



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### Indian government invests \$3.4 billion for shipbuilding hub in Tamil Nadu



20-Sep-25

In a significant advancement for India's maritime capabilities, the government has announced a \$3.4 billion investment to establish a shipbuilding hub in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. Cochin Shipyard Limited and Mazagon Dock Limited will each invest Rs 15,000 crore, creating approximately 55,000 jobs in the region. Tamil Nadu's Industries Minister, Dr. TRB Rajaa, emphasized the hub's importance for national security amid current geopolitical challenges, highlighting the strategic nature of shipbuilding beyond mere infrastructure. The project will not only enhance India's shipbuilding prowess—illustrated by CSL's construction of the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and MDL's production of stealth submarines—but will also stimulate growth in allied industries, thus reinforcing India's position in the global defense landscape.

### Army Chief Visits Arunachal, Emphasizes Drone Capability Development



20-Sep-25

Army Chief General Manoj Pande recently visited Arunachal Pradesh to emphasize the Indian Army's commitment to enhancing its operational capabilities through unmanned aerial systems. His inspection highlighted ongoing advancements in drone technologies for infantry and artillery units, with every battalion slated to incorporate dedicated drone platoons and counter-drone measures. This initiative aligns with the Army's strategic vision of integrating unmanned systems as essential battlefield tools, thereby improving reconnaissance, strike capabilities, and overall combat effectiveness. The move reflects a broader recognition of the critical role of drones in modern warfare and underscores India's proactive approach to fortifying its defense readiness amid evolving security challenges.

### UAE Expresses Interest in India's Defense and Aerospace Sectors



20-Sep-25

During a recent visit to Abu Dhabi, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced significant advancements in India-UAE ties, particularly in defense, aerospace, and space technology. The discussions emphasized UAE's interest in India's capabilities, with plans for financial cooperation highlighted by the appointment of an Indian Income Tax officer at the embassy. Goyal noted the aim to double non-oil bilateral trade to \$100 billion in the next few years, reflecting a robust strategic partnership rooted in trust and collaboration. The visit underscores an evolving relationship that fosters innovation and technological cooperation, indicating a future-oriented approach that can enhance both nations' security and economic interests in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

### Kaveri Turbofan to Begin Flight Tests on TEJAS with Afterburner



20-Sep-25

The Kaveri turbofan engine is set to begin flight testing on a TEJAS prototype with a "hollow reheat" afterburner module, which will validate airflow, temperature, and integration parameters before advancing to full afterburner capability. This phased approach reduces technical risk by maturing thermal margins and nozzle control, crucial for future fighter and unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) use. The dry variant of the Kaveri, developed with French firm Safran, is optimized for stealth and efficiency and is currently in the final testing phase in Russia, targeted for certification by 2026. This engine variant is intended for the Ghatak stealth UCAV program, reinforcing India's strategy to develop indigenous propulsion systems and reduce reliance on foreign engines for modern combat aircraft. The program, initiated in the 1980s, reflects ongoing efforts to achieve Aatmanirbhar Bharat in aerospace propulsion. Flight testing on the TEJAS prototype with the hollow reheat module is expected to provide critical data for future development phases. This initiative

marks a significant milestone in indigenous aerospace technology and aligns with strategic defense goals.

## IAF Chief Announces Completion of C-295M Deliveries; Local Production Starts

2026  [SHARE](#)

20-Sep-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, confirmed the completion of Airbus C-295M deliveries, marking a key milestone in India's defense modernization and self-reliance efforts. All 16 aircraft were delivered ahead of schedule, with the first Indian-assembled C-295M expected to roll out from the new Tata Advanced Systems Limited Final Assembly Line in Vadodara by August-September 2026. This initiative not only replaces the ageing Avro-748 fleet but also enhances operational capabilities with high indigenous content in production. The project is set to create significant employment opportunities and bolster the domestic aerospace sector, aligning with India's vision of a robust defense manufacturing ecosystem. This development underscores India's commitment to advancing its military capabilities while fostering economic growth through indigenous manufacturing.

## BDL to Increase Astra MkI Missile Production for IAF's Tejas Mk1A

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20-Sep-25

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has announced a significant increase in the production of the Astra MkI missile, ramping up to 25 units per year with plans to double this output to meet the Indian Air Force's (IAF) demands for the Tejas Mk1A fleet. This initiative, part of India's push for self-reliance in defense manufacturing, reflects confidence in the missile's capabilities, especially as the IAF aims to operate nearly 220 Tejas Mk1A jets over the next six to seven years. The integration of an indigenous RF AESA radar into the Tejas Mk1A further enhances its combat effectiveness, underscoring India's commitment to modernizing its aerial defense systems. BDL's strategic production increase aligns with the IAF's modernization efforts, signaling a robust future for India's indigenous defense capabilities.

## Safran Suggests Engine Ecosystem for Tejas Mk-2 and AMCA

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French aerospace firm Safran has proposed to establish an engine manufacturing ecosystem in India for the Tejas Mk-2 and the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), enhancing India's defense self-reliance

under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. This initiative arrives amid ongoing India-US trade discussions, where the GE F-414 engine agreement remains pivotal for the Tejas Mk-2, with technology transfer negotiations progressing between General Electric and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. While Safran's proposal introduces a competitive angle, it does not replace the existing collaboration with GE, which is essential for the project's timeline. The broader implications of this development highlight India's strategic intent to bolster indigenous defense capabilities while navigating international partnerships effectively.

## Tejas Mk1A to be Armed with Meteor Missile, Enhancing IAF Capability

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20-Sep-25

In a pivotal advancement for India's defense capabilities, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has confirmed that the Tejas Mark 1A will be equipped with the Meteor missile, one of the world's leading Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missiles (BVRAAM). This integration, set to occur with the second batch of aircraft, will be complemented by the indigenous Uttam AESA radar, enhancing situational awareness and combat efficacy. The Meteor's long-range capabilities will significantly bolster the Indian Air Force's (IAF) ability to counter modern aerial threats. This development underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology and the strengthening of indigenous manufacturing, while also reflecting a growing collaboration with international defense partners like MBDA, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

## C-390 offer significant cost savings to A400M

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20-Sep-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is modernizing its medium transport aircraft fleet with a tender for 60 aircraft, featuring the Brazilian Embraer C-390 Millennium and the Airbus A400M as key contenders. The C-390, priced at \$80 million per unit, offers significant cost savings compared to the A400M, which ranges from \$160 million to \$187 million per unit, allowing the IAF to allocate funds for other critical areas. The C-390's versatility, advanced technology, and potential for a mid-air refueling variant enhance its appeal, particularly as it could replace the ageing An-32 fleet. Additionally, the opportunity for local manufacturing aligns with the Make in India initiative, promoting domestic aerospace capabilities while simultaneously meeting strategic defense needs.

## AVNL Pursues BMP-2 Export Deal with Nigeria and Tanzania [SHARE](#)

20-Sep-25

India's Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL) is advancing negotiations with Nigeria and Tanzania to supply 30-40 BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles, enhancing India's defense export profile. The BMP-2, known as Sarath in Indian service, boasts amphibious capabilities and modern upgrades, achieving over 98.5% indigenization. This initiative aligns with Nigeria's counter-insurgency efforts against Boko Haram and Tanzania's border security needs, providing a cost-effective alternative to Russian imports amid global supply chain challenges. The potential deal underscores India's growing defense relationships in Africa and its commitment to supporting allied nations with reliable military equipment, further solidifying its status as a defense manufacturing hub.

## MBDA proposes joint development of next-gen SCALP-EG missile with India [SHARE](#)

20-Sep-25

MBDA, the European missile consortium, has proposed a joint development program with India to co-create a next-generation air-launched cruise missile (ALCM) based on the SCALP-EG technology. This initiative aims to enhance the missile's standoff range, radar-evading capabilities, and terminal maneuverability, thereby enabling precision strikes in complex urban environments. India's current modernization efforts, including indigenous projects like the HAL CATS Hunter and BrahMos-NG, will not be undermined but rather complemented by this collaboration, potentially broadening missile integration across various platforms. The strategic significance lies in securing advanced technology while balancing the goals of self-reliance and operational capability enhancement within the Indian Air Force.

## GRSE's Hamburg Pact Boosts India's Global Shipbuilding Ambitions [SHARE](#)

20-Sep-25

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd has solidified its commitment to the "Make in India, Make for World" initiative by signing a contract in Hamburg, Germany, with Carsten Rehder Schiffsmakler und Reederei GmbH & Co. KG for the construction of four Hybrid Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs) valued at USD 62.44 million. This agreement highlights GRSE's expanding global footprint in green shipbuilding, as the vessels will feature advanced hybrid propulsion systems designed to enhance fuel efficiency and meet

international decarbonization goals. The MPVs will also cater to the renewable energy logistics sector by transporting large windmill blades. This landmark contract further strengthens GRSE's position in the global maritime industry and underscores India's growing capabilities in advanced shipbuilding technologies.

## India's Artillery Modernization Hampered by Dhanush Scandal and Sharang Issues [SHARE](#)

20-Sep-25

India's artillery modernization efforts are facing significant challenges, particularly surrounding the Dhanush howitzer and the Sharang artillery systems. The Dhanush is embroiled in a scandal involving counterfeit components supplied by a private firm, leading to a Central Bureau of Investigation probe that questions the integrity of the production process at the Gun Carriage Factory. Meanwhile, the upgraded Sharang systems are criticized for substandard enhancements, as highlighted in a recent Comptroller and Auditor General report, raising concerns about the broader effectiveness of India's defense manufacturing ecosystem. These incidents underscore the urgent need for reforms in procurement and quality control to ensure operational readiness and bolster India's ambitions as a net arms exporter in a competitive global market.

## Uttam AESA Radar Shows 25% Edge Over Israeli EL/M-2052 for Tejas Mk1A [SHARE](#)

20-Sep-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation's Uttam AESA radar has demonstrated a significant 25% performance advantage over the Israeli EL/M-2052 radar, confirming India's capability in indigenous defense technology. Designed for the Tejas Mk1A Light Combat Aircraft, the Uttam features 980 Transmit-Receive Modules (TRMs) and has successfully completed over 125 flight trials, showcasing superior detection ranges and multi-target tracking capabilities. While the initial batches of Tejas Mk1A will utilize the EL/M-2052 due to certification timelines, the Uttam's successful trials position India for potential exports and reduce dependency on foreign technology. This development not only enhances the Indian Air Force's operational readiness but also underscores India's growing self-reliance in critical defense systems, bolstering its position in the global defense market.

## Tata Advanced Systems Begins WhAP 88 Vehicle Production in Morocco SHARE

20-Sep-25

On September 21, 2025, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) inaugurated its first overseas defense manufacturing facility in Berrechid, Morocco, marking a significant milestone in Indo-Moroccan defense collaboration. The factory will produce the WhAP 88 Infantry Fighting Vehicle, enhancing Morocco's military capabilities and establishing TASL as a key player in the African defense market. This development is anticipated to generate local jobs and foster a defense ecosystem in Morocco, aligning with India's strategy to expand its global defense footprint. The partnership signifies a deepening of military ties, as underscored by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit, reinforcing mutual interests in regional security and defense modernization.

