



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### BrahMos-NG Missile: A Game Changer for Targeting Enemy Assets

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22-Jun-25

The Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is gearing up for trials of the BrahMos-NG, a next-generation air-launched cruise missile capable of reaching speeds up to Mach 3.5 and designed to enhance India's precision strike capabilities. With a projected production clearance by mid-2027, the BrahMos-NG is being developed to target high-value aerial assets such as AWACS and tanker aircraft, effectively crippling enemy logistics and surveillance from a safe distance. This lighter variant, weighing approximately 1.3 tonnes, can be integrated into various platforms, including the Su-30MKI and Tejas, allowing for multiple missile configurations per aircraft. The trials, set to begin in July 2026, will focus on testing the missile's performance under real-world conditions, thereby streamlining development and accelerating its induction into the Indian Air Force (IAF). This advancement not only showcases India's growing expertise in missile technology but also reinforces its strategic defense posture in the region, providing a significant edge in modern warfare by disrupting enemy operational capabilities and enhancing deterrence. The BrahMos-NG's development marks a pivotal step in India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing and its ability to counter hostile forces effectively.

### Indian Navy's Maritime Awareness Sets Global Security Standards

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22-Jun-25

India's advanced maritime domain awareness, anchored by a comprehensive Coastal Surveillance Network and sophisticated satellite assets, counters claims of vulnerabilities made by Pakistan regarding the Indian Navy's preparedness. The Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region exemplifies India's

commitment to cooperative maritime security, synthesizing data from multiple sources and enhancing regional partnerships. India's superiority in electronic warfare and secure communications ensures operational dominance, as demonstrated in large-scale naval exercises like TROPEX 2025. Overall, India's robust maritime capabilities and international collaborations clearly reinforce its role as a trusted security provider in the Indo-Pacific, dispelling adversarial narratives and setting a global benchmark in maritime security.

### Delays in Apache Attack Helicopter Deliveries Persist

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The Indian Army's Apache attack helicopter squadron remains non-operational due to delays in deliveries from Boeing, with no helicopters received as of June 2025. The initial challenges stemmed from India's low ranking in the US Defense Priorities and Allocations System, which delayed the supply of critical components. Although these issues were resolved, ongoing global supply chain disruptions and technical concerns regarding electrical systems have further postponed delivery, originally expected by December 2024. Meanwhile, the Army is modernizing its capabilities with the induction of indigenous Light Combat Helicopters and acquiring MQ-9B drones, highlighting India's commitment to enhancing its defense posture despite external setbacks.

### India Plans ₹3,500-5,000 Crore Scheme for Rare Earth Magnets

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India is set to invest between ₹3,500 crore to ₹5,000 crore in a scheme aimed at bolstering its domestic production of rare earth magnets, responding to China's export restrictions that have disrupted global supply chains. With significant reserves yet a historically weak manufacturing base, the initiative seeks to incentivize local companies to enhance production efficiency through a reverse auction process, potentially alleviating India's reliance on imports from China. This

strategic move is critical for supporting India's automotive and technology sectors, positioning the nation as a competitive player in the rare earth magnet market, and ultimately enhancing its manufacturing capabilities and green energy aspirations.

## DRDO's VISR-AX Enhances Airborne ISR for Navy and Coast Guard



22-Jun-25

India's DRDO has developed the VISR-AX, a next-gen AESA transceiver enhancing airborne ISR capabilities for the Navy and Coast Guard. Set for integration in C-295-based platforms, it features advanced functionality like high-resolution SAR/ISAR imaging and multi-mode operations, significantly improving maritime surveillance and reconnaissance. The system addresses regional security challenges, particularly concerning increasing Chinese naval activities, and enhances capabilities against underwater threats through the Medium-Range Maritime Reconnaissance platform. The VISR-AX exemplifies India's commitment to indigenous defense technology, providing a robust and multi-faceted approach to modern warfare and maritime security, while supporting environmental monitoring through pollution surveillance roles.

## Rafale Marine's Meteor Launch Sparks Concerns on IAF's Capabilities



22-Jun-25

The successful launch of the Meteor missile by the French Navy's Rafale Marine has raised questions about the Indian Air Force's (IAF) integration of the advanced BVRAAM on its 36 Rafale jets. Speculation suggests that the IAF may not have fully operationalized the Meteor during the recent Operation Sindoor despite its procurement, potentially due to integration challenges or a focus on ground attack missions. Critics argue that the absence of Meteor usage may compromise the IAF's air superiority against adversaries equipped with comparable missiles like the PL-15E. The situation highlights the importance of ensuring that the IAF maximizes its technological edge in future engagements.

## ADA Develops S1000D-Compliant Cell for Tejas MkII Documentation



22-Jun-25

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) of India is establishing an S1000D-compliant Publication Cell to enhance the technical documentation for its indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Air Force (AF) Mk2 program. This initiative aims to streamline the

generation of technical publications, aligning them with aircraft development timelines and improving collaboration between design teams and documentation specialists. By categorizing publications into Fleet and Flight manuals, ADA will ensure that maintenance and operational needs of the Indian Air Force (IAF) are met efficiently. This progressive step not only modernizes ADA's processes but also sets a crucial precedent for enhancing the overall quality of India's defense production ecosystem.

