



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

Indian Armed Forces Forge Partnership with DST to Boost Defense R&D



22-Mar-25

The Indian Armed Forces have entered a strategic partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to enhance defense research and development capabilities, as formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by key officials. This collaboration aims to leverage DST's research infrastructure and expertise to align military technology advancements with national science initiatives, thereby promoting self-reliance in critical defense technologies. The initiative is a significant step towards bolstering India's defense preparedness and aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision. By fostering innovation and advancing military technologies, this partnership reflects a comprehensive national effort to enhance India's defense capabilities and strategic autonomy in an evolving security landscape.

12 F-404 Engines to Boost IAF's Tejas Mk1A Squadron Readiness



22-Mar-25

General Electric Aerospace is set to deliver 12 F-404 engines for India's Tejas Mk1A fighter jets, enhancing the Indian Air Force's (IAF) capabilities. The first engine is expected by March 2025, enabling the IAF to operationalize its first squadron by year-end. With a ramp-up to 20 engines annually from 2026, this delivery schedule supports the production of a total of 180 Mk1A jets, crucial for phasing out aging MiG-21s and countering regional threats. HAL's increased production capacity complements this plan, aligning with India's defense self-reliance goals and modernizing its air fleet in light of evolving geopolitical challenges.

Italy's Starlink Deal Hits Snag Amid Geopolitical Tensions



22-Mar-25

Negotiations between Italy and Elon Musk's satellite internet company, Starlink, have stalled, primarily due to geopolitical tensions and a shift in focus from technical discussions to public statements about Musk, as noted by Italy's defense minister, Guido Crosetto. This deadlock reflects broader implications for international defense partnerships and highlights the challenges faced by countries seeking reliable technological solutions amid political complexities. The situation underlines the necessity for nations like India to establish resilient and independent systems in satellite communications to mitigate reliance on foreign entities, thereby enhancing national security and strategic autonomy.

Boeing Wins Contract for U.S. Sixth-Gen F-47 Fighter Jet



22-Mar-25

The U.S. Air Force has awarded Boeing a contract for the development of the F-47, a sixth-generation fighter jet under the Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) program, aiming to enhance air superiority with advanced stealth, sensor fusion, and long-range strike capabilities. This announcement has sparked debate regarding its design, particularly the inclusion of canard delta configurations, which some argue may compromise stealth but could enhance maneuverability. The dual renderings of the F-47 have led to speculation on its final design and mission profile, with possibilities ranging from agility-focused combat to stealth-centric operations. The ongoing discourse reflects the complexities of developing advanced aerial platforms, highlighting the balance between cutting-edge technology and operational requirements in a competitive global landscape where India, with its indigenous efforts like the Tejas and upcoming AMCA, is also poised to advance its air capabilities.

India Launches Second Frigate, Tavasya, Enhancing Naval Strength SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) successfully launched the second frigate of Project 1135.6, named Tavasya, demonstrating India's commitment to indigenous naval capabilities. The frigate, along with its predecessor Tripur, is part of a strategic initiative to bolster self-reliance in defense manufacturing, featuring advanced technology such as the BrahMos missile system and stealth capabilities. This project, signed in 2019, aims to enhance the Indian Navy's operational capabilities and is significant in fostering local defense production, generating employment, and improving technological resilience. The collaboration with Russia, involving the transfer of design and technology, marks a pivotal moment in India's journey toward complete defense independence, with GSL expected to deliver these ships by 2026.

Japan's Astroscale Partners with India's Digantara and Bellatrix for Space Debris Management SHARE

22-Mar-25

Japan's Astroscale has partnered with India's Digantara and Bellatrix Aerospace to enhance technology and services for orbital debris removal, eyeing Indian government clients within one to two years. This collaboration reflects India's evolving space policy, which now supports private sector participation and foreign investments, including a \$116 million fund for startups. The increasing number of satellites raises collision risks, highlighting the urgency for debris management solutions. This partnership not only positions India as a significant player in the emerging space economy but also strengthens India-Japan ties, as both nations explore broader collaborations in the aerospace sector.

