



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

June 21, 2025 | Day 172

Defense Business and Industry

DRDO and Bharat Forge Win ₹2,000 Crore CQB Carbine Contract



21-Jun-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Forge have jointly secured a ₹2,000 crore contract to supply the Indian Army with 5.56x45mm Close Quarter Battle (CQB) carbines, marking the largest indigenous small arms order in over two decades. Designed for high mobility and performance in urban and counter-insurgency operations, the new CQB carbine replaces the outdated Sterling carbines, which have been in service since the 1960s. The weapon incorporates advanced features such as improved ergonomics, modular attachments, and compatibility with modern optics, significantly enhancing the operational effectiveness of infantry units in close combat scenarios. The contract is a major boost to the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, reflecting a decisive push towards reducing dependency on imports and empowering Indian defense manufacturers. It follows rigorous trials by the Army under varied operational conditions, where the indigenous design reportedly outperformed several foreign competitors. This project is expected to generate significant employment across Bharat Forge's manufacturing ecosystem and supply chain, contributing to the domestic economy. Moreover, it signals growing confidence in India's defense R&D capabilities and highlights the successful collaboration between state-run research agencies and private industry in meeting the evolving requirements of India's armed forces.

Indian Navy initiates steel cutting for fourth Fleet Support Ship



21-Jun-25

The Indian Navy recently conducted a steel cutting ceremony for the fourth of five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, marking a significant step in enhancing its Blue Water capabilities. With a displacement exceeding 40,000 tons, these vessels will enable extended naval deployments by providing critical supplies at sea, while also being equipped for humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations. This project, underpinned by indigenous design and local manufacturing, aligns with the Indian government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, bolstering the domestic shipbuilding industry and reinforcing India's strategic maritime reach. This development underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense capabilities.

Axiscades and MBDA Collaborate to Establish Defense Facility in Bengaluru



21-Jun-25

Homegrown defense engineering firm Axiscades has partnered with European missile systems leader MBDA to establish a new defense facility in Bengaluru, Karnataka, located at the Aerospace Park near Kempegowda International Airport. This facility will focus on advanced systems engineering for missile technologies, featuring specialized equipment and trained personnel. The agreement was finalized at the Paris Air Show 2025, highlighting India's growing role in global defense manufacturing. Axiscades aims to leverage this collaboration to enhance capabilities in emerging sectors, including advanced defense technologies and unmanned warfare, showcasing India's commitment to bolstering its defense capabilities and industry.

HAL Wins SSLV Technology Transfer from ISRO, Outbidding Adani



21-Jun-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has won the bid to transfer technology for the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) from ISRO, outbidding two consortia, including one backed by the Adani Group. HAL's successful bid of Rs 511 crore allows it to independently build and commercialize SSLV launches, marking a significant enhancement of India's commercial space sector. Over the next two years, HAL will collaborate with ISRO to develop two prototype rockets and will eventually produce six to ten SSLVs annually, meeting the defense forces' urgent satellite launch needs. This initiative not only strengthens India's launch capabilities but also enables the nation's defense and aerospace industries to flourish.

France to Acquire Saab's GlobalEye to Boost Airborne Defense



21-Jun-25

France intends to acquire Saab's GlobalEye AEW&C aircraft, enhancing its aerial situational awareness amid unverified claims from Pakistan about downing Indian Rafale jets during a brief conflict. While Indian Air Force sources have denied these claims, suggesting that Pakistan may have lost its own aircraft, the GlobalEye acquisition aims to bolster France's operational capabilities against similar threats. This move indicates a proactive approach to modernizing defense systems, ensuring France's sovereignty in airborne early warning. Such enhancements could also facilitate joint exercises with Rafale fighters, ultimately refining their performance against emerging threats.

Ukraine to Export Military Tech, Boost Defense Industry



21-Jun-25

Ukraine plans to export military technologies, focusing on drones, missiles, and potentially artillery, as announced by President Zelenskyy. The initiative aims to establish production facilities in European countries while ensuring technology does not reach Russia. Key partners include Denmark, Norway, Germany, the UK, and Lithuania, with Ukraine significantly boosting its defense industry financing to \$43 billion. By 2025, Ukraine expects to meet 40% of its Armed

Forces' needs through domestic production, showcasing a strategic pivot to bolster its defense capabilities amid ongoing conflict, while also reinforcing international partnerships to counter potential threats from Russia.

Russia Proposes Kh-69 Stealth Missiles for India's Su-30MKI



21-Jun-25

Russia has offered its advanced Kh-69 stealth cruise missile for integration with India's Su-30MKI fighter jets, aiming to enhance the Indian Air Force's strike capabilities. This missile, with a range of 300-400 km and designed for stealth, complements India's BrahMos and SCALP arsenal, allowing for deeper penetration strikes while optimizing payload capacity. The Kh-69's compatibility with the Su-30MKI's external pylons ensures a straightforward integration process. This development marks a significant step in strengthening India-Russia defense ties, offering a versatile addition to India's strategic deterrence and aerial dominance in the region, particularly against high-value targets and enemy air defenses.