## IAF Plans Increased Procurement of Adani's Agnikaa AR Munition



22-Jun-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is focused on expanding its procurement of the Adani-manufactured Agnikaa AR loitering munition, following its successful use of the Harop system during Operation Sindoor. The Agnikaa AR, developed in collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries, has demonstrated effectiveness in neutralizing advanced enemy air defenses, particularly those supplied by China to Pakistan. This initiative aligns with India's self-reliance goals, enhancing precision strike and suppression capabilities. The IAF's interest in the Agnikaa AR underscores its commitment to bolstering air defense strategies amid geopolitical tensions, reflecting a significant advancement in India's domestic defense manufacturing capabilities.

## France Tests MICA NG Missile, Paving Way for Rafale Upgrade in India



22-Jun-25

France recently conducted a successful test of the MICA NG missile from a Rafale aircraft, enhancing its air combat capabilities. For India, which operates 36 Rafale jets and is set to induct 26 Rafale-M jets, the MICA NG represents a potential future upgrade, although deliveries may not occur before 2028-29 due to production timelines. While the missile boasts significant improvements, including extended range and advanced seeker technology, India will rely on existing MICA variants in the interim, potentially limiting its edge against adversaries like China. The Indian Defence Acquisition Council is evaluating procurement options, indicating a strategic focus on bolstering India's air combat capabilities in the long term.

## IAF Shows Interest in Boeing's C-17 Production Resumption Amid Cost Issues



22-Jun-25

Boeing's potential restart of C-17 Globemaster III production has piqued the Indian Air Force's (IAF) interest, as it contemplates acquiring four to five additional units to enhance its strategic airlift capabilities. While the IAF currently operates 11 C-17s, concerns about rising costs for new units in 2025 could complicate plans to replace its aging Ilyushin Il-76 fleet. The C-17 is recognized for its significant payload capacity and operational versatility, which have proven invaluable in various missions, including humanitarian efforts. Despite the production halt in 2015, global interest in the C-17 remains strong, indicating its strategic relevance in modern airlift operations.

## Tejas Mk1A Unveils Dual-Pylon for Enhanced Combat Readiness



22-Jun-25

The recent display of the Tejas Mk1A fighter jet at Aero India 2025 showcased its advanced Dual-Pylon configuration capable of carrying ASRAAM missiles, significantly enhancing its air-to-air combat versatility. Developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), this upgrade allows the Tejas Mk1A to carry more munitions while maintaining agility, thereby addressing the Indian Air Force's pressing need for modern multirole fighters amid regional security challenges from China and Pakistan. The integration of indigenous systems like the Astra missile further promotes India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing, aligning with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and bolstering the IAF's combat capabilities in contested environments.

## Indian Navy's 20th MH-60R Seahawk in Flight Testing Ahead of Delivery



22-Jun-25

The Indian Navy's acquisition of 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters is progressing well, with the 20th unit, IN770, recently spotted during flight testing in the U.S. This delivery, part of a \$2.12 billion deal, will significantly enhance India's anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region by replacing the aging Sea King fleet. The advanced features of the MH-60R, including its sophisticated sensors and weapons suite, position it as a crucial asset for India's maritime security. The complete fleet is expected to be operational by the end of 2025, supporting strategic naval operations from key aircraft carriers.

## India Enhances S-400 with Indigenous Systems Against Hypersonic Threats



22-Jun-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is enhancing its S-400 air defense systems by integrating indigenous missile systems to counter potential hypersonic threats from Pakistan, especially following a failed attack on the S-400 using a Chinese missile. To fortify its defenses, the IAF plans to deploy the Very Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) and Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM). This initiative aligns with India's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' policy, promoting self-reliance in defense production. Ultimately, the IAF aims to maintain its strategic advantage by creating a resilient, multi-layered air defense network to effectively neutralize evolving aerial threats from regional adversaries.

## Public-Private-Academic Collaboration to Enhance AMCA Jet's Capabilities



22-Jun-25

India is advancing its indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program by fostering a public-private-academic collaboration to enhance AI, autonomous systems, and Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T) capabilities. The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) aims to integrate cutting-edge technologies into this fifth-generation stealth fighter, with a development budget of approximately 15,000 crore for five prototypes. The initiative is aligned with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision and is designed to boost combat effectiveness through innovations like an AI-driven "Electronic Pilot." With the first prototype expected to fly by 2029 and full operational induction by 2035, India is set to join a select group of nations with indigenous fifth-generation fighter capabilities.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

## India Not in Formal Talks for Su-57E or F-35, Says Defence Sec.



22-Jun-25

India's Defence Secretary, Rajesh Kumar Singh, has clarified that the government is not currently holding formal discussions for the procurement of advanced fifth-generation fighter aircraft like the Russian Su-57E or the American F-35, despite informal talks and speculation. He emphasized India's commitment to indigenous defense development through the Advanced

Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program, which aims to produce a stealth multirole fighter by the early 2030s. The AMCA will incorporate cutting-edge technologies and is a strategic shift toward self-reliance, reducing dependence on foreign suppliers. Singh also noted a significant decline in India's reliance on Russian defense equipment from 65-70% to around 40%, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. With the Indian Air Force facing a shortage of squadrons against a backdrop of increased Chinese stealth fighter capabilities, the AMCA program is crucial for enhancing India's air defense posture. This comprehensive approach not only signifies a shift in procurement philosophy but also positions India to potentially become a key player in the global aerospace market while ensuring strategic autonomy against evolving regional threats. The success of the AMCA could serve as a model for future defense programs, ultimately transforming India's aerospace landscape.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### U.S. Strikes on Iran's Nuclear Sites Escalate Regional Tensions

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22-Jun-25

The Israel-Iran conflict has sharply escalated following coordinated U.S. airstrikes on Iran's key nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan, carried out in response to Israeli operations aimed at weakening Tehran's military infrastructure. U.S. President Donald Trump hailed the strikes as a decisive success, claiming total destruction of the targeted sites, while Iranian leaders issued strong warnings of imminent retaliation, including threats to U.S. regional assets. Strategic attention has turned to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet in Bahrain, which is essential for securing the Strait of Hormuz—a critical chokepoint for global oil shipments. Analysts fear Iran might respond by disrupting maritime traffic or striking U.S. allies, actions that could spike oil prices and strain global economies, particularly energy-dependent nations like India. Positioned with longstanding ties to Iran and growing defense cooperation with Israel, India may find itself diplomatically leveraged as a potential mediator. As tensions rise, the risk of a broader conflict looms, raising urgent concerns about regional stability and the global economic fallout from prolonged hostilities in the Middle East.