DRDO Unveils Policies to Boost Private Sector in Military Tech SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched new policies under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme to enhance collaboration with the private sector in developing advanced military technologies. This initiative aims to streamline partnerships between academia, industry, and DRDO, fostering innovation through established DRDO Industry Academia Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoEs) at premier institutions. With a focus on 84 designated research verticals, these efforts

are crucial for indigenizing technology and keeping pace with global advancements. By providing funding and structured research roadmaps, DRDO seeks to ensure that emerging technologies transition effectively from research to practical applications, reinforcing India's defense capabilities and self-reliance.

GA-ASI Secures EMAR/FR 145 Approval, Boosting Global Reach SHARE

22-Mar-25

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) has received EMAR/FR 145 Maintenance Organization Approval from the French Military Continuing Airworthiness Authority, enhancing its reputation in military aviation standards. This certification streamlines maintenance processes for its MQ-9A and MQ-9B UAS platforms, allowing GA-ASI to issue Return to Service forms and significantly reducing oversight costs. The approval offers international customers a recognized framework for airworthiness, enabling GA-ASI to expand its global market presence while providing compliant services. By leveraging this certification, GA-ASI positions itself favorably against competitors, ensuring efficient service delivery and operational excellence in the defense sector.

Thales Consortium Launches EISNET to Strengthen European Air Defense SHARE

22-Mar-25

The EISNET project, launched by a Thales-led consortium, aims to enhance European air and missile defense by establishing common standards and developing real-time network protocols. This initiative focuses on improving interoperability among different radars, sensors, and command systems, thereby reducing command chain latency against advanced threats. By promoting open standards, EISNET seeks to boost the performance and resilience of Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) systems, essential for maintaining air superiority in modern warfare. This effort highlights the importance of collaboration among European nations to strengthen their defense capabilities in the face of evolving security challenges.

GDELS-SBS and KNDS Team Up for LEOPARD 2E Upgrade for Spain SHARE

22-Mar-25

General Dynamics European Land Systems Santa Barbara Sistemas (GDELS-SBS) and KNDS Deutschland have partnered to upgrade the LEOPARD 2E fleet for the Spanish Army, enhancing interoperability with other European users. This collaboration builds on their

established relationship and aims to modernize the tank's capabilities significantly. Additionally, the partnership has formed EuroTrophy with Israeli RAFAEL to produce advanced Active Protection Systems for military vehicles, underscoring a commitment to modern defense technologies. Such initiatives reflect a broader trend in Europe towards collaborative defense upgrades, which may also inspire similar strategic alignments within the Indian defense sector to enhance interoperability and modernization efforts.

India's UN Ambassador Advocates for Ethical AI Development SHARE

22-Mar-25

Indian Ambassador to the UN, Harish, highlighted the importance of responsible and ethical artificial intelligence (AI) in promoting development. He showcased India's successful integration of AI in national biometric systems and financial inclusion initiatives, which have empowered even marginalized citizens. Emphasizing accessibility, he noted that India's digital governance tools are open-source, enabling global adaptation. Harish reiterated Prime Minister Modi's call for international cooperation on AI regulation and announced that India would host the next AI Action Summit, reinforcing its commitment to shaping global discussions on AI governance. This proactive stance positions India as a leader in ethical technology development and collaboration on global digital challenges.

IAF to Enhance Airbase Defense with Realistic Aircraft Decoys SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to enhance the protection of its airbases by procuring realistic aircraft decoys modeled after the Rafale, Su-30 MKI, and Tejas fighters. These decoys aim to deceive enemy reconnaissance systems and draw fire away from actual aircraft during potential surprise attacks, particularly along India's northern and western borders. The initiative aligns with the IAF's focus on safeguarding its assets amid rising regional tensions and aims to leverage India's domestic defense industry under the Make in India framework. By employing cost-effective decoys, the IAF seeks to maximize combat survivability and maintain a strategic advantage over adversaries.

Indian Army Boosts T-90 Tanks with 1350 HP Engine Upgrade SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Indian Army plans to upgrade its T-90 tank fleet with a new 1350 HP engine, enhancing operational capabilities amid rising demands from high-altitude warfare along the China border. This upgrade, backed by the Defence Acquisition Council's approval of significant capital acquisitions, aims to improve the tank's power-to-weight ratio and agility, vital for rugged terrains. While Rosboronexport may be primary supplier, DRDO is keen on an indigenous solution as well. This move underscores India's commitment to modernizing its defense capabilities and reducing reliance on foreign technology, ensuring the T-90 remains competitive against regional adversaries.