India to Mass-Produce Astra Mk2 Missiles via Dual Production Lines



21-Jun-25

India is set to mass-produce the advanced Astra Mk2 beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile, enhancing its military self-reliance and air combat capabilities. The Ministry of Defence will establish dual production lines—one led by Bharat Dynamics Limited (public sector) and another involving private firms like Tata Advanced Systems—to meet the demand for over 500 units by the Indian Air Force (IAF). With a range of 160 km and advanced features, the Astra Mk2 significantly boosts India's defense capabilities against regional adversaries, while fostering a competitive defense industry. This initiative aligns with the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" policy, aiming to reduce reliance on foreign missiles and promote domestic manufacturing.

Indian delegation launches Rafale marine program in Paris



21-Jun-25

An Indian defense delegation led by Joint Secretary Dinesh Kumar met French officials in

Paris, formally launching the Rafale marine program, enhancing India's maritime capabilities. Meanwhile, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi emphasized the need for innovation and technology in achieving maritime security in the Indo-Pacific during a virtual engagement with 19 nations. He highlighted the importance of counter-drone systems and the need for synergy between public and private sectors in defense production, praising the advancements made by Solar Industries India Ltd in unmanned aerial systems. This collaboration reflects India's commitment to indigenous defense capabilities and evolving warfare technology.

India Urged to Enhance Military Drone Production Capacity



21-Jun-25

India's Defence Secretary emphasizes the urgent need to enhance military-grade drone production capabilities, highlighting that only a few manufacturers currently meet this requirement. The government aims to stimulate this sector through a monopsony approach, offering clear future orders and facilitating technology transfers with international partners. A significant policy overhaul, transitioning from the complex Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 to a more streamlined DAP 2025, aims to reduce procurement cycles and promote private sector participation. These initiatives are part of India's vision to become a global drone superpower, reinforcing its commitment to self-reliance in defense and addressing existing capability gaps to bolster its strategic autonomy.

Safran Partners with Maini Precision for LEAP Engine Production



21-Jun-25

Safran has formalized a Memorandum of Understanding with Maini Precision Products Limited (MPPL) at the Paris Air Show 2025, enhancing their 25-year partnership. MPPL will now manufacture complex machined assemblies for LEAP engine combustors, bolstering India's aerospace manufacturing capabilities within the global supply chain. This agreement aligns with Safran's Make in India initiative, emphasizing local production and the strategic role of Indian manufacturers in advanced aerospace programs. The collaboration showcases India's growing

competitiveness in the aerospace sector and highlights the country's significance as a key partner in next-generation aviation technologies.

Boeing Considers C-17 Production Restart Amid India's Demand



21-Jun-25

Boeing is considering restarting C-17 Globemaster III production, spurred by India's potential order for additional aircraft to enhance its strategic airlift capabilities amid procurement reforms. The Indian Air Force's current fleet, essential for both military and humanitarian missions, is aging, with plans to replace outdated IL-76s. The new simulation-based procurement strategy aims to expedite orders, though concerns about reliability persist. A revived C-17 production line would not only strengthen India's military logistics along contested borders with China and Pakistan but also reinforce its humanitarian role globally, positioning India as a key player in regional and international defense strategies.

India's Air Defence Gathers Data on Chinese Weapons Used by Pakistan



21-Jun-25

Recent intelligence breakthroughs have allowed Indian air defence systems to gather critical data on Chinese-origin military equipment utilized by the Pakistan Air Force during aerial clashes in May 2025. The data includes insights on advanced weaponry like the J-10C and JF-17 jets, as well as the PL-15E missile, enhancing India's defensive capabilities and informing updates to its air defence strategies. This intelligence not only aids India's military preparedness but is also of keen interest to strategic partners such as the US and NATO, underscoring the significance of understanding and countering emerging threats in the region. The findings are set to refine Indian missile programs and enhance operational effectiveness against adversarial forces.

India's Radar Technology Now Meets Global Standards, Says DRDO Chief



21-Jun-25

India's radar technology, as highlighted by DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat, now meets global

standards, bolstering the nation's defense capabilities under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The country has made significant strides in developing indigenous radar systems that seamlessly integrate within networked defense architectures, enhancing operational efficiency among the Indian Armed Forces. These advancements not only reduce dependency on foreign technology but also position India as a potential exporter in advanced defense systems. The focus on local manufacturing and next-generation radar development reflects India's commitment to strategic autonomy and innovation in addressing emerging threats in modern warfare.

DRDO Develops Solar-Powered Airship for IAF Surveillance



21-Jun-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is developing a solar-powered stratospheric airship for the Indian Air Force (IAF), aimed at enhancing Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. This airship, capable of operating at altitudes of 17 to 22 kilometers, can remain airborne for weeks, offering a persistent surveillance solution over sensitive borders, particularly against threats from China and Pakistan. Its solar-powered design and advanced sensor systems promise to complement existing military assets like Rafale jets and indigenous missile systems, positioning India strategically amidst regional tensions. Furthermore, the airship's dual-use potential for civilian applications underscores its significance beyond military operations.

Uttam AESA Radar for Tejas Mk1A to be delivered by 2026



21-Jun-25

The first batch of the indigenously developed Uttam Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, set for delivery in 2026, marks a significant advancement in India's defense capabilities under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Approximately 33 radars will be integrated into the Tejas Mk1A Light Combat Aircraft, enhancing its combat performance with features like multi-mode operations and high target tracking capacity. This development not only boosts the Indian Air Force's operational

effectiveness but also positions India as a competitive player in the global defense market, with potential for future exports. The successful integration of this advanced radar system underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in military technology.