## BARC Develops 200-MW Reactor for India's Next-Gen Submarines SHARE

20-Sep-25

The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is advancing India's naval capabilities by developing a 200-MW nuclear reactor to power the next-generation S-5 class ballistic missile submarines and Project-77 nuclear attack submarines. This reactor, which more than doubles the output of the existing Arihant-class submarines' 83-MW reactors, is designed to enhance India's strategic deterrence and operational flexibility amid rising geopolitical tensions, particularly with China's expanding naval power. The S-5 SSBNs will significantly bolster India's sea-based nuclear triad, while the Project-77 SSNs will offer critical offensive capabilities. This initiative underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology and ensures that the Indian Navy remains competitive in the Indo-Pacific region.

## Indian Navy's MiG-29K Pilots Adopt Indigenous Helmets and Masks SHARE

20-Sep-25

Indian Navy pilots operating MiG-29K fighter jets have begun using advanced aviation helmets and oxygen masks produced by Vega Aviation Products Pvt. Ltd., marking a significant move towards enhancing indigenous defense capabilities. This collaboration not only emphasizes the Navy's commitment to self-reliance but also highlights India's growing expertise in aerospace manufacturing. The helmets are tailored for high-performance requirements, integrating features such as a dual visor system, superior audio

communication, and robust protection against extreme conditions. This partnership aligns with the Make in India initiative, reducing reliance on foreign imports and enhancing the operational readiness of naval forces. Overall, this development underscores India's dedication to strengthening its defense sovereignty while addressing the unique challenges of maritime operations.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### Impact of DAP 2020 on Indian Defense Vendor Control and Opportunities SHARE

20-Sep-25

India is intensifying its efforts to reduce reliance on foreign defense imports through the Defense Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, which emphasizes indigenisation and aims to establish the country as a global defense manufacturing hub. This framework introduces a critical legal classification of procurement categories, linking vendor eligibility to their Indian control, thereby impacting joint ventures and foreign investments in the defense sector. The initiative is poised to create significant opportunities for domestic firms, start-ups, and MSMEs while also presenting legal complexities that stakeholders must navigate. This strategic shift reflects India's commitment to enhancing self-reliance in defense manufacturing, ultimately strengthening national security and fostering economic growth.

### Govt prioritizes defense indigenisation and procurement efforts SHARE

20-Sep-25

India's Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh emphasized the government's commitment to accelerating defence procurement and indigenisation during a recent discussion. He reaffirmed the importance of achieving full design and intellectual property rights within India while acknowledging the phased nature of indigenisation. Singh noted that recent global events have underscored the urgency of reducing import dependence, with 88% of capital expenditure aimed at domestic suppliers in the previous year. He highlighted the strategic focus on establishing overwhelming asymmetry against Western adversaries, deterrence towards northern threats, and dominance in the Indian Ocean, supported by a growing economy that positively influences defence budgets. Singh's remarks reflect a proactive approach to



enhancing India's self-reliance in its defence capabilities amidst evolving geopolitical challenges.

## India plans strategic reserve for critical defense minerals [SHARE](#)

20-Sep-25

India is contemplating the establishment of a strategic reserve for critical minerals essential for defense manufacturing, as revealed by Rajesh Kumar Singh, a senior Ministry of Defence official. This initiative aims to mitigate immediate supply shortages, particularly in light of recent disruptions caused by China's export controls on rare earth elements, which are vital for advanced military hardware. The Indian government has also launched a ₹1,500 crore incentive program to promote the recycling of critical minerals and classified rare earth mining as a "strategic project" to streamline approval processes. This move highlights India's commitment to enhancing its domestic supply chain for critical minerals, thereby bolstering national security and reducing dependence on foreign sources amid growing geopolitical tensions.

### Geopolitics and Security Alliances

## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's historic visit to Morocco on Sept 22-23, 2025. [SHARE](#)

20-Sep-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to make a historic two-day official visit to Morocco from September 22-23, 2025, at the invitation of Morocco's Minister Delegate of National Defence, Abdeltif Loudiyi. This visit marks the first-ever trip by an Indian Defence Minister to Morocco, emphasizing the strengthening strategic ties between the two nations. A significant highlight will be the inauguration of Tata Advanced Systems Maroc's new manufacturing facility in Berrechid, which will produce the Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8, making it the first Indian defence manufacturing plant in Africa. This development exemplifies India's commitment to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and its expanding global defense footprint. Throughout the visit, Singh will engage in bilateral discussions with his Moroccan counterpart to enhance defence cooperation, strategic partnerships, and industrial collaboration, and will also meet Morocco's Minister of Industry and Trade, Ryad Mezzour, to explore further industrial ties. An important aspect of the visit includes the anticipated signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence Cooperation, establishing a formal framework for

deepening bilateral defence engagements through exchanges, joint training, and increased industrial linkages. This visit comes in the wake of strengthened ties since King Mohammed VI's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, and it is poised to inject new momentum into the bilateral relationship in the defence and strategic sectors, underscoring India's growing presence and commitment to fostering partnerships in Africa.

## Pakistan's Defense Minister hints at nuclear ties with Saudi Arabia. [SHARE](#)

20-Sep-25

Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has made headlines with conflicting statements regarding the country's nuclear capabilities in relation to Saudi Arabia following a newly signed defense pact. Initially, Asif implied that Pakistan's nuclear deterrent could be extended to Saudi Arabia, emphasizing a mutual defense agreement where an attack on one would be seen as an attack on both. However, he later retracted this notion in conversations with Reuters, asserting that nuclear weapons were not part of the accord and labeling the situation as "evolving." This ambiguity continues to raise concerns regarding the potential for nuclear proliferation amid deepening security ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has expressed that it will monitor the implications of this agreement closely, highlighting its significance in the context of regional stability and security dynamics, particularly given India's ongoing tensions with Pakistan. This development underscores the precarious balance Pakistan must maintain between bolstering its strategic partnerships and mitigating international concerns over nuclear proliferation while navigating the complex geopolitical landscape of South Asia and the Gulf.

## India and Canada to Resume Trade and Security Talks After Tensions [SHARE](#)

20-Sep-25

India and Canada have recently taken steps to revitalize their bilateral relationship, which had been marred by diplomatic tensions, particularly over allegations regarding India's role in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. High-ranking officials from both countries held discussions in New Delhi, focusing on reactivating comprehensive trade and security talks across multiple sectors, including defense, energy, and counterterrorism efforts. National Security Advisors from both nations emphasized the importance of cooperation in combating transnational organized

crime and intelligence sharing, reflecting a shared commitment to rebuilding trust and expanding collaboration. The recent meetings follow positive engagements between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney during the G7 Summit, which laid the groundwork for restoring High Commissioners in each other's capitals, indicating a potential thaw in relations. This renewed dialogue is significant as it underscores India's strategic intent to strengthen its global partnerships while addressing security concerns related to extremism, reinforcing India's position on the international stage amidst challenges posed by domestic and foreign threats. As India navigates this complex geopolitical landscape, the emphasis on constructive engagement with Canada may enhance its diplomatic stature and operational capabilities in countering emerging security challenges.

## **Indian and Hellenic Navies Conclude First Maritime Exercise in Mediterranean**



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20-Sep-25

The maiden bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Hellenic Navy concluded on September 18, 2025, in the Mediterranean, marking a significant enhancement in defense cooperation between India and Greece. Conducted in two phases, the exercise involved a harbor phase at Salamis Naval Base followed by complex maritime maneuvers at sea, including joint Anti-Submarine Warfare and VBSS operations. The engagement not only validated the operational capabilities of both navies but also highlighted their shared commitment to maritime security and freedom of navigation. This collaboration underscores the growing strategic partnership between India and Greece, reflecting their mutual interests in ensuring stability in the global maritime domain and fostering stronger professional ties between their respective naval forces.

## **Russian Defense Ministry: No Airspace Violation in Estonia**



SHARE

20-Sep-25

The Russian Defence Ministry has asserted that its fighter jets did not violate Estonian airspace during a recent flight, claiming they adhered to international rules while operating over neutral waters of the Baltic Sea. This statement follows Estonia's accusation of a 12-minute incursion by three Russian MiG-31 jets, labeled as "unprecedentedly brazen." The incident is part of heightened tensions in the region, with NATO member states on alert following previous breaches,

including over 20 Russian drones entering Polish airspace. This ongoing airspace dispute underscores the fragile security dynamics in Eastern Europe, emphasizing the need for vigilance among NATO allies to safeguard their airspace integrity against perceived threats.

## **China and Taliban oppose Trump's bid for Bagram air base recovery.**



SHARE

20-Sep-25

China and the Taliban have jointly rejected former US President Donald Trump's proposal to reclaim Afghanistan's strategic Bagram air base, which is near the Chinese border. The Taliban emphasized that foreign military presence is historically unwelcome in Afghanistan, advocating instead for economic and political relations with the US based on mutual respect. China's Foreign Ministry echoed this sentiment, stressing the need for regional stability and opposing any actions that could increase tensions. Trump argued that regaining control of the base is critical due to its proximity to Chinese nuclear facilities. This situation underscores the complexities of international relations in the region, highlighting the Taliban's growing partnerships and the diminishing influence of the US post-withdrawal.

## **Russia Offers India Collaboration on Nuclear Power Plant Localization**



SHARE

20-Sep-25

Russia has extended an offer to India for cooperation in the localisation of both large and small nuclear power plants, enhancing the civil nuclear energy collaboration between the two nations. This proposal was made by Alexey Likhachov, the Director General of Rosatom, during discussions with the Indian delegation at the 69th annual session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna. Currently, the partnership is most evident at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu, where two units are operational and four more are under construction. The new initiatives aim to promote local production and serial construction of Russian-designed reactors in India, potentially incorporating small modular reactors (SMRs) to significantly bolster India's nuclear generation capacity. This strategic move not only aims to deepen India's industrial participation in nuclear energy but also reflects Russia's intent to maintain its role as a key civil nuclear partner for India in Asia. Such collaboration is vital as India seeks to meet its rising baseload electricity demand while transitioning to cleaner energy sources and enhancing its domestic

manufacturing capabilities in a sector of strategic importance.

## India Cautions Saudi Arabia on Defense Pact with Pakistan



20-Sep-25

India has expressed concern over Saudi Arabia's recent strategic defense pact with Pakistan, emphasizing the importance of mutual interests and sensitivities in their longstanding partnership. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal underscored India's commitment to safeguarding national interests following the agreement, which positions any aggression against either country as a collective threat. The pact, which formalizes existing defense cooperation, reflects Pakistan's historical role in supporting Saudi Arabia's security framework. India, bolstered by its expansive relations with regional allies like the UAE and Qatar, aims to navigate this evolving geopolitical landscape while ensuring comprehensive national security, thereby reinforcing its strategic positioning in a multipolar world.

## Zelenskyy to meet Trump as Russia escalates attacks in Ukraine



20-Sep-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced a forthcoming meeting with US President Donald Trump during the United Nations General Assembly, amid escalating Russian aerial attacks, including a significant strike on Dnipro that resulted in casualties. As Ukrainian forces retaliated, targeting Russian oil facilities, Zelenskyy emphasized the need for enhanced Western security guarantees to deter further aggression from Russia. The ongoing conflict has seen stalled peace negotiations, with both sides entrenched in their demands, complicating prospects for resolution. This situation underscores the persistent tensions in Eastern Europe, highlighting the critical role of international alliances and military support in shaping the security landscape.

## India Defends Participation in Russian-Belarusian Military Exercise



20-Sep-25

India has firmly rejected the European Union's criticism regarding its participation in the Russian-Belarusian military exercise Zapad 2025, emphasizing that several NATO member states, including the United States, Turkey, and Hungary, also participated as observers. The Ministry of External Affairs underscored that India's involvement is part of enhancing military cooperation

and interoperability while focusing on defensive training measures. Russian officials welcomed India's participation, asserting that the exercise is defensive rather than aggressive. This development highlights India's strategic independence in defense matters amidst geopolitical tensions and reinforces its commitment to multilateral military collaboration, showcasing the importance of maintaining robust defense ties while navigating complex international relations.

## Military Operations

### Soldier injured in Udhampur encounter with terrorists; later dies.



20-Sep-25

An encounter between security forces and terrorists occurred in the Seoj Dhar area of Udhampur district, Jammu and Kashmir, on September 19, 2025, resulting in the injury of an Indian Army soldier who later succumbed to his injuries. The operation was initiated by a joint team of the Army and the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police after intelligence indicated terrorist presence in the region. Following the initial contact, terrorists opened fire, leading to intense firefights. The area was swiftly cordoned off and a significant search operation resumed the following day, with reinforcements deployed, including drones and sniffer dogs, to locate the two to three terrorists believed to be hiding in the dense forest terrain. Although no fresh contact with the terrorists was established during subsequent combing operations, the Indian security forces remain committed to neutralizing the threat, emphasizing their resolve in combating terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. This incident underscores the ongoing challenges faced by the Indian Army and security forces in maintaining stability in the region while highlighting their proactive strategies and readiness to respond to threats posed by terrorist groups. The loss of the soldier serves as a somber reminder of the risks involved in these counter-terrorism operations and the sacrifices made by the armed forces in safeguarding national security.

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Honors Bravery of Indian Troops



20-Sep-25

India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commemorated the 60th anniversary of the 1965 India-Pakistan War, emphasizing the bravery and sacrifices of Indian

soldiers who ensured the nation's sovereignty and integrity. Speaking at an event in New Delhi, he reflected on the military's evolution since Independence, highlighting ongoing modernization efforts and the lessons learned from past conflicts, particularly the 1965 war, which was marked by significant battles such as Asal Uttar, Chawinda, and Phillora. Singh praised the political leadership of Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri during the war, underscoring that victories are the result of a united national resolve, not just battlefield tactics. He specifically noted the indomitable spirit of Param Vir Chakra awardee Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid, who displayed extraordinary valor against overwhelming odds. Singh reiterated that India has consistently shaped its own destiny in the face of challenges posed by its neighbors, asserting that any attempts at intimidation through guerrilla tactics have been met with resolute responses. This event not only serves as a tribute to the veterans but also reinforces India's commitment to maintaining a robust defense posture and readiness to respond to any threats, reflecting the importance of military preparedness in current geopolitical dynamics. The discourse is significant as it reinforces national pride, underscores the need for ongoing military modernization, and serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the armed forces, fostering a spirit of resilience among the populace.

## Assam Rifles Ambush in Manipur Leaves Two Dead, Six Militants Arrested



20-Sep-25

Two personnel from the Assam Rifles were killed and five others injured during an ambush by unidentified armed militants in Manipur's Bishnupur district. The attack occurred on the Imphal-Dimapur National Highway as the troops were en route to their operating base. Following the incident, a significant manhunt was initiated, involving Assam Rifles and local police, leading to the arrest of six militants linked to various banned outfits. This incident underscores the ongoing security challenges in the region and highlights the resilience and commitment of Indian security forces in combating insurgency, while also emphasizing the need for sustained efforts in maintaining stability and safety in conflict-prone areas.

## Indian Army conducts Amogh Fury firepower exercise in Thar Desert



20-Sep-25

The Indian Army's Sapta Shakti Command successfully conducted the integrated firepower exercise, Amogh

Fury, at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan's Thar Desert. This high-intensity drill showcased the seamless integration of various firing platforms, including battle tanks, artillery, and drones, demonstrating the Army's preparedness for multi-domain operations. The exercise focused on real-time operational readiness and the use of modern technologies to enhance combat capabilities amid emerging threats, particularly following the recent escalation of cross-border tensions with Pakistan. Amogh Fury underscores the Indian Army's commitment to joint operations and technological advancement, reinforcing its strategic position in addressing security challenges in the region.

## Indian Army Uses Indigenous Sambhav System for Secure Communications



20-Sep-25

The Indian Army has successfully deployed the indigenous Sambhav Mobile System during Operation Sindoor, marking a significant advancement in military communication technology. This system, designed to operate on 5G networks, features multi-layer encryption, ensuring the secure exchange of data and reducing dependence on foreign applications like WhatsApp and Telegram. With the integration of the M-Sigma app, the Sambhav system facilitates secure messaging, calling, and file sharing, enhancing the Army's operational capabilities. This development not only strengthens India's defense infrastructure but also positions the country among a select group of nations possessing advanced military communication technologies, thereby underscoring India's commitment to self-reliance in defense.

## Indian Army demonstrates advanced combat skills in Pokhran exercise



20-Sep-25

The Indian Army's Battle Axe Division conducted its annual field firing exercise at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, showcasing advanced combat capabilities and modern warfare technologies. The exercise featured a wide array of infantry weapons, including assault rifles, light and heavy machine guns, sniper rifles, and anti-tank systems, alongside cutting-edge equipment like drones and night-vision devices. This demonstration not only highlighted the army's preparedness and operational readiness but also underscored the importance of morale and commitment among the troops. The event serves as a strategic assertion of India's defense capabilities,



particularly near the Pakistan border, reinforcing the army's readiness to respond effectively to any threats. Overall, this exercise signals India's commitment to maintaining a robust and technologically advanced military force.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### JeM and Hizbul Mujahideen relocate to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa post-Operation Sindoor. SHARE

20-Sep-25

After Operation Sindoor, Pakistan-based terrorist groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) have initiated a strategic relocation to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), citing heightened vulnerability in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) due to Indian military strikes. JeM's recent public recruitment event in Garhi Habibullah featured high-profile leaders, including Maulana Mufti Masood Ilyas Kashmiri, who linked their ideology to Al-Qaeda and framed the Pakistani Army as participants in jihad. This shift aims to establish KPK as a safer operational base while continuing infiltration into Kashmir, highlighting the evolving threat posed by these groups and the complicity of state structures in their activities. The developments underscore the ongoing challenge for India in countering Pakistan's terror infrastructure amid international scrutiny.

### Three ISKP Militants Killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Operation SHARE

20-Sep-25

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Pakistan reported the successful elimination of three militants linked to the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) during a targeted operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The operation aimed at capturing Fazal Noor, a notorious ISKP commander, led to a fierce 30-minute gun battle, after which the bodies of the three militants—identified as Muhammad Naeem, Muhammad Karim, and Noor Nabi—were recovered. Notably, two of these individuals were involved in a previous suicide bombing in Peshawar that resulted in multiple fatalities. This operation underscores Pakistan's ongoing commitment to counter-terrorism efforts along its Afghan border, a region increasingly threatened by ISKP's cross-border activities, emphasizing the need for sustained vigilance in addressing transnational terrorism.

### Indian Army's Anti-Terror Operations in J&K Recover Weapons SHARE

20-Sep-25

In a significant anti-terrorist operation ongoing in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), troops from the White Knight Corps of the Indian Army established contact with terrorists in Kishtwar, leading to intense exchanges of fire. Concurrently, a joint operation in Poonch district resulted in the recovery of war-like stores, including an AK-series weapon, hand grenades, and additional ammunition, underscoring the concerted efforts of Indian security forces against terrorism and its funding mechanisms. The operations are part of a revised strategy that also targets drug smugglers and money laundering networks, which are believed to facilitate terrorist activities. Throughout the Kishtwar encounter, forces employed advanced surveillance tools and night-vision equipment to minimize civilian risk and restrict escape routes for militants, demonstrating the commitment to operational precision. This multifaceted approach highlights the Indian defense forces' determination to dismantle the entire terror ecosystem in J&K, a region marked by complex security challenges, while also addressing the intertwined issues of narcotics and organized crime that bolster terrorist financing. The sustained efforts reflect the Indian government's resolve to maintain stability and security in the region amidst ongoing challenges.

### LeT Commander Acknowledges Indian Strikes, Plans Mosque Expansion SHARE

20-Sep-25

In a recent viral video, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Qaasim acknowledged the destruction of the Markaz Taiba complex in Muridke, Pakistan, by the Indian Air Force, while vowing to rebuild it larger. This site, pivotal to LeT's operational and ideological framework, has long been linked to major terrorist attacks, including the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. Concurrently, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) commander Masood Ilyas Kashmiri confirmed significant losses from Indian strikes on their Bahawalpur headquarters, further emphasizing the operational precision of India's recent counter-terrorism efforts. These developments underscore a strategic shift in India's approach to counter-terrorism, targeting high-value assets within Pakistan, and reveal the ongoing resilience and adaptability of these terror groups despite substantial setbacks.

## Global Recognition of Pakistan's Terrorism Links, Says Jaiswal



20-Sep-25

India's External Affairs Ministry spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, emphasized global awareness of the connection between the Pakistani state and terrorist groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), following the circulation of videos that incite jihad against India. He condemned these messages as further evidence of Islamabad's ties to terrorism, particularly in light of India's Operation Sindoor, which targeted JeM infrastructure after a Pahalgam terror attack. Jaiswal reiterated India's firm stance against third-party mediation in bilateral matters with Pakistan, countering claims made by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar regarding potential dialogue facilitated by the U.S. This situation underscores the persistent challenges in Indo-Pak relations, revealing the complexities of regional security and the need for India to maintain a robust defense posture.

according to Lt Gen Adosh Kumar, Director General, Artillery. During the Gen S F Rodrigues Memorial Seminar, he highlighted that modern conflicts rely on remote surveillance and autonomous systems to engage adversaries while minimizing risk to personnel. Notably, the success of Operation Sindoor demonstrated the effectiveness of these strategies in providing information dominance and striking capabilities. Kumar urged the Army to strengthen indigenous surveillance technologies and ensure reliable navigation systems independent of foreign networks, underscoring the need for India to adapt rapidly to this evolving warfare landscape to maintain strategic superiority.

## CISA Warns of Chinese Malware Tied to Ivanti Exploits and Risks



20-Sep-25

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has raised alarms over sophisticated Chinese malware linked to exploits of Ivanti's Endpoint Manager Mobile (EPMM) systems, identifying vulnerabilities CVE-2025-4427 and CVE-2025-4428 that allowed attackers to execute remote code and maintain persistent access. Although CISA refrained from formal attribution, researchers suspect state-sponsored Chinese actors behind these intrusions, highlighting the growing threat to mobile device management platforms crucial for enterprises. The incident underscores the urgent need for enhanced cybersecurity measures, including proactive defense strategies and accountability from software vendors, as organizations face increasing risks in a landscape where such vulnerabilities can jeopardize national security and economic stability.

## Self-Propagating JavaScript Worm "Shai-Hulud" Infects Over 500 npm Packages in Major Supply Chain Attack



20-Sep-25

A self-propagating JavaScript worm named "Shai-Hulud" has compromised over 500 npm packages, highlighting a major vulnerability in software development environments. This worm infects packages by stealing developer credentials and cloud tokens through tools like TruffleHog, then injects malicious scripts into other packages managed by compromised maintainers. Once a package is infected, the worm automatically republishes trojanized versions with updated package files to propagate further. It also creates public GitHub repositories exposing stolen credentials and uploads malicious GitHub Actions

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### Cyberattack Disrupts Major European Airports, Flights Delayed



20-Sep-25

A cyberattack targeting a third-party service provider has disrupted operations at major European airports, including London's Heathrow, Brussels, and Berlin, leading to numerous flight delays and cancellations. The incident affected automated check-in and boarding systems, compelling airlines to revert to manual processes. Brussels Airport reported that by Saturday morning, ten flights were canceled and 17 delayed by over an hour. Collins Aerospace, the affected service provider, acknowledged a "cyber-related disruption" and is actively working to restore functionality. This incident underscores the vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure and emphasizes the need for robust cybersecurity measures, particularly as nations increasingly rely on technology for operational efficiency in essential services like air travel.

### Indian Army Adapts to Non-Contact Warfare with Cyber and Precision

#### Focus



20-Sep-25

The Indian Army is transitioning to a new era of non-contact warfare, emphasizing the importance of cyber capabilities, space assets, and precision strikes,

workflows to maintain persistent data exfiltration. The attack mainly targets Linux and macOS systems, skipping Windows, and manipulates npm's transitive dependency model to spread widely across the JavaScript ecosystem. This incident underscores the risks inherent in automated package publishing and the software supply chain, prompting urgent calls for stricter security like phish-proof two-factor authentication, token rotation, and continuous monitoring to prevent similar exploits in the future. The worm emphasizes severe supply chain security challenges in modern development workflows.

## **New Undetectable RAT Emerges as Alternative to ScreenConnect**



20-Sep-25

A new Remote Access Trojan (RAT) is being marketed on underground forums as a fully undetectable alternative to legitimate software, notably ScreenConnect. This malware boasts advanced features that allow it to evade modern security systems, including bypassing Google Chrome and Windows SmartScreen warnings by utilizing a valid Extended Validation (EV) certificate. The RAT potentially enables attackers to gain real-time visual control of compromised systems, facilitating data theft and system manipulation. This development highlights an alarming trend in sophisticated cybercrime tools, emphasizing the need for enhanced cybersecurity measures to counteract such evolving threats that challenge both individual and national security.

## **MHA directs housing ministry to strengthen cyber security in smart cities**



20-Sep-25

In response to escalating cyber threats, the Union Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA) has directed the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to enhance cyber security measures within India's smart cities. This initiative includes the appointment of dedicated Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for each smart city, who will oversee the protection of digital infrastructure, monitor cyber risks, and ensure compliance with national security protocols. The push for stronger cyber defenses underscores the increasing reliance on technology in governance and public services, highlighting the urgent need to address potential vulnerabilities in smart urban environments. This strategic move is critical not only for safeguarding sensitive data but also for maintaining public trust in technological advancements in governance.

## **Researchers Discover GPT-4 Malware Capable of Ransomware Creation**



20-Sep-25

Researchers have unveiled MalTerminal, the earliest known malware utilizing GPT-4 capabilities to generate ransomware or reverse shell commands. This discovery was made by SentinelOne's research team and presented at LABScon 2025. MalTerminal's design marks a significant evolution in cyber threats, with the ability to dynamically create malicious code, complicating defense measures. Additionally, a report by StrongestLayer highlights how threat actors are embedding prompts within phishing emails to bypass AI security measures, elevating the sophistication of social engineering attacks. These developments underscore the growing threat posed by AI-enhanced cybercrime, necessitating advanced defenses against increasingly adaptive and deceptive tactics employed by adversaries.

## **Mil Personnel & Veterans**

### **Manipur government grants Rs 5 lakh each to families of slain Assam Rifles jawans.**



20-Sep-25

The Manipur government has announced an ex gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh for the families of two Assam Rifles jawans who were tragically killed in an ambush at Nambol Sabal Leikai in Bishnupur district on September 19. Additionally, Rs 2 lakh will be provided to each of the five injured personnel. Home Commissioner N. Ashok Kumar condemned the attack, describing it as a "cowardly act," and expressed condolences to the bereaved families while emphasizing the state's commitment to supporting the injured in their recovery and rehabilitation. This incident underscores the ongoing security challenges faced by Indian forces in the region, highlighting the need for enhanced protection and strategic measures to ensure the safety of personnel engaging in counter-insurgency operations.

## Miscellaneous

### IAF Chief: World Should Learn India's Approach to Conflict Resolution



20-Sep-25

In a series of recent statements, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF), underscored India's strategic military accomplishments during Operation Sindoor, which unfolded from May 7 to May 10, 2025, in response to a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. He articulated that the operation exemplified India's capability to initiate and conclude a conflict efficiently, emphasizing that the military operated with full freedom from political constraints, allowing for precise targeting of terrorist infrastructure and significant degradation of Pakistan's military assets. The S-400 missile defense system played a pivotal role, with its advanced mobility and capabilities effectively neutralizing Pakistani air attacks and thwarting attempts to exploit Chinese satellite intelligence. This capability was highlighted when Pakistan's retaliatory strikes, relying on satellite-based targeting, were rendered ineffective as Indian S-400s relocated swiftly before missile impacts, causing no damage to critical assets. Singh pointed out that the operation showcased the importance of political will and inter-service coordination, contrasting India's decisive action with ongoing global conflicts marked by protracted hostilities. He argued that once objectives were met, it was prudent to terminate operations to avoid needless costs, a stance that positions India as a model for efficient conflict resolution in a world where many wars continue without clear objectives. The IAF's success not only underscores India's growing military prowess and strategic acumen but also reflects the evolving dynamics of regional security, as well as the intricate interplay of technological advancements and military strategy in shaping modern warfare. The operation's swift conclusion after achieving key objectives exemplifies India's commitment to counter-terrorism while maintaining a strong defense posture against regional adversaries.

### Trump Implements \$100,000 Fee on H-1B Visas to Curb Abuse



20-Sep-25

In a significant shift in U.S. immigration policy, President Donald Trump has introduced stringent reforms aimed at the H-1B visa program, imposing a \$100,000 annual fee on applications to deter what his

administration describes as systemic abuse by IT and outsourcing companies. This measure is intended to combat the perception that H-1B visas have evolved into a mechanism for low-cost labor, undermining American workers in STEM fields. Complementing these restrictions, a new elite Gold Card visa program has been established, requiring substantial financial investments—\$1 million for individuals and \$2 million for businesses—to attract only exceptional talent who are expected to contribute significantly to the U.S. economy. The administration argues that these changes are critical for protecting American jobs and fostering innovation while simultaneously generating substantial tax revenue. Critics, however, warn that such measures could lead to a reduction in the highly skilled labor pool crucial for maintaining the competitiveness of the U.S. tech sector, potentially hindering long-term innovation and economic growth. As firms weigh the implications of these policies, the broader impact on the U.S. labor market and its technological leadership remains to be seen.

### NPCIL Awards L&T Contract for KKNPP-5 & 6 Nuclear Reactors



20-Sep-25

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has awarded a significant contract to Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for the mechanical package construction of nuclear reactors KKNPP-5 and 6 at the Kudankulam power station complex. This project, part of India's strategic clean energy initiative, includes installation of reactor and turbine systems, and extensive infrastructure enhancements, reinforcing L&T's position in delivering large-scale nuclear projects. With a goal to ramp up nuclear capacity to 100 GW by 2047 under its Viksit Bharat initiative, this collaboration with Russia exemplifies India's commitment to diversifying its energy mix and reducing dependence on coal. The success of such projects is crucial for positioning India as a global leader in next-generation nuclear power infrastructure.

### CAG Advocates AI and Digital Tools for Fraud Detection in Audits



20-Sep-25

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, K Sanjay Murthy, emphasized the critical role of technology, particularly artificial intelligence and digital tools, in enhancing the efficacy of audits to detect fraud in government schemes. Addressing the second annual conference of state finance secretaries, he highlighted the CAG's focus on urban local government audits



across 100 major cities, evaluating their progress in essential services, renewable energy, and job creation. This initiative aims to improve living standards and foster a conducive environment for investment. The broader significance lies in the commitment to transparency and accountability in government operations, leveraging technology to bolster public trust and ensure effective governance.

## CDS General Anil Chauhan to inaugurate T-SATS on September 22, 2025. SHARE

20-Sep-25

On September 22-23, 2025, the inaugural Tri-Services Academia Technology Symposium (T-SATS) will be held at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, inaugurated by Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan. This initiative, organized by the Indian Army under the Integrated Defence Staff, aims to enhance collaboration between the armed forces and academic institutions, focusing on developing niche technologies vital for national defense. The theme, "Vivek va Anusandhan se Vijay" (Victory Through Wisdom and Innovation), reflects the emphasis on research and technological solutions tailored to the operational needs of the military. The event will gather over 200 top academic

representatives, R&D institutions, and military experts, marking a significant step towards fostering innovation and strengthening India's defense capabilities through academia.

## Operation Sindoor: India's Victory is Now a Habit, Says Rajnath SHARE

20-Sep-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hailed Operation Sindoor as a testament to India's military resolve and capability, asserting that victory is now a habitual outcome for the nation rather than an exception. Speaking at a commemorative event for the 1965 India-Pakistan war, he emphasized that the recent military action, which targeted terror and military installations in Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack, showcased India's strength and determination to safeguard its sovereignty. Singh credited the sacrifices of past and present soldiers, as well as steadfast political leadership, for India's resilience in the face of adversities. This operation not only reaffirmed India's military effectiveness but also served as a clear message to its adversaries regarding India's unwavering commitment to national security and counter-terrorism efforts.

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