DRDO's Zorawar Light Tank: Upgrading to 32 Tons for Enhanced Firepower SHARE

22-Mar-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is advancing the Zorawar Light Tank, currently a 25-ton model, with plans for a scalable 32-ton variant to enhance firepower and adaptability, particularly against regional threats like China's upgraded Type 15 tank. The Zorawar is designed for high-altitude warfare and features a 105mm turret, with potential upgrades to a 120mm turret and 800hp engine. The Indian Army's initial order includes 354 light tanks, with 59 units in production, and the 32-ton variant could incorporate advanced systems like active protection and drone integration. This development reflects India's strategic prioritization of agility and modernity in its defense capabilities.

HAL Seeks Jet Engine for Next-Gen HLFT-42 Trainer Aircraft SHARE

22-Mar-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for a jet engine intended for the HLFT-42, a supersonic trainer aircraft. The RFI specifies performance criteria including a thrust of 95-100 kN and a technical life of 6,000 hours, emphasizing HAL's commitment to modern pilot training. The HLFT-42, designed to bridge basic trainers and advanced fighters, is aimed at replacing the aging BAE Hawk 132s in the Indian Air Force (IAF) fleet. This initiative not only enhances training capabilities but also positions India as a competitive player in the global aerospace sector, aligning with its broader defense modernization strategy.

Thales Launches Avionics MRO Facility in Gurugram, Boosting India's Aviation Sector



22-Mar-25

Thales has inaugurated a new avionics Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Gurugram, India, enhancing the country's aviation capabilities in line with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. This facility will support major Indian airlines like Air India and IndiGo, showcasing Thales' commitment to localizing services and leveraging India's talent pool. The opening event, attended by key dignitaries including the Minister of Civil Aviation, underscores the strengthening Indo-French collaboration in the defense and aerospace sectors. With the MRO industry poised for growth, this center marks a significant milestone towards a self-reliant Indian aviation ecosystem.

SSS Defence Wins UP Police Contract for 405 P-72 Assault Rifles



22-Mar-25

SSS Defence, a Bengaluru-based private manufacturer, has secured a contract to supply 405 indigenous P-72 Assault Rifles to the Uttar Pradesh Police, outperforming established players like Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited. The P-72, chambered in 7.62x39mm, offers versatility with select-fire capabilities and a range of up to 800 meters, enhancing operational effectiveness for urban and rural security. This achievement underscores the growing prominence of India's private defense sector in meeting the evolving demands of law enforcement, while the P-72's modern design and features reflect an innovative approach to domestic defense manufacturing, reinforcing India's self-reliance in security capabilities.

Uttar Pradesh Launches Advanced Military Hardware Testing Facility



22-Mar-25

The Uttar Pradesh government is establishing a cutting-edge military hardware testing facility in Lucknow, enhancing the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor and supporting India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing. This facility, which will be managed by the Advanced Material (Defence) Testing Foundation, aims to address the critical lack of advanced testing infrastructure and reduce reliance on foreign agencies, thereby accelerating production timelines for Indian manufacturers. The initiative aligns with the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme and is expected to create jobs, attract investment, and contribute to India's \$25 billion defense production target by 2025,

positioning Uttar Pradesh as a leader in defense innovation and research.

Kalyani to Elevate ATAGS Indigenous Content to Over 80%



22-Mar-25

Kalyani Strategic Systems (KSSL) has announced that the indigenous content in its Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) will exceed 80%, reflecting a significant commitment to self-reliance in India's defense sector. This decision aligns with the government's Make in India initiative and follows a contract for 307 ATAGS units awarded by the Ministry of Defence. KSSL aims to enhance domestic production capabilities while minimizing reliance on foreign components, thus addressing supply chain vulnerabilities. With advanced features and a production capacity to meet both domestic and export demands, the ATAGS is set to bolster the Indian Army's modernization efforts and position India as a global defense manufacturing hub.

IAF Fast-Tracking MRFA Fighter Jet Tender, RFP by Early 2026



22-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is expediting its Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) program to acquire 114 new fighter jets, with a Request for Proposal (RFP) anticipated by late 2025 or early 2026. This approach, influenced by a high-level committee, introduces a single-clearance mechanism to streamline the procurement process, reducing the approval timeline significantly. The IAF, currently operating at a shortfall of 12 fighter squadrons, aims to bolster its capabilities amidst regional security challenges. The "Make in India" initiative will be crucial in negotiations, emphasizing technology transfer and local production, enhancing India's strategic autonomy and defense industry competitiveness.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

India's Defense Strategy: Navigating Internal Threats and Innovation



22-Mar-25

India's defense strategy faces challenges from internal threats such as social unrest and extremist ideologies, compounded by prolonged procurement delays that hinder military modernization. The bureaucratic inefficiencies and complex regulations result in

outdated equipment upon induction, underscoring the need for reform in defense acquisition processes. Concurrently, India is pursuing indigenous alternatives to foreign satellite systems like Starlink, enhancing national security and fostering domestic innovation within the defense sector. These measures align with India's broader push for self-reliance in defense technology, crucial for addressing both present and future security challenges amid external aggressions from nations like China and Pakistan.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Varuna Exercise: India and France Boost Naval Interoperability SHARE

22-Mar-25

The 23rd edition of the Varuna exercise, a bilateral naval drill between India and France, concluded with a fleet review featuring the Indian Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant and the French Carrier Charles de Gaulle off Goa. The exercise focused on enhancing interoperability through various maritime warfare scenarios, including anti-submarine operations and air combat exercises between Indian MiG-29Ks and French Rafales. Senior officials emphasized the importance of mutual understanding and procedural alignment for effective cooperation. Varuna has become a vital platform for strengthening naval ties, showcasing both nations' commitment to operational synergy in maritime security.

India-Italy Military Cooperation Group Meeting Strengthens Ties SHARE

22-Mar-25

The 13th edition of the India-Italy Military Cooperation Group meeting took place on March 20-21, 2025, in Rome, co-chaired by representatives from India's Integrated Defence Staff and the Italian Defence General Staff. The discussions aimed to enhance military cooperation through expanded exchange programs, capability development, and stronger collaboration between the two nations' armed forces. The meeting reviewed ongoing defense engagements, focusing on optimizing future interactions. This MCG serves as a vital institutional framework to fortify military ties, reflecting India's commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships, essential for regional stability and enhancing defense capabilities amidst evolving global security dynamics.

India Rejects China's Illegal Territorial Claims in Ladakh SHARE

22-Mar-25

In response to China's establishment of two new counties in the Hotan prefecture, which encroach upon Indian territory in Ladakh, the Indian government has expressed strong disapproval and reiterated its non-acceptance of China's illegal occupation. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh highlighted that India has formally protested these developments through diplomatic channels and emphasized ongoing investments in border infrastructure, which have significantly increased over the past decade. This infrastructure enhancement not only supports economic development but also strengthens India's strategic capabilities in the region, ensuring national security and sovereignty are safeguarded against external threats.

India Condemns Pakistan for Hosting Fugitive Zakir Naik SHARE

22-Mar-25

India has expressed strong disapproval of Pakistan's hosting of fugitive preacher Zakir Naik, who is wanted for alleged money laundering and inciting extremism. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal highlighted Pakistan's approach in sheltering individuals sought by India, particularly after Naik's meeting with prominent Pakistani politicians, including former PM Nawaz Sharif. The situation has sparked backlash in India, especially among cricket fans, following former cricketer Mohammad Hafeez's social media post featuring Naik. This development underscores ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, as well as concerns regarding the latter's support for individuals who threaten regional stability and security.

Jaishankar Reaffirms BRICS Unity Amid U.S. Tariff Threats SHARE

22-Mar-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed concerns over the potential disintegration of BRICS amid U.S. tariff threats, emphasizing the grouping's commitment to multi-polarity and inclusive global leadership. He outlined BRICS' evolution since its inception in 2006 and highlighted its current membership expansion to 11 countries, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The discussions encompass a wide range of global issues, reflecting diverse national interests while striving for common ground. India's role is pivotal in maintaining this collaborative spirit,

reinforcing its strategic influence in shaping a more representative international order amidst geopolitical challenges.

BrahMos Deal Strengthens India-Philippines Defense Ties

🕒 SHARE

22-Mar-25

Philippines Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo emphasized the strategic significance of the BrahMos missile deal with India, viewing it as a pivotal step in enhancing defense ties amid rising tensions with China in the South China Sea. This \$375 million agreement, which includes the delivery of the advanced BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, marks a considerable development in military cooperation and opens avenues for further collaboration in training and operational facilities. The deployment of BrahMos systems will bolster the Philippines' defense capabilities. Ultimately, this partnership not only strengthens regional security but also showcases India's growing influence as a key defense partner in Southeast Asia, enhancing deterrence capabilities against emerging threats.

North Korea backs Russia in Ukraine talks, raising regional stakes.

🕒 SHARE

22-Mar-25

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reiterated support for Russia's war in Ukraine during talks with Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu, emphasizing their mutual defense treaty. As North Korea supplies significant military assistance and possibly troops to Russia, analysts suggest it aims to maximize benefits from this alliance before the conflict concludes. The discussions followed joint U.S.-South Korean military drills that North Korea perceives as provocations, prompting missile tests as a show of strength. This evolving partnership between North Korea and Russia poses strategic challenges in the region, particularly for India, which seeks stability amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Is China's Arms Support to Pakistan Shifting Regional Power?

🕒 SHARE

22-Mar-25

China's deepening military partnership with Pakistan is evident, with 81% of Pakistan's arms imports sourced from China between 2019 and 2023, including advanced naval and aerial platforms. This alliance, driven by strained US-Pakistan relations, poses a challenge as India enhances its own military capabilities through acquisitions like Rafale jets and US collaborations. While Pakistan's procurement of

sophisticated weaponry raises regional tensions, India's diversified defense partnerships and robust modernization efforts position it to counterbalance this growing threat. As Pakistan continues to depend on Chinese technology, the evolving strategic landscape in South Asia underscores the importance of India's proactive defense strategies.

Greece to Transfer Mirage 2000s to Ukraine After India's Refusal

🕒 SHARE

22-Mar-25

Greece is likely to transfer its Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets to Ukraine, following India's refusal to purchase them and as Greece modernizes its air force with Rafale fighters. French President Macron's indication of third countries supplying Mirage 2000-5s adds weight to this potential deal, allowing Greece to expedite its fleet upgrade while aiding Ukraine's aerial capabilities. The Mirage 2000-5s, known for their advanced avionics, would significantly enhance Ukraine's air combat potential amidst ongoing conflicts. This situation highlights the dynamic nature of military alliances and procurement in response to geopolitical needs, particularly in the context of European defense strategy.

Military Operations

Indian Army Seminar Highlights Arunachal's Security and Development

🕒 SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Indian Army recently hosted a seminar at Likabali Military Station in Arunachal Pradesh, focusing on the region's strategic importance, developmental challenges, and security measures. Titled "Resurgent Arunachal: Integrated Approach to Security and Development," the event featured participation from military officials, policymakers, and local communities, emphasizing the need for synergy between security and development. Arunachal Pradesh's Governor, Lt. Gen. KT Parnaik (Retd.), highlighted the necessity of vigilance along the Line of Actual Control and the integration of local communities with security forces to foster trust. The seminar also addressed infrastructure development, cultural heritage, and community participation in governance, reinforcing the commitment to enhancing the region's socio-economic landscape while safeguarding its borders. This initiative aligns with the Government of India's Vibrant Villages Programme, aiming to ensure sustainable growth and resilience in border areas.

Indian Army aids in repatriation of two drowned youths from PoJK. SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Indian Army successfully facilitated the return of the mortal remains of two youths, Asia Bano and Yasir Hussain, who tragically drowned in the Jhelum River near Uri on March 5. Their bodies were recovered after drifting across the Line of Control (LoC) into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and were repatriated through the Kaman Aman Setu with cooperation from both Indian and Pakistani officials. Families expressed gratitude for the Army's humