risk environments, reinforcing national safety priorities.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Soren urges Shah to waive Rs 13,300 crore for CRPF in Jharkhand

 SHARE

20-Jul-25

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to waive Rs 13,300 crore in dues owed by the state for the deployment of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in anti-Naxal operations. Soren argues that this financial burden hampers development schemes in Jharkhand, which is striving for economic revival post-COVID-19. He highlighted successful operations that have significantly reduced extremist activities, with 197 Maoists arrested recently. The demand underscores the cooperative federalism ethos, arguing for shared responsibility in combating extremism, while also

emphasizing the need for adequate resources to support ongoing development initiatives in the state.

Baloch Liberation Army Kills Major Kakar in Quetta Bombing



SHARE

20-Jul-25

A recent bombing in Quetta, Balochistan, resulted in the death of Major Kakar, a key officer in the Pakistan Army, who was targeted by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) through a sophisticated IED attack. This incident underscores the ongoing volatility in Balochistan, where insurgent groups are intensifying their campaigns against state security forces, reflecting significant security challenges for Pakistan. The BLA's operational capabilities and claims of local support signify a troubling trend that threatens stability in the region. Such developments highlight the need for Pakistan to enhance its security measures in response to these persistent insurgent threats, which are fueled by long-standing grievances over autonomy and economic exploitation.

Teen injured by Naxalite IED explosion in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.



SHARE

20-Jul-25

A 16-year-old boy was injured by an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Naxalites in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh, while grazing cattle. The incident highlights the persistent threat posed by Maoist insurgents who strategically place IEDs to target security forces during anti-Naxal operations. Such tactics not only jeopardize the safety of civilians but also complicate security operations in affected areas. The Indian government remains committed to addressing the Naxalite threat through enhanced security measures and community engagement, aiming to restore peace and stability in regions plagued by insurgency.

Four militants from banned groups arrested in Manipur.



SHARE

20-Jul-25

Security forces in Manipur have successfully arrested four militants from various banned outfits, including UPPK and KCP (PWG), highlighting ongoing efforts to combat insurgency in the region. The arrests occurred in Imphal East and West districts, and seized items included firearms and improvised explosives, underscoring the serious threats posed by these groups. These operations not only disrupt illegal activities such as extortion and intimidation but also demonstrate the commitment of Indian security forces

to maintain peace and order in Manipur. This decisive action bolsters the state's security framework and showcases the effectiveness of operations targeting militant factions operating within its borders.

Indian abducted in Niger; wife seeks government help for release



SHARE

20-Jul-25

An Indian national, Ranjeet Singh from Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, has been abducted by terrorists in Niger, following a deadly attack on a construction site that resulted in the deaths of two fellow Indians. His wife, Sheela Devi, urgently pleaded for intervention from the Indian government for his safe release, expressing concern over the lack of communication and response from his employer. While local officials have assured her of support, she emphasized that the responsibility lies primarily with the Ministry of External Affairs. This incident underscores the ongoing risks faced by Indians working abroad in conflict-prone regions and highlights the need for robust measures to safeguard their welfare.

Encounter Between Security Forces and Terrorists in Kishtwar



SHARE

20-Jul-25

A fierce encounter broke out today between security forces and terrorists in the dense Khankoo forest of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, following intelligence inputs about militant presence in the area. Joint teams of the Indian Army and police launched a cordon and search operation, drawing retaliatory fire from the terrorists and prompting a heavy exchange of gunfire. While no casualties have been reported so far, reinforcements were rapidly deployed, and the operation is ongoing to track down and neutralize the terrorists. This marks the second such engagement in Kishtwar this month, underlining a troubling trend: once largely peaceful, Kishtwar has rapidly transformed into a new hotspot for militancy, with groups exploiting its remote, forested terrain to evade security forces and launch attacks. Over the last two years, the district has witnessed escalating violence, including deadly assaults on civilians and security personnel, making it the latest flashpoint in Jammu's security landscape.

Abdullah urges Pakistan to rethink tactics amid rising terrorism in J-K.



SHARE

20-Jul-25

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has criticized Pakistan for its ongoing support of terrorism, particularly following a recent attack in Pahalgam that

killed 26 people. He warned that India's new stance equates any terror attack with an act of war, urging Pakistan to reconsider its aggressive tactics for regional stability. Abdullah acknowledged lapses in security and intelligence and emphasized accountability within government ranks. He remains optimistic about revitalizing tourism in the region, asserting that restoring normalcy is essential for the local economy and reflecting a commitment to security improvements following the attack.

Golden Temple receives seventh threat email; SGPC criticizes inaction SHARE

20-Jul-25

The Golden Temple has received its seventh threat email, raising concerns about the Punjab government's inaction, as highlighted by former Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghubir Singh. He criticized the lack of communication from officials despite ongoing threats and urged political parties to unite for justice rather than exploit the situation. Giani condemned Congress MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla's call for CISF deployment at the shrine, referencing the party's controversial past. He reassured devotees to continue visiting the temple without fear, emphasizing the need for government intervention to counter external threats and protect the sacred site effectively.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Smartwatch Use in Indian Army: Security Risks and Policy Gaps SHARE

20-Jul-25

Amid rising security concerns, the Indian Army faces renewed scrutiny over soldiers' use of smartwatches, especially with fresh alerts surfacing as recently as July 19, 2025. The Army's Directorate of Military Intelligence and Cyber Units have repeatedly warned about potential espionage, citing foreign adversaries' abilities to exploit data sync, GPS, and health tracking features to glean sensitive troop movements and personal details. While global militaries have enforced clear bans, Indian guidelines remain inconsistent, with stricter advisories in Jammu & Kashmir but no comprehensive policy across all ranks. Recently, reports noted unsolicited smartwatches being distributed to military personnel, raising red flags about possible spyware embedded in such devices. Experts emphasize the urgent need for secure, indigenously developed wearables and a unified policy to bolster field security.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Indian Army to Fund Education of Brave Punjab Boy Who Helped Soldiers SHARE

20-Jul-25

The Indian Army has decided to fully sponsor the education of 10-year-old Shvan Singh, a student from Punjab's Tara Wali village, after he displayed exceptional courage by providing food, water, and refreshments to soldiers engaged in the recent Operation Sindoor near the India-Pakistan border. This announcement was made on July 18, 2025, during a ceremony at Ferozepur Cantonment, where Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Command, lauded Shvan's bravery and reiterated the Army's commitment to fostering close ties with the communities they serve. Dubbed the "Youngest Civil Warrior," Shvan undertook the risk of aiding troops amidst cross-border hostilities, garnering admiration across the region. The Army's support includes funding Shvan's schooling through graduation, reflecting not only recognition of his valor but a broader effort to inspire patriotism in youth. Shvan, who dreams of joining the Army, has become a symbol of civilian heroism, highlighting the critical role ordinary citizens play in national defense and strengthening the enduring bond between the military and local populations.

Miscellaneous

DGCA lifts window shade rule; photography ban stays at IAF airports SHARE

20-Jul-25

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has lifted the advisory that required passengers to lower window shades during aircraft operations at Indian Air Force Joint User Airports (JUAs). However, the ban on aerial and ground photography at these airports remains unchanged, as emphasized by the DGCA to ensure operational safety. This decision reflects the military's priority on security while still allowing for some degree of passenger comfort during flights. The continued prohibition on photography underscores the need for vigilance in sensitive operational areas, aligning with national security interests while adapting to civilian aviation practices.

Kuki-Zo Council urges Nagas to end shutdown and allow passage



20-Jul-25

In Manipur, the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has expressed concern over an indefinite shutdown imposed by the Foothills Naga Coordination Committee (FNCC) that restricts Kuki-Zo movement through Naga areas. The FNCC claims the shutdown is a peaceful protest against perceived threats to Naga land and identity, citing illegal Kuki militant camps and environmental degradation from poppy cultivation as concerns. The KZC argues that the shutdown exacerbates the humanitarian crisis faced by the Kuki-Zo community, which has already suffered significant losses due to ethnic violence. They call for dialogue and compassion between the communities, emphasizing that blocking movement based on ethnicity is unconstitutional and inhumane.

Uttarakhand Helicopter Crash Caused by Overhead Cable Strike



20-Jul-25

The recent helicopter crash in Uttarakhand, which resulted in six fatalities, was caused when the main rotor blade struck an overhead fibre cable during an attempted landing. The aircraft, a 17-year-old Bell 407 operated by Aerotrans Services, crashed near Gangnani after deviating from its assigned altitude. The Helicopter Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is conducting a detailed investigation, collaborating with representatives from the US and Canada to ascertain the root causes. This incident underscores the need for enhanced aerial safety measures in regions with potential hazards like overhead cables, which can pose significant risks to aviation operations in hilly terrains.

Rajasthan Navy officer completes 34-hour Badwater 135 ultra-marathon.



20-Jul-25

Rajasthan Navy officer Ramratan Jat made headlines by completing the challenging 'Badwater 135' ultra-marathon in Death Valley, California, in 34 hours and 14 minutes, securing 24th place among 102 global competitors. His feat comes amidst extreme conditions, including climbing three mountains in temperatures reaching 55°C. Jat, already a Guinness World Record holder, is celebrated for his achievements in other grueling races, including La Ultra 222 and 333 in Ladakh. His remarkable performance not only showcases the endurance and determination of Indian armed forces personnel but also highlights India's growing recognition in international sporting events.

Cousins Sayyad and Aakib clash for MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup title



20-Jul-25

In the MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup final, cousins Sayyad Niyaz Rahim and Aakib Rahim Arif will captain the Railway Sports Promotion Board and Indian Navy hockey teams, respectively, creating a unique family rivalry on the field. Both brothers have shown great promise in their hockey careers, having trained at the Sports Authority of India and participated in national camps, with aspirations for international call-ups. Sayyad aims for a second consecutive title, while Aaqib seeks his first championship with the Navy. Their journey highlights the challenges of developing hockey talent in regions lacking proper infrastructure, emphasizing the brothers' commitment to the sport despite these obstacles.

Indian Army Gifts Jacket from Siachen Waste, Promotes Clean Indus



20-Jul-25

The Indian Army has initiated a green initiative by gifting a jacket made from recycled waste collected at the Siachen glacier to the chief executive councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council. This initiative aligns with a broader cleanliness campaign aimed at cleaning the Indus River, which was prompted by concerns over arsenic pollution. The campaign promotes collaboration among the army, paramilitary forces, and local communities to enhance environmental sustainability while exploring alternative livelihoods for locals. This reflects the Indian Army's commitment to environmental responsibility and community engagement, showcasing a proactive approach to both ecological issues and local development.

India to Address Private Sector Concerns in Nuclear Investments



20-Jul-25

India is taking significant steps to attract private sector investment in its civil nuclear sector, aiming to produce 100 GW of atomic power by 2047. Union Minister Jitendra Singh highlighted that legislative changes, including amendments to the Atomic Energy Act, will address private sector concerns and facilitate their participation. The government intends to reassure foreign suppliers regarding liability laws and aims to align with global benchmarks for nuclear energy. This initiative is crucial for India's ambition to become a developed nation, enhancing energy capacity from the current 8,780 MW to 22,480 MW by 2031-32, and

reflects a proactive approach in modernizing its nuclear energy framework.

India's Rare Earth Potential: A Path to Global Leadership



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India, holding the world's third-largest rare earth reserves, is accelerating efforts to bridge the gap between potential and production to reduce its reliance on Chinese imports. In recent days, following new discoveries of rare earth deposits in Rajasthan and ongoing auctions of key mining blocks, the government reaffirmed its commitment to the National Critical Mineral Mission, approved in July 2024 with an outlay of ₹34,300 crore over seven years. Major domestic companies have shown interest in the upcoming ₹5,000

crore incentive scheme to promote local rare earth magnet manufacturing, critical for electric vehicles and renewable energy infrastructure. India's output, currently below 1% of global supply, is expected to rise as the government expedites regulatory reforms to enable private participation and fast-track mining. Additionally, partnerships are being forged with Australia and nations such as Trinidad & Tobago to secure overseas mineral assets and technological know-how, while e-waste recycling is gaining policy focus to further strengthen supply chains. With demand for rare earths projected to double by 2030, India's comprehensive strategy aims to build a resilient value chain and support its ambitions of becoming a global leader in green and digital technologies.

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