### Home Minister Amit Shah declares End of Indus Water Treaty

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22-Jun-25

The recent statements by Indian Home Minister Amit Shah affirming that India will not restore the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan have intensified tensions between the two nations. Shah's declaration follows India's suspension of the treaty after a deadly terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which the Indian government attributed to Pakistan's support for cross-border terrorism. He emphasized plans to redirect water previously flowing to Pakistan, asserting that the nation has unjustly received this water. Pakistan's Foreign Office condemned India's actions as a violation of international law and labeled them as "water aggression," with Pakistani leaders warning that any obstruction of river water will be seen as an act of war. Despite a recent ceasefire, the treaty remains dormant, and Pakistan's calls for negotiations have gone unanswered. The situation signals a significant shift from decades of water-sharing cooperation, potentially destabilizing regional dynamics and impacting agricultural livelihoods in Pakistan. India's firm position reflects its commitment to national security, but it risks escalating diplomatic confrontations and undermining the principles of international water treaties, which traditionally promote cooperation even amid conflict.

### FATF report ties seized dual-use equipment to Pakistan's missile agency.

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22-Jun-25

A recent FATF report links dual-use equipment seized by India in 2020 from a Pakistan-bound vessel to Pakistan's National Development Complex, which is involved in missile development. The Indian authorities intercepted the vessel for misdeclaring autoclaves essential for missile construction as industrial dryers, highlighting vulnerabilities in the global financial system regarding the financing of weapons of mass destruction. The report underscores the need for stronger compliance measures globally, as only 16% of countries effectively implement financial sanctions against proliferation. This emphasizes India's proactive role in countering illegal arms trade and enforcing international norms related to missile technology.

### Jaishankar: Navigating regional ties requires resilience and strategy.

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22-Jun-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of stability in India's relationships with neighboring countries, acknowledging that challenges



exist but asserting that cooperation with India brings benefits. He highlighted improvements in border infrastructure and strategic posture amidst tensions with China and Pakistan, mentioning key counter-terrorism initiatives under the Modi government. Jaishankar also noted the significance of a multipolar world for India's foreign policy, advocating for maintaining relationships with various global powers to enhance influence and stability. The discussion reflects India's proactive approach in navigating regional volatility while reinforcing its national interests and security.

## **Pakistan Condemns US Attacks on Iran After Nominating Trump for Nobel**



22-Jun-25

Pakistan condemned the recent US attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, labeling them a violation of international law and warning of potential regional escalation. This condemnation followed Pakistan's proposal to nominate US President Trump for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize due to his diplomatic role in the India-Pakistan conflict. The Foreign Office emphasized the need for dialogue among stakeholders to resolve the crisis, highlighting that any further escalation could have severe implications. This situation underscores the complexity of geopolitical dynamics in South Asia and the Middle East, where military actions and diplomatic efforts frequently intersect, impacting regional stability and international relations.

## **Gulf Markets Rise Amid U.S. Strike on Iran, Favoring Stability**



22-Jun-25

Markets in the Gulf region ended mostly higher after the U.S. struck Iranian nuclear sites, signaling potential intervention in the Israel-Iran conflict. While the Israeli stock market reached an all-time high, Gulf states like Saudi Arabia and Qatar emphasized calls for peace, distancing themselves from escalation. Analysts suggest that the reduction of the Iranian threat could positively influence international investor sentiment. This divergence in responses highlights the Gulf states' preference for stability and resolution over conflict, potentially benefiting regional economic dynamics in the long term.

## **Iranian missile strikes near Microsoft office in Beer Sheva, Israel**



22-Jun-25

Iranian missile strikes in Beer Sheva, Israel, have caused significant property damage but no reported casualties, as tensions escalate between the two nations following Israel's attacks on Iranian targets. Fires erupted near a tech park housing a Microsoft office, prompting emergency response from local services. Concurrently, Israel retaliated with airstrikes on various sites in Tehran, targeting military installations and facilities linked to Iran's nuclear weapons program. This ongoing conflict underscores the volatile geopolitical landscape in the region, highlighting the increasing aggressiveness from both sides, which poses a challenge to regional stability and security.

## **US Strikes on Iran Heighten Oil Price and Economic Risks for India**



22-Jun-25

The recent U.S. missile strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities have escalated tensions in West Asia, raising concerns over potential oil price surges and their impact on India's economy. India relies on imports for nearly 85% of its crude oil, and experts warn that sustained high prices could widen the current account deficit and drive up inflation. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi emphasized the need for de-escalation and dialogue. Despite regional tensions, trade flows, particularly in pharmaceuticals and rice, remain largely unaffected for now, although rice exporters face uncertainty due to potential Iranian purchasing cuts amid the conflict.

## **UK Aware of US Strikes on Iran, No Request for Base Support**



22-Jun-25

Britain was informed in advance about U.S. military strikes on Iran but did not receive a request to utilize the Diego Garcia air base. The strikes, claimed by U.S. President Trump to have targeted Iran's main nuclear sites, escalate tensions in the Middle East, prompting Iran to assert its right to defend itself. Despite not participating in the strikes, Britain is prepared to take measures to protect its allies and is facilitating charter flights to evacuate British nationals from the region. This situation underscores the delicate balance of military alliances and the proactive stance of Western nations in addressing threats in volatile regions.

## Iran Calls on India to Condemn Israeli Strikes Amid Tensions



22-Jun-25

Iran has urged India to condemn Israeli military strikes amid escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, emphasizing India's role as a leader of the Global South. The Iranian Deputy Chief of Mission highlighted that these actions breach international norms and could disrupt oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz, affecting global markets. While Iran expresses hopes for Pakistan to refrain from complicating the situation, India has maintained a balanced response, advocating for restraint and diplomatic engagement. The call underscores the delicate geopolitical dynamics at play, with India navigating its relationships while promoting dialogue and de-escalation in a highly volatile region.

## Khamenei Hides in Bunker, Names Successors Amid Israeli Threats



22-Jun-25

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is reportedly sheltering in a heavily fortified bunker due to escalating threats from Israel, including targeted assassinations. He has named three senior clerics as potential successors, bypassing the usual lengthy selection process, while also appointing replacements for key military positions amid fears of Israeli strikes. This unprecedented security protocol highlights the severe military pressure Iran is facing, with Israeli officials openly targeting Khamenei and emphasizing the need for his elimination. The situation reflects increasing tensions and uncertainty within Iran's leadership, as the risk of decapitation from foreign adversaries looms large.

## Pakistan's Defence Minister Acknowledges Military's Power in Governance



22-Jun-25

In a recent interview, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif openly acknowledged the country's hybrid governance model, where the military shares authority with the civilian government. He suggested this arrangement is a practical necessity amid ongoing crises and implied that the military's role is instrumental for political stability. Critics argue this undermines democracy, reducing major political parties to mere tools of military interests, particularly evident in their efforts to neutralize Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party. Asif's comments reveal entrenched military influence in Pakistan's governance, raising concerns about the long-term health of its democratic institutions and the implications for regional stability vis-à-vis India.

## Ex-Army Chief V.P. Malik Rejects Trump's Mediation Claims



22-Jun-25

Former Army Chief Gen V.P. Malik refuted US President Trump's claims of mediating between India and Pakistan, emphasizing that India has not accepted outside mediation since 1971. He highlighted the importance of India's strategic autonomy and the need for the nation to safeguard its interests amid evolving global dynamics, particularly regarding tensions in West Asia. Malik pointed out that while the US has interests in the region, India's diplomatic engagement should prioritize national security and resilience. He asserted that India is capable of navigating shifts in power dynamics and should seize opportunities to assert itself as a stabilizing force when acceptable to all parties involved.

## Russia Boosts Seaborne Fuel Oil Exports to India in May



22-Jun-25

Russia has significantly increased its seaborne fuel oil and vacuum gasoil exports to India, with cargo shipments rising to 0.6 million tonnes in May, nearly doubling the amount from April. This increase is attributed to lower oil prices and the demand for fuel during the hot summer season, particularly since the EU's embargo on Russian oil has redirected supplies to Asian markets. Indian refiners like Reliance Industries have been importing Russian oil as a cheaper alternative, despite some reduction in volumes. This trend illustrates India's strategic approach to securing energy resources amidst fluctuating global oil dynamics and geopolitical tensions in the region.

## PM Modi urges Iran's President for dialogue to de-escalate tensions.



22-Jun-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, urging immediate de-escalation of the rising tensions between Iran and Israel through dialogue and diplomacy. This conversation followed the US bombing of three nuclear sites in Iran, which has heightened regional conflict. Modi expressed his deep concern regarding the recent escalations and emphasized the need for restoring peace, security, and stability in the region. This proactive engagement reflects India's commitment to regional diplomacy and highlights Modi's role as a mediator in addressing complex geopolitical issues, underscoring India's strategic interests in ensuring stability in its neighborhood.

## Military Operations

### Op 'Midnight Hammer', the US strike on Iran's Nukes SHARE

22-Jun-2025

Operation Midnight Hammer marked a decisive U.S. military intervention into the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, with the primary objective of degrading Iran's nuclear program and preventing it from acquiring a nuclear weapon. The U.S. decision to directly engage stemmed from the unique capabilities of its stealth bombers and the GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP), deemed the most effective means to neutralize Iran's deeply buried and heavily fortified nuclear sites that Israeli forces could not effectively target. The mission commenced with a sophisticated deception strategy; while public reports indicated B-2 Spirit bombers were deploying westward towards Guam, the primary strike package of seven B-2s, the only aircraft capable of carrying the 30,000-pound GBU-57, launched from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, embarking on an 18-hour eastward flight path. This strategic misdirection, coordinated by TRANSCOM, combined with prior Israeli airstrikes that systematically degraded Iran's air defenses and alleged covert Mossad operations utilizing remotely operated Spike missiles from within Iran, facilitated the undetected penetration of Iranian airspace. The Spike precision-guided missile systems, customized with internet-based automation and remote control, were reportedly deployed from inside Iran to suppress air defenses.

The operational details of Operation Midnight Hammer highlight a complex, multi-domain military campaign. The core of the strike force comprised seven B-2 Spirit stealth bombers, each a dual-capable, multi-role heavy bomber powered by four engines. The B-2's distinctive flying wing design, composite materials, and specialized coating significantly reduce its radar cross-section, enabling it to penetrate sophisticated air defense systems like Iran's Russian-made S-300 PMU2. The S-300 PMU2, a cornerstone of Iran's air defense network, is a long-range surface-to-air missile system capable of engaging targets up to 200 kilometers away and at altitudes of 27 kilometers, utilizing its 96L6E radar for all-weather detection, even of low-flying and stealth aircraft. Despite these advanced capabilities, the pre-strike shaping operations, including the alleged internal Mossad attacks, effectively neutralized these threats.

Supporting the B-2s on their extensive 18-hour round trip from Whiteman Air Force Base were a fleet of KC-135 Stratotanker and KC-46A Pegasus aerial refuelers, strategically prepositioned to ensure the bombers could complete their long-distance mission over the Atlantic, across the Mediterranean Sea, and into the Middle East. Once in U.S. Central Command airspace, an unspecified number and types of fourth and fifth-generation U.S. fighter jets, including F-35C Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters and EA-18G Growler electronic attack aircraft, joined the bombers. These fighter escorts played a critical role in targeting surface-to-air missile sites ahead of the B-2s' approach to the hardened nuclear enrichment facilities, further ensuring the bombers' undetected passage. The overall mission involved more than 125 aircraft, including intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) assets, underscoring the vast logistical and coordination effort. The primary weapon employed in this historic operation was the GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP), a roughly 30,000-pound (13,600-kilogram) precision-guided bomb, approximately 20.5 feet long with a diameter of 31.5 inches. Designed specifically to attack deeply buried and hardened bunkers and tunnels, the GBU-57 is believed to be capable of penetrating up to 200 feet (61 meters) below the surface before exploding. This operation marked the inaugural combat use of the GBU-57, with 14 of these formidable munitions dropped on the Fordow and Natanz enrichment facilities. The bombs can be dropped sequentially, effectively drilling deeper with each successive blast. In addition to the MOPs, approximately 30 Tomahawk missiles were employed, targeting Natanz and Esfahan.

The targeted Iranian nuclear sites presented formidable challenges. Fordow, identified as a critical enrichment site and Iran's "breakout option," is buried deep within a mountain near Qom, with estimates of its depth ranging from 80 to 800 meters, and some reports suggesting 500 to 800 meters. It is shielded by thick concrete and robust air defenses. Despite President Trump's assertion of "total obliteration," experts expressed skepticism as to whether the GBU-57's 60-meter penetration capability could reach Fordow's core, given its extreme depth and the hard sedimentary rock geology, which could deflect warheads. Natanz, Iran's primary enrichment facility, houses centrifuges 40-50 meters underground behind a 7.6-meter concrete shield. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that Natanz sustained "severely damaged" centrifuges, though no elevated radiation levels were detected at either site. Esfahan, a major nuclear research complex, where a new 10 megawatt-thermal

(MWth) research reactor (IR-10) was under construction, also sustained damage.

While U.S. intelligence estimated the strike delayed Iran's nuclear timeline by "some months," and Vice President Vance suggested a "substantial delay" of "many, many years," the operation underscored the inherent limitations of even advanced conventional munitions against the deepest, most fortified targets, indicating a strategy of degradation rather than absolute destruction. The complex, multi-domain execution, integrating long-range stealth strikes with extensive logistical support and pre-strike shaping operations, validated the B-2's unique role in penetrating contested environments and signaled a trend towards highly integrated military campaigns. In the immediate aftermath, Iran swiftly threatened retaliation, potentially targeting U.S. forces in the region, disrupting the vital Strait of Hormuz, or activating its regional proxies, highlighting the dilemma of asymmetric escalation and its immediate global economic impact, as evidenced by soaring oil prices. The U.S., while issuing warnings of "far greater force" in response to any retaliation, simultaneously presented the strike as an opportunity for a diplomatic "reset," demonstrating a "peace through strength" approach aimed at coercing Iran towards negotiations.

## **INS Tamal, a stealth frigate, to be commissioned in Russia on July 1.**

22-Jun-25

The Indian Navy's INS Tamal, a Russian-manufactured guided missile frigate, is set to be commissioned on July 1 in Kaliningrad, with 26% indigenous components, including the BrahMos missile. This ship, part of the upgraded Tushil Class, boasts improved combat capabilities and advanced technology, including vertical launched missiles and sophisticated electronic warfare systems. INS Tamal represents India's ongoing commitment to enhancing its naval prowess through indigenization and technology transfer, with plans for two additional frigates under the same contract. The commissioning ceremony will highlight the strong defense ties between India and Russia, showcasing India's growing capabilities in modern maritime warfare.

## **Army Chief Reviews Security for Amarnath Yatra Pilgrimage**

22-Jun-25

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the security preparedness for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, emphasizing operational readiness and the

integration of advanced technologies for enhanced surveillance and response. He commended the Chinara Corps' commitment to maintaining peace and stability through effective counter-terror operations and regional development initiatives. The government has declared the Yatra routes as no-flying zones from July 1 to August 10, prohibiting drone and helicopter services, thereby requiring pilgrims to trek or use ponies and palkis. This stringent security measure underscores the importance of ensuring the safety of lakhs of pilgrims visiting the revered shrine in the Kashmir region.

## **US Defense Secretary Praises Operation Midnight Hammer Against Iran**

22-Jun-25

On June 22, 2025, the U.S. launched a massive precision strike, dubbed Operation Midnight Hammer, targeting Iran's nuclear sites at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. Coordinated by President Trump and executed using B-2 stealth bombers, Massive Ordnance Penetrators, fighter escorts, submarines, cruise missiles, and cyber-deception tactics, the mission inflicted significant damage—though Iran contests the extent—and was hailed by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth as a "bold and brilliant" success. U.S. officials emphasized that the move was limited, aimed at disrupting Iran's nuclear ambitions rather than triggering an open-ended war, while warning of potential further actions if Tehran resists diplomatic overtures.

## **British F-35B Stranded in Thiruvananthapuram; RAF C-17 Support Needed**

22-Jun-25

A British Royal Navy F-35B fighter jet was forced to land in Thiruvananthapuram, India, on June 14, 2025, due to a hydraulic system failure amid adverse weather after a routine operation with the HMS Prince of Wales Carrier Strike Group. Initial repair efforts by a Royal Navy team proved unsuccessful, prompting the UK to send a larger crew and spare parts from Britain to assess and potentially fix the aircraft, which remains grounded under tight security. The Indian Air Force played a critical role in facilitating the emergency landing and providing logistical support to the British crew. The incident has raised questions about the F-35B's maintenance challenges and may influence India's considerations regarding fifth-generation fighter aircraft, especially in light of its interest in alternatives like the Rafale-M. India's own capabilities, including the operation of C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft,



could enhance its response to similar contingencies, highlighting the necessity of robust logistics and repair infrastructure in maintaining advanced military assets. Moreover, this situation underscores the complexities of operating sophisticated technology in foreign conditions and the importance of India-UK defense ties, as both nations navigate the implications of such incidents for future military cooperation and procurement decisions.

## Top Army Officer Reviews Combat Training in Tripura

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22-Jun-25

Major General S.S. Kartikeya, GOC of the Red Shield Division, recently reviewed troops' combat training in Tripura, emphasizing the importance of terrain-specific skills and technological integration in northeastern operations. The rigorous training included jungle warfare, drone operations, and obstacle navigation, showcasing the Army's commitment to operational readiness. He praised the soldiers for their discipline and adaptability to new technologies. Concurrently, Assam Rifles held mass Yoga sessions to promote physical and mental well-being among troops and their families, reflecting a holistic approach to enhancing operational efficiency and resilience. This initiative highlights the Army's dedication to integrating traditional practices into military life, fostering a healthy lifestyle for enhanced service to the nation.

## INS Nilgiri Joins Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam

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22-Jun-25

INS Nilgiri, the first indigenously built Project 17A stealth frigate, has officially joined the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam, enhancing the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy. This advanced warship, built in Mumbai, is now stationed at her home port and embodies the motto "Adrish Yabalam, Ajeya Shauryam." The arrival of INS Nilgiri is set to bolster India's maritime strength, particularly along the eastern seaboard, as more ships of her class are expected to follow. This development highlights India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing and strengthens its naval presence in strategically vital regions.

## Ukraine's military chief vows intensified strikes against Russia.

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22-Jun-25

Ukraine's military chief, Oleksandr Syrsky, has pledged to intensify strikes on Russian targets, asserting that

defensive tactics have led to losses in both personnel and territory. He acknowledged Russia's advantages in drone warfare but emphasized Ukraine's effective counterattacks on military and infrastructure sites deep within Russia. This escalation comes amid stalled diplomatic efforts and ongoing Russian offensives, which have resulted in civilian casualties. Ukraine claims to still control parts of the Kursk region, despite Russian assertions of full dominance. The situation underscores the complexities of the conflict, highlighting the struggle for territory and the importance of military strategy in determining outcomes.

## Iran's Kheybar Shaken Missile Targets Israel: Key Insights

🔒 SHARE

22-Jun-25

Iran's deployment of the KheibarShekan missile in its latest strike against Israel marks a significant escalation in regional tensions. This advanced medium-range, solid-fuel ballistic missile—with a range of around 1,450km and maneuverable warhead—is designed to bypass air defenses and struck key targets including Ben Gurion Airport, Haifa, and Tel Aviv. The use of this missile during a coordinated assault with dozens of other projectiles demonstrates Iran's growing confidence and readiness to retaliate strategically. For India—with strategic interests and strong ties to Israel—this development highlights the importance of vigilant monitoring and deepening defense partnerships to manage shifts in Middle East power dynamics and prepare for emerging threats.

## Operation Sindoor Halted After Pakistan's Ceasefire Request

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22-Jun-25

Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, 2025, was a calculated response to the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam that resulted in the deaths of 25 Hindus. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the operation's precision and restraint, aligning it with India's ongoing strategy against terrorism, following previous successful strikes. The operation faced intense skirmishes with Pakistan and concluded with a ceasefire on May 10 after a Pakistani plea. Singh warned that India remains poised for further action if necessary, reinforcing the message that any future terrorist attempts would be met with decisive repercussions, while also highlighting the role of Yoga in enhancing armed forces' discipline and resilience.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### Indian Army Soldier Arrested for Spying for Pakistan's ISI SHARE

22-Jun-25

Amritsar Rural Police have arrested an Indian Army soldier, Gurpreet Singh, and another individual for espionage linked to Pakistan's ISI amid rising India-Pakistan tensions following a recent terror attack. Singh, who has been in the Army since 2016, allegedly transmitted sensitive military information to ISI operatives using USB drives and maintained direct communication with a Pakistani handler. Investigations are underway to uncover the full extent of the spy network and ascertain any prior knowledge Singh may have had regarding the Pahalgam attack. This incident underscores the persistent threat of espionage and the need for heightened vigilance within India's defense forces.

### NIA arrests two for aiding Pakistani terrorists in Pahalgam attack. SHARE

22-Jun-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has made significant strides in the Pahalgam attack case by arresting two men, Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar and Bashir Ahmad Jothar, for sheltering the Pakistani terrorists responsible for the April 22 massacre of 26 tourists. These individuals provided logistical support to the attackers, affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba. Following the incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi authorized the armed forces to retaliate, leading to targeted strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan. This decisive action illustrates India's commitment to countering terrorism and safeguarding its citizens, reinforcing its stance against cross-border terrorism and ensuring accountability for such heinous acts.

### ED Uncovers International Terror Funding Network Linked to PFI SHARE

22-Jun-25

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has uncovered a multinational terror financing network linked to the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its political front, the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), involving the movement of ₹62 crore through illicit channels to support terrorism and communal unrest in India. MK Faizy, the SDPI president, was identified as the mastermind behind these operations, with funds traced back to Gulf nations. The ED has frozen assets worth

₹61 crore and arrested key figures, highlighting a sophisticated transnational conspiracy aimed at destabilizing India under the guise of political activism. This development underscores the Indian government's commitment to combatting terrorism and safeguarding national security.

### Punjab Police dismantle Pak-backed BKI terror module; one arrested, six pistols seized. SHARE

22-Jun-25

Punjab Police has successfully dismantled a Pakistan-backed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terror module, arresting local operative Onkar Singh and seizing six foreign-made pistols, including Glock models. The operation, guided by precise intelligence and coordination, revealed that the firearms were smuggled via drones for use in targeted killings and destabilization activities within Punjab. The arrested individual is linked to a larger network managed by UK-based handler Dharam Singh, who is associated with Pakistan-based terrorist Harvinder Singh. This development underscores the ongoing threat posed by international terror groups seeking to exploit local vulnerabilities, highlighting the importance of vigilant security measures in safeguarding India's internal stability.

### Two surrendered Maoists kidnapped and murdered in Bijapur SHARE

22-Jun-25

In Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, two surrendered Maoists were kidnapped and brutally murdered by armed insurgents, raising concerns over escalating violence amid intensified anti-Maoist operations like Operation Black Forest. The victims, suspected of being police informers, were abducted from their homes, with their bodies discovered shortly after the attack. This incident marks a disturbing trend in retaliation tactics by Maoists against civilians and surrendered fighters, coinciding with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to review counterinsurgency strategies. The police have vowed to ensure civilian safety and bring the perpetrators to justice as investigations continue in the conflict-affected area.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde Honors Kargil War Martyrs



22-Jun-25

Eknath Shinde, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, paid tribute to the martyrs of the Kargil War, highlighting the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers in defending the nation. This event serves to reinforce the importance of remembering and honoring those who fought valiantly for India's sovereignty. The tribute not only emphasizes the valor of the armed forces but also strengthens national pride and unity among citizens. Such commemorations are essential in fostering a sense of gratitude and recognition for the sacrifices made by the defense personnel, reminding the public of their pivotal role in ensuring the country's security and integrity.

### Sarhad Shauryathon Held in Ladakh to Honor Kargil War Heroes



22-Jun-25

The Sarhad Shauryathon was held in Drass, Ladakh, to honor the valor of Kargil War heroes, featuring participants from across India in various race categories. This event commenced a series of commemorations leading up to Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26, celebrating India's victory and the sacrifices of 559 soldiers during the 1999 conflict. Key dignitaries, including Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister, praised the initiative for fostering fitness and patriotism while discussing development support for Kargil. The event not only commemorates past sacrifices but also emphasizes national unity and the ongoing commitment to honoring the armed forces.

### Army soldier Naik Pawan Prajapati cremated with honors in Rajasthan.



22-Jun-25

A 28-year-old Indian Army soldier, Naik Pawan Prajapati, tragically died while deboarding a train in Assam, sustaining critical injuries. He was cremated with full state honors in his native village, Kherkheda, Rajasthan, where his young son lit the pyre in the presence of local dignitaries and a patriotic procession. Prajapati, who had served in the Indian Army for nine years, returned to duty on June 15 after a vacation, leaving behind his wife and two sons. His untimely death underscores the sacrifices made by soldiers and the strong sense of

community support for their families during such tragic events.

## Miscellaneous

### India Leads Regional Evacuation from Iran, Aiding Nepal and Sri Lanka Amid Crisis



22-Jun-25

India has demonstrated its commitment to regional stability and humanitarian assistance by initiating evacuation efforts for its nationals and those of Nepal and Sri Lanka from conflict-hit Iran amid escalating tensions following Israel's military actions. Both the Sri Lankan and Nepali governments expressed gratitude towards India, acknowledging its swift actions to ensure the safety of their citizens. The Indian Embassy in Tehran confirmed that operations would cover citizens from these neighboring countries, showcasing India's strong diplomatic relations and solidarity within the region. Nepal's Foreign Minister thanked External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for the prompt response, highlighting the depth of Nepal-India ties. This multifaceted operation underscores India's strategic position as a regional leader capable of providing support in crisis situations, thereby enhancing its image as a responsible neighbor and ally. The evacuation is not only a humanitarian effort but also serves to strengthen India's diplomatic relations with both Sri Lanka and Nepal, reaffirming its role as a stabilizing force in South Asia during times of international turbulence.

### College of Defence Management champions Yoga for wellness and resilience.



22-Jun-25

The College of Defence Management (CDM) in Secunderabad celebrated the 11th International Yoga Day with over 300 participants, including officers and their families, emphasizing yoga's role in enhancing wellness and resilience among defense personnel. Led by Iyengar Yoga practitioner Aditi Gupte, the session aligned with the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," underscoring the connection between individual health and environmental sustainability. This event not only marks a commitment to holistic health initiatives within the armed forces but also showcases CDM's dedication to fostering a culture of well-being amidst high-stress environments, setting a precedent for future wellness initiatives in the defense community.