DRDO's LRAShM Hypersonic Missile Trials to Finish in 2-3 Years



21-Jun-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is set to conclude trials for the Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRAShM), a hypersonic glide vehicle, within two to three years, with recent successful tests indicating speeds exceeding Mach 10. This missile significantly enhances the Indian Navy's maritime strike capabilities against regional threats, particularly from China and Pakistan, while also offering multi-role versatility for the Army and Air Force. The LRAShM's design, which allows for evasive maneuvers at lower altitudes, ensures it is difficult to intercept, addressing critical operational needs in the Indian Ocean Region and aligning with India's strategic objectives to counter advanced adversarial missile systems.

Indian Navy to Receive Locally Made Falcon 2000 MRA Jets



21-Jun-25

Reliance Infrastructure and Dassault Aviation are collaborating to locally manufacture Falcon 2000 jets in India, offering a specialized maritime variant, the Falcon 2000 MRA, to the Indian Navy. This aircraft is designed for various maritime missions, including surveillance, reconnaissance, and anti-surface warfare, enhancing the Navy's operational capabilities and maritime domain awareness. The initiative aligns with India's Make in India program, aiming to boost indigenous defense production, create jobs, and strengthen the aerospace ecosystem. The Falcon 2000 MRA's versatility positions it as a strategic asset to address both traditional and emerging maritime challenges, reinforcing India's commitment to safeguarding its vast coastline and exclusive economic zone.

Paninian India Launches Svayatt TD-1 Autonomous Target-Decoy System



21-Jun-25

Hyderabad-based Paninian India Pvt Ltd has unveiled the Svayatt TD-1, an Autonomous Target-Decoy (ATD) System designed to enhance India's defense training capabilities. This innovative system features a modular architecture that allows for rapid reconfiguration to simulate various aerial threats, making it a versatile tool for live-fire drills, weapon testing, and tactical countermeasure trials. By accurately replicating high-value threats like missiles and unmanned combat aerial vehicles, the Svayatt TD-1 promises to fill a critical gap in India's defense preparedness, ultimately providing the armed forces with a significant edge in realistic training environments and enhancing operational readiness.

HAL's IMRH/DBMRH Project Progresses with Internal Funding Awaiting Approval



21-Jun-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is advancing its Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH) and naval variant, Deck-Based Multi-Role Helicopter (DBMRH), using internal funding while awaiting government approval, according to HAL Chief Dr. DK Sunil. This initiative aims to replace aging Mi-17 helicopters and enhance capabilities across the Indian Armed Forces, with over 550 helicopters projected to be needed. Designed for diverse environments, the IMRH/DBMRH will feature advanced avionics and modular systems to meet modern operational demands, targeting a prototype flight by 2028 and production by the early 2030s, addressing critical gaps in India's rotary-wing capabilities amid evolving security challenges.

DRDO Engages with Eurodrone Program in Germany to Boost UAVs



21-Jun-25

A team from India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently visited a facility near Munich, Germany, to engage with the Eurodrone program, which aims to enhance India's UAV capabilities. As an

observer in this program since January 2025, India is keen to assess the Eurodrone's advanced technologies, particularly for high-altitude surveillance and maritime reconnaissance. The Eurodrone, designed for ISTAR missions with impressive operational capabilities, aligns with India's military needs along the Line of Actual Control. While India's involvement presents opportunities for technological collaboration and procurement, challenges such as rising costs and program delays may influence future decisions on UAV development in India.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

India to Cut Weapon Procurement Time from 6 Years to 2 Years



21-Jun-25

India's Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh announced plans to reduce weapon procurement timelines from 6 years to just 2, highlighting improvements in capital expenditure and the importance of domestic production. He emphasized the need for quicker field trials and a simplified Defence Acquisition Procedure, aiming for a more competitive environment, especially with projects like the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). Singh dismissed concerns about international isolation as India boosts its defense exports, which have significantly increased since 2014. He reaffirmed the Armed Forces' recent operational successes in the region, asserting the government's commitment to modernizing and strengthening India's defense capabilities.

Indian Defence Ministry Revamps Procurement Rules for Faster Acquisitions



21-Jun-25

The Indian Defence Ministry, led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has initiated a significant overhaul of procurement rules aimed at accelerating acquisitions and empowering the private sector. A special committee will consult with various stakeholders to recommend changes to the Defence Acquisition Procedure, addressing the lengthy procurement process by introducing a fast-track mechanism that could reduce timelines to under six months. This initiative supports the Make in India campaign,

promotes indigenous technology, and seeks to establish India as a global hub for defence manufacturing and MRO services. The proactive approach reflects the government's commitment to enhancing operational readiness and self-reliance in defense production, ultimately boosting the domestic defense industry.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Israel Strikes Isfahan Nuclear Site, Causing Significant Damage

🔒 SHARE

21-Jun-25

Recent Israeli air strikes have intensified with a second wave targeting Iran's Isfahan nuclear complex, including uranium conversion buildings and centrifuge production workshops, further degrading Iran's nuclear infrastructure. Simultaneously, earlier attacks severely damaged facilities at Natanz—especially the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant—and struck the Natanz electrical systems, though deeply buried sites like Fordow remained mostly intact. The operations have resulted in the deaths of senior IRGC commanders and nuclear scientists, along with significant civilian casualties and infrastructure damage. Iran has responded with missile and drone attacks on Israeli territory, triggering Israeli air defense interceptions and some limited civilian harm in Israel. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is closely monitoring the conflict, noting no dangerous radiological leaks so far but warning of chemical hazards and broader nuclear safety concerns. Regional instability is increasing, prompting heightened alert from Gulf states and U.S. military positioning, including the deployment of B-2 bombers near Guam. Diplomatic efforts have floundered, with Iran expressing willingness to talk only if strikes cease, and Israel maintaining its preventive military posture to halt nuclear weapon development. Global reactions vary: Western powers have expressed conditional support for Israel's right to self-defense, while neighboring countries call for immediate de-escalation to prevent a wider regional or international crisis.

British F-35 Stranded in Kerala Raises Questions Amid Media

Silence 🔒 SHARE

21-Jun-25

A British Royal Navy F-35B Lightning II fighter jet has been stranded at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala, India, since June 14, 2025, after making an emergency landing due to low fuel and subsequent hydraulic system failure during military drills with the Indian Navy. Despite initial expectations for a quick departure following refueling, technical malfunctions have delayed the aircraft's takeoff, necessitating the arrival of engineers from Lockheed Martin to address the ongoing issues. The incident has drawn significant attention in Indian media, contrasting sharply with the limited coverage in British outlets, raising suspicions of potential suppression by the UK Ministry of Defence to avoid embarrassment regarding the F-35 program's reliability. While the Indian Air Force and local authorities have provided extensive support, including security and accommodation for the jet, the Royal Navy's reluctance to accept further assistance, such as relocating the aircraft to a hangar, has sparked discussion about operational preparedness and maintenance practices during overseas deployments. This incident not only highlights logistical challenges faced by advanced military platforms but also underscores the broader implications for international defense cooperation, as the grounding of a key asset jeopardizes operational readiness and raises questions about the future of Britain's F-35 capabilities amidst ongoing scrutiny of the program's high costs and technical issues.

India to assist in evacuating Nepalese, Sri Lankans from Iran

🔒 SHARE

21-Jun-25

India is undertaking Operation Sindhu to evacuate its nationals and, upon requests from Nepal and Sri Lanka, will also assist in evacuating citizens from these countries amid escalating tensions in Iran due to military actions involving Israel. The Indian Embassy in Tehran has initiated emergency support measures, including contact numbers and a Telegram channel for coordination. So far, 517 Indian citizens have returned safely, with additional flights organized to evacuate around 1,000

more, primarily students. This operation underscores India's commitment to protecting its citizens and its proactive approach to regional instability, reflecting a broader diplomatic and humanitarian strategy in crisis management.

Rajnath Singh to attend SCO defense ministers' meeting in China.



21-Jun-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) defense ministers' conclave in Qingdao, China, from June 25 to 27, marking the first visit by a senior Indian official since tensions escalated in 2020 due to the military standoff in eastern Ladakh. Singh may hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese Defence Minister Admiral Dong Jun amidst ongoing efforts to normalize relations, following recent disengagement agreements. This visit underscores India's commitment to diplomatic engagement and regional stability, reflecting a cautious but constructive approach to managing ties with China, especially after the revival of dialogue mechanisms agreed upon by Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping.

Iran warns US involvement in Israel conflict could escalate danger.



21-Jun-25

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has warned that US military involvement in the ongoing conflict with Israel could be "very dangerous for everyone." His comments came as discussions in Geneva failed to yield diplomatic progress, with Araghchi indicating that Tehran is unwilling to negotiate with the US while Israel continues its military actions. The escalating tensions highlight the complex dynamics in the region, where US intervention could exacerbate conflicts rather than promote stability. This situation underscores the importance of carefully evaluating the repercussions of external involvement in Middle Eastern disputes, especially given the volatile backdrop of Iranian-Israeli relations.

US Withdraws Troops and Aircraft from Qatar Amid Iran-Israel Tensions



21-Jun-25

The U.S. has removed nearly 40 military aircraft from Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar amid escalating Iran-Israel tensions, limiting access to the base due to security concerns. Approximately 40,000 U.S. troops are currently stationed in the region, reflecting an increase from typical peacetime levels. The U.S. is enhancing its naval presence with multiple carrier strike groups deployed to safeguard personnel. This military escalation, marked by Israel's Operation Rising Sun against Iranian targets and Iran's retaliatory strikes, raises fears of a broader regional conflict, highlighting the delicate balance of power and the complexities of U.S. engagement in Middle Eastern geopolitics.

Houthis threaten US vessels if America supports Israel against Iran



21-Jun-25

The Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have issued a warning to the United States, threatening to target US vessels in the Red Sea if the Trump administration becomes involved in Israel's military actions against Iran. Houthi military spokesman Brig Gen Yahya Saree articulated this stance in a video statement, indicating that American involvement would provoke retaliatory measures against US naval forces. This situation underscores the volatile dynamics in the region, as the Houthis leverage their capabilities to influence geopolitical tensions, particularly in the context of the US-Israel-Iran conflict, which could potentially destabilize maritime security and heighten regional hostilities.

Iran Deems European Nuclear Proposals Unrealistic for Talks



21-Jun-25

A senior Iranian official dismissed the European proposals regarding Iran's nuclear program as unrealistic, suggesting that insistence on such terms would hinder any potential agreement. He emphasized that Iran would review these proposals internally and respond in the next

meeting, reiterating that zero enrichment is not an option and asserting that Iran will not negotiate its defensive capabilities, particularly its missile program. This perspective indicates Iran's steadfast commitment to its nuclear ambitions and military defenses, posing challenges for diplomatic negotiations and emphasizing the complexities of the geopolitical landscape surrounding nuclear disarmament and regional security in the Middle East.

Pak Army Chief Asim Munir Promotes Regional Peace During US Visit

 **SHARE**

21-Jun-25

General Asim Munir of the Pakistan Army recently visited the US, where he met with former President Trump and discussed Pakistan's role in regional peace and counter-terrorism efforts amid rising tensions with India. He emphasized Pakistan's sacrifices in combating terrorism and advocated for dialogue and restraint, referencing military operations aimed at defending sovereignty. Munir also highlighted Pakistan's economic potential in sectors like IT and agriculture, inviting international collaboration. This visit reflects Pakistan's commitment to fostering strategic partnerships and transparent diplomacy, crucial for regional stability; however, it underscores the ongoing challenges posed by hybrid warfare strategies from certain regional actors, including India.

India Boosts Defense Readiness Amid China Tensions and Strategic Shifts

 **SHARE**

21-Jun-25

India's Defence Secretary emphasized the need for heightened military readiness due to low trust with China, while highlighting a strategic shift post-Operation Sindoor that targets command centers, not just foot soldiers. The successful use of indigenous systems like BrahMos showcases India's growing defense capabilities amid ongoing tensions with Pakistan and a burgeoning China-Turkey-Pakistan nexus. He noted reforms in defense procurement to expedite processes and foster competition, while advocating for the scaling up of military-grade drone manufacturing. Singh also confirmed the continuation of dialogues with global powers for critical technologies, reinforcing India's

commitment to self-reliance in defense amidst evolving geopolitical challenges.

China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh hold first trilateral ministerial meeting.

21-Jun-25

China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh recently held their inaugural trilateral ministerial meeting in Kunming, focusing on enhancing cooperation among the three nations. This meeting, part of China's strategic initiative to strengthen ties in South Asia, emphasizes the importance of these countries as partners in the Belt and Road Initiative. In his address, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong highlighted their shared interests in promoting regional peace and stability. While this development underscores China's growing influence in India's immediate neighborhood, it also calls for India to bolster its own diplomatic and defense strategies to counterbalance these emerging partnerships.

India Declares Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan Will Not Be Restored

21-Jun-25

India has declared it will never restore the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan, diverting water that would have flowed to Pakistan for internal use, as stated by Home Minister Amit Shah. This unilateral decision follows a suspension of India's participation in the treaty after violence in Kashmir, which India attributed to Pakistan, a claim Islamabad denies. Shah emphasized plans to construct a canal to reroute water to Rajasthan, highlighting India's stance towards Pakistan amid ongoing tensions. This move reflects a strategic shift in India's water management policy, reinforcing its position in regional geopolitics and asserting control over vital resources in the face of perceived provocations from Pakistan.

India Launches Rafale Marine Program, Strengthening Naval Power

21-Jun-25

India has officially launched the Rafale Marine programme, enhancing its strategic partnership with France and signifying India's commitment to modernizing its naval capabilities. The

programme will equip the Indian Navy with 26 Rafale M jets for a total value of approximately \$7.4 billion, aimed at replacing the aging MiG-29K fleet. This initiative, part of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, includes technology transfers and local production, thereby boosting indigenous capabilities. The Rafale M's adaptability for Indian carriers and integration of advanced weapons align with India's growing defense needs in the Indian Ocean Region, reinforcing its position as a regional maritime power.

Military Operations

U.S. Deploys B-2 Bombers Amid Rising Israel-Iran Tensions



21-Jun-25

The article discusses tensions within the Trump administration concerning national security, particularly regarding Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard's cautious stance on foreign military interventions and her assessments of Iran's nuclear ambitions. President Trump expressed dissatisfaction with Gabbard over her public statements, suggesting they could heighten fears of nuclear conflict. Despite their disagreements, Gabbard retains influential supporters who advocate for a restrained foreign policy, emphasizing diplomacy over military action. As the situation evolves, there are concerns about the implications of U.S. military strikes on Iran, highlighting the delicate balance between interventionist and restrained approaches in U.S. foreign policy.

Israel's military kills Iranian commander linked to Hamas.



21-Jun-25

Israel's military announced the assassination of Saeed Izadi, a senior Iranian commander linked to Hamas, in Qom, Iran, amid an escalating conflict following Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. This targeted operation supposedly eliminated key figures, including other Iranian commanders responsible for coordinating attacks against Israel. Israel's military strategy aims at crippling Iran's military capabilities and thwarting its nuclear ambitions, marking a significant escalation in the ongoing hostilities. As Iran claims numerous casualties

from Israeli strikes, this situation highlights the heightened tensions and complexities in regional geopolitics, with Israel firmly asserting its right to defend itself against perceived threats.

Ukraine Accuses Russia of Misidentifying Bodies in Exchange



21-Jun-25

Kyiv has accused Moscow of failing to verify the identities of fallen soldiers during recent war dead exchanges, claiming they received the bodies of 20 Russian soldiers instead of Ukrainians. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky suggested this may be a deliberate tactic by Russia to inflate the reported number of Ukrainian casualties. The ongoing conflict has resulted in significant losses on both sides, with Ukraine currently estimating 695,000 Russian troops in its territory. The body repatriation process, initiated during peace talks, remains one of the few collaborative efforts amid the ongoing hostilities. This situation highlights the complexities and challenges of wartime negotiations and the human cost of the conflict.

Barak-8 Air Defence System Successfully Intercepts Iranian Drone



21-Jun-25

India's Barak-8 air defence system, developed with Israel, made its operational debut in the Iran-Israel conflict by successfully intercepting Iranian drones targeting Tel Aviv. This advanced missile system, featuring a range of up to 100 km and multi-target engagement capabilities, underscores the strategic value of Indo-Israeli defence collaboration. Its effectiveness is evidenced by prior successes in India's own operations, enhancing its reputation for countering aerial threats. The combat success of Barak-8 not only reinforces bilateral defence ties but also positions it as a pivotal player in modern air defence, attracting global attention and sales valued at over \$1.2 billion.

India Faces Dual Drone Threats from Pakistan and Bangladesh



21-Jun-25

India faces a growing drone threat from both Pakistan and Bangladesh, primarily driven by the deployment of Turkish Bayraktar-TB2 drones in

Bangladesh. These drones, capable of extensive surveillance and strike operations, pose a significant challenge to Indian military infrastructure, particularly in the strategically critical Siliguri Corridor. The evolving situation reflects a potential trilateral alignment among Turkey, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, prompting Indian defense officials to enhance surveillance and counter-drone capabilities. As military tensions rise, India must urgently reassess its security strategies to address this two-front UAV threat and maintain its regional dominance amidst increasing high-tech asymmetric challenges.

military and intelligence capabilities. These operations reflect a broader Baloch nationalist effort to reclaim control over Balochistan, signaling a significant escalation in their resistance. The ongoing violence highlights the deteriorating security situation in the region, indicating that the BLA is both willing and able to directly challenge Pakistani authority, thereby complicating Pakistan's internal security landscape.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Indian Army Develops Indigenous Post-Quantum Cryptography Applications



21-Jun-25

The Indian Army has made a significant advancement in securing its communications by developing indigenous post-quantum cryptography (PQC) applications, aligning with its declaration of 2024 as the 'Year of Technology Absorption.' This initiative aims to bolster military capabilities and ensure readiness against potential threats posed by future quantum computing advancements. The PQC technology, developed by the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering in Mhow, is designed to protect sensitive military communications against possible future quantum attacks, addressing the vulnerability of traditional cryptographic systems. This proactive stance reflects the Army's commitment to technological self-reliance and supports India's broader vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India), reducing dependency on foreign technologies for critical defense systems. The initiative is part of a long-term strategy, including the 'Decade of Transformation,' which emphasizes modernization, technology infusion, and overall enhancement of operational capabilities. The integration of PQC not only strengthens the Army's secure communication capabilities across various domains but also contributes to its combat readiness in modern warfare scenarios increasingly reliant on secure information exchange. Through continued investment in quantum technologies, the Indian Army is positioning itself to effectively tackle future security challenges while maintaining a

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Operation Sindoor: India's Strong Response to Terrorism



21-Jun-25

Operation Sindoor marks a pivotal shift in India's counter-terrorism approach, launched in retaliation to the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. The operation targeted terror infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir using indigenous precision weaponry such as BrahMos and Akash missiles. It showcased India's transition from reactive to preemptive strategy, with Defense Minister Rajnath Singh today affirming that India would no longer tolerate cross-border terrorism. The success of the operation, which reportedly prompted Pakistan to seek a ceasefire, demonstrated India's military capability and strategic dominance. Emphasizing self-reliance, the operation highlighted India's growing defense manufacturing strength and its readiness to respond decisively to future threats, reinforcing its evolving doctrine and security posture in the region.

Baloch Liberation Army Launches Attacks on Pakistani Forces



21-Jun-25

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has intensified its campaign against Pakistan, executing armed attacks in Hoshab and Kolwah, resulting in the deaths of at least five Pakistani soldiers. The BLA has also captured and executed a Pakistani Military Intelligence operative, suggesting a strategic focus on undermining Pakistan's

strategic edge in an evolving technological landscape.

Researchers report 16 billion login credentials leaked online. SHARE

21-Jun-25

Researchers at Cybernews have reported an alarming breach involving 16 billion login credentials, marking one of the largest data leaks in history, which they describe as the “mother of all breaches.” This massive leak is not attributed to a single event but is a compilation from various past breaches, giving criminals unprecedented access to users' accounts across popular platforms like Google, Facebook, and Apple. Users are urged to check if their credentials have been compromised using sites like HaveIBeenPwned and to immediately change their passwords if their information is found exposed. Experts advise maintaining strong, unique passwords for different accounts and implementing multifactor authentication to enhance security. The emergence of advanced infostealers highlights the importance of cybersecurity hygiene as data breaches become more prevalent. This situation underscores the urgent need for individuals and organizations to adopt robust cybersecurity measures to safeguard against the growing threat of digital vulnerabilities, which could have significant implications for privacy and national security. As digital landscapes become increasingly complex, enhancing awareness and implementing necessary precautions are essential to mitigate risks associated with such massive data breaches.

Canada reports Chinese-linked hackers compromise telecom network. SHARE

21-Jun-25

Canada's cybersecurity agency reported that hackers linked to China, specifically the group Salt Typhoon, have compromised network devices in a Canadian telecommunications company, raising concerns about the security of domestic infrastructure. The FBI and Canadian authorities have cautioned organizations to bolster their defenses against these state-sponsored cyber threats, which appear to extend beyond telecommunications. Despite Beijing's denials of involvement, the ongoing cyber

activities highlight the persistent risks posed by state actors in the digital domain. This situation underscores the need for robust cybersecurity measures, especially for nations like India that face similar geopolitical challenges and threats from state-sponsored cyber activities.

Investigation into Possible Use of EMP Devices in Arabian Sea Incidents SHARE

21-Jun-25

A probe has been initiated into the potential use of high-power microwave (HPM) or electromagnetic pulse (EMP) devices linked to recent maritime incidents in the Arabian Sea, a crucial trade route. Evidence of EMP-level electromagnetic activity has raised alarms among maritime insurers and authorities, prompting investigations into possible deliberate attacks by state or non-state actors. The implications are significant, as confirmed use of such technology could necessitate a reevaluation of global maritime security protocols and increased investments in countermeasures by shipping companies. Collaborative efforts between Indian and international agencies underscore the serious nature of these threats and the need for enhanced surveillance in vulnerable maritime areas.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Over 11,000 Navy Personnel and Families to Celebrate Yoga Day in Andhra SHARE

21-Jun-25

Over 11,000 naval personnel and their families from the Eastern Naval Command will participate in the International Day of Yoga celebrations in Visakhapatnam, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event will feature yoga sessions on land and at sea, with naval ships symbolizing the Indian Navy's commitment to yoga and holistic well-being. This year's theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," emphasizes the importance of wellness in a global context. Such initiatives reflect the Navy's dedication to national values and community engagement, showcasing the

harmonious integration of military readiness with cultural and health-oriented initiatives.

Panchshil Soldierathon: Honoring Indian Armed Forces Heroes



21-Jun-25

The Panchshil Bombay Sappers Soldierathon, scheduled for June 29 at the BEG Centre Dighi, serves as a tribute to the valor and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces, inviting over 5,000 participants including civilians and defense personnel. Key figures like General V.K. Singh and Major Dr. Surendra Poonia emphasize the event's dual purpose of promoting fitness and honoring the bravery of soldiers. This significant initiative not only celebrates India's military heritage but also fosters unity and patriotism among citizens. The event encapsulates the spirit of collective gratitude towards those who protect the nation's sovereignty, enhancing community engagement and national pride.

Miscellaneous

Iran reports 430 dead, 3,500 injured amid Israel conflict escalation.



21-Jun-25

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran has escalated significantly, with Iran reporting at least 430 fatalities and 3,500 injuries since the war's onset on June 13. Israel has intensified its airstrikes, targeting Iranian military and nuclear sites, including missile production facilities. These strikes have reportedly resulted in the deaths of Iranian nuclear scientists and damage to medical facilities, raising humanitarian concerns. In retaliation, Iran has launched missile barrages towards Israeli cities, causing casualties and infrastructure damage. Iranian officials have condemned Israel's actions, calling them a betrayal of diplomatic negotiations that were previously anticipated with the U.S. and Europe regarding Iran's nuclear program. The situation remains precarious, as diplomats, including the Iranian Foreign Minister, express a willingness to resume dialogue only if hostilities cease. This conflict highlights the complexities of regional security dynamics, particularly as Israel seeks to counter perceived Iranian aggression while the latter insists on its right to defend itself

against airstrikes. The international community, particularly the U.N. and the IAEA, is increasingly alarmed about the potential for a broader regional conflict stemming from these hostilities, especially concerning Iran's nuclear capabilities.

Operation Sindhu: 517 Indians evacuated from Iran amid tensions.



21-Jun-25

More than 500 Indian nationals have been successfully evacuated from Iran under Operation Sindhu, initiated by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) amidst escalating military tensions between Iran and Israel. The operation was launched as a response to the deteriorating security situation following Israel's airstrikes on Iranian sites, prompting the Indian government to act swiftly. The Indian Embassy in Tehran has played a pivotal role in coordinating the evacuations, which have involved both direct flights and cross-border movements, notably including students from Urmia Medical University who were first relocated to Armenia. Returnees have expressed their gratitude for the government's effective handling of the crisis, highlighting the cooperation from Iranian authorities, who allowed exceptions to airspace closures for the evacuation flights. The ongoing operation also extends support to citizens of neighboring countries, showcasing India's commitment to the safety and welfare of its nationals abroad. This concerted effort not only underscores the importance of diplomatic agility in crisis situations but also reflects India's proactive approach to safeguarding its citizens in an increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape.

Sonia Gandhi Urges India to Uphold Diplomatic Values Amid Gaza Crisis.



21-Jun-25

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has strongly criticized the Indian government's silence on Israel's military actions in Gaza and Iran, arguing it marks a troubling shift from India's traditional diplomatic stance that championed peace, non-alignment, and support for a two-state solution. She condemned the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, warning that India's failure to speak up undermines its moral and strategic credibility, especially given its historical ties with Iran and

close partnership with Israel. Emphasizing the vulnerability of Indian citizens in the region, Gandhi urged the government to reassert its commitment to diplomacy and condemn disproportionate military responses. She called for India to actively promote de-escalation and uphold humanitarian values in the face of growing regional instability.

Indian Air Force Conducts Overnight Organ Airlift, Saves Lives

21-Jun-25

In a commendable demonstration of efficiency, the Indian Air Force (IAF) executed an overnight organ airlift from Pune to Delhi, transporting a liver and two kidneys to save lives. This mission, facilitated by the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS), underscores the IAF's commitment to humanitarian efforts alongside national security. The organs were donated by the family of a serving soldier, exemplifying selflessness in the face of personal tragedy. Such operations highlight the seamless coordination between the armed forces and their dedication to serving humanity, reinforcing the ethos of "Service Before Self" integral to India's military personnel.

International Yoga Day 2025 Celebrated with Record Participation

21-Jun-25

On June 21, 2025, International Yoga Day was celebrated with significant enthusiasm across India, notably in Visakhapatnam, where the event set a Guinness record for the largest number of participants performing Surya Namaskar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the global adoption of yoga, which has spread to 175 countries since the UN recognized the day in 2014. Indian Air Force personnel and various government officials, including Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, participated in yoga sessions, reinforcing the importance of wellness in the armed forces. The widespread participation of citizens and security forces highlights yoga's role in promoting unity and holistic health in the country.

Sebi introduces 5-point AI rulebook for securities market regulation.

21-Jun-25

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is formulating a 5-point AI rulebook to guide the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in securities markets, aiming to balance innovation with regulation. The proposed principles include model governance, mandatory disclosure, robust testing, bias prevention, and data security. Sebi stresses the need for internal teams to oversee AI models, emphasizes transparency to investors, and enforces strict monitoring protocols. This initiative reflects a proactive approach to harness AI's potential while ensuring investor protection and maintaining market integrity, signaling India's commitment to integrating advanced technologies responsibly in the financial sector.

UAE Extradites Fugitive in 12-Year-Old Counterfeit Currency Case

21-Jun-25

A fugitive named Moideenabba Ummer Beary, wanted for a 12-year-old fake currency case, was extradited from the UAE to India after a coordinated effort by the CBI and the NIA. Beary was arrested in the UAE in 2015 and was implicated in procuring and trafficking high-quality fake Indian currency notes into India. His extradition follows extensive investigations and the issuance of an Interpol red notice. This operation underscores India's commitment to combating counterfeiting and enhancing international cooperation in law enforcement, reflecting an effective collaboration between Indian authorities and foreign jurisdictions in addressing transnational crime.

Omar Abdullah criticizes U.S. for prioritizing its own interests

21-Jun-25

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah criticized the U.S., asserting that it prioritizes its interests over relationships with other nations, in response to President Trump's lunch with Pakistan's army chief. He expressed concerns about the Iran-Israel conflict,

advocating for a resolution through dialogue rather than violence. Abdullah also highlighted the success of the Vande Bharat train service in Jammu and Kashmir, calling for increased capacity to accommodate demand. He emphasized the need for clarity in governance, urging the lieutenant governor to finalize business rules while reaffirming that security remains the primary responsibility of the LG.

Pakistan nominates Trump for Nobel Peace Prize over India tensions



21-Jun-25

Pakistan has nominated former U.S. President Donald Trump for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize, citing his supposed pivotal role in mediating the recent India-Pakistan conflict. Trump has publicly claimed credit for easing tensions, although Indian authorities dispute his assertions. He has expressed confidence that he deserves the award, arguing that it is overlooked due to his political stance. This nomination can be seen as an attempt by Pakistan to elevate Trump's

influence while reinforcing its narrative of seeking international mediation in its disputes with India, amid India's ongoing commitment to self-reliance and robust defense strategies.

ONGC Achieves Highest Well-Digging in 35 Years with 578 Wells



21-Jun-25

The Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced that ONGC has dug 578 wells in 2024-25, marking the highest output in 35 years, a move driven by Prime Minister Modi's policy changes aimed at enhancing India's energy self-reliance. Recent discoveries in the Mumbai Offshore hydrocarbon basin, namely Suryamani and Vajramani, alongside another find in the KG basin, are expected to boost domestic production, which is critical as India currently relies on imports for about 85% of its oil needs. Strengthening exploration and production is essential for India to reduce import dependence and secure energy sovereignty, reflecting a strategic pivot towards self-sufficiency in energy resources.

Disclaimer: This newsletter provides an independent analysis of news articles and reports published across various media outlets over the past 24 hours. The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the publishers or any affiliated organizations. The publishers are not responsible for the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of the content analyzed and make no representations regarding the information contained herein. Readers are encouraged to consult original sources for verification and further context; access to the list of original sources analysed can be made available upon request via email.

Subscribe to DefenceProfessionals Whatsapp Channel