## MoS Defence Sanjay Seth to visit Kenya and Madagascar for memorial and Independence Day celebrations.



22-Jun-25

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth is set to visit Kenya and Madagascar from June 25 to June 26, 2023. In Kenya, he will participate in the joint unveiling of a Commemorative Pillar in Taita-Taveta County, reflecting India's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties. He will then attend the 65th Anniversary of Madagascar's Independence and the establishment of its Armed Forces in Antananarivo, showcasing India's engagement with African nations. This visit underscores India's diplomatic efforts in enhancing defense cooperation and fostering regional stability, while also celebrating shared historical ties with these countries.

## Retired Army Havildar Arrested for Faking ₹15 Lakh Robbery



22-Jun-25

A retired army havildar from Bathinda, Avtar Singh, was arrested for faking a ₹15 lakh robbery to cover his substantial losses from online gambling, amounting to around ₹1.50 crore since 2021. He reported being robbed at gunpoint after withdrawing cash, but police found inconsistencies in his story, including no bank visits and a mere ₹3.10 in his account. Investigations revealed no traces of sedatives, leading to his confession about fabricating the robbery to conceal his financial woes. This incident highlights the challenges faced by veterans in managing post-service life and the dangers of gambling addiction, warranting better support systems for former defense personnel.

## Rajnath Singh: Yoga Enhances Clarity and Strength in Soldiers



22-Jun-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted the significance of yoga during a mass demonstration at the Northern Command headquarters, emphasizing its role in promoting mental clarity and discipline among soldiers. He praised Prime Minister Modi for globalizing yoga, portraying it as a holistic solution to modern challenges. Singh connected the practice to military operations, particularly Operation Sindoor, emphasizing its reflection of restraint and inner strength against terrorism, particularly targeting threats from Pakistan. He urged that yoga's essence should unify society, reinforcing that its benefits extend beyond individual practice to enhance collective security and well-being,

showcasing India's cultural heritage and influence on the world stage.

## IAEA: Recent strikes on Iran's Isfahan involved minimal nuclear material.



22-Jun-25

The IAEA reported that recent military strikes on Iran's nuclear complex in Isfahan targeted six buildings, in addition to four previously damaged structures, but contained little to no nuclear material. The agency confirmed that these facilities either held no nuclear material or only minor amounts of natural or low-enriched uranium, limiting any potential radioactive contamination to the impacted buildings. This development highlights ongoing tensions in the region, emphasizing the need for robust defense strategies by nations like India, which must remain vigilant in monitoring geopolitical situations that could affect regional stability and security.

## Putin Advocates for Strengthening Economic Ties with India



22-Jun-25

At the St Petersburg International Economic Forum 2025, President Putin emphasized the importance of strengthening long-term economic ties with India, with a focus on oil, gas exports, and infrastructure development. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted India's advancements in AI and the INDIAai Mission, aiming for equitable technological growth. Meetings with Russian officials explored joint projects in transportation and railway modernization, reinforcing India's commitment to strategic partnerships and its Atmanirbhar Bharat vision. Vaishnaw's engagements mark a significant step in solidifying the India-Russia relationship, aiming for mutual growth and innovation over the next decade.

## Operation Sindhu: Evacuation of Indian Students from Iran



22-Jun-25

Operation Sindhu is a humanitarian mission launched by India's Ministry of External Affairs on June 18, 2025, to evacuate its citizens—primarily medical students—from Iran amid the Israel-Iran conflict. With rare cooperation from Iranian authorities allowing airspace access, India coordinated overland transfers through Armenia and chartered flights from cities like Mashhad and Ashgabat. As of June 21, three evacuation flights rescued 827 to more than 1,100 Indian nationals, many describing chilling scenes of missile attacks, sirens,



bodies, internet blackouts, and mass panic. Although grateful to be home, evacuees fear their academic futures hang in the balance, spotlighting both the government's swift diplomatic outreach and the risks faced by students studying in volatile regions

## SkyRoot Starts Integration of Vikram-1 Orbital Adjustment Module



22-Jun-25

The integration of SkyRoot's Vikram-1 Orbital Adjustment Module (OAM) has commenced, crucial for deploying multiple satellites accurately into their orbits, enhancing mission flexibility. All significant components of the OAM, including the propulsion unit and avionics, have passed qualification tests, ensuring reliability in spaceflight conditions. The current focus is on the meticulous assembly and integration processes, culminating in a full stage firing test to validate performance. This advancement not only showcases India's growing capabilities in the aerospace sector but also positions the Vikram-1 program as a competitive contender in the global small satellite launch market,

reflecting India's commitment to technological innovation and strategic prowess in space.

## Axiom-4 mission to study insulin in space, advancing diabetes care



22-Jun-25

The Axiom-4 mission, featuring Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, will explore insulin behavior in microgravity, potentially transforming diabetes treatment. This collaboration with Burjeel Holdings aims to study glucose fluctuations in space and develop advanced wearable technologies for astronauts and patients with limited mobility. Insights from the research could pave the way for innovative glucose-monitoring tools and new drug targets, enhancing insulin sensitivity in sedentary individuals. By adapting AI models for real-time physiological data, the study may also revolutionize diabetes care, especially in underserved areas, representing a significant leap forward in both space medicine and terrestrial healthcare solutions.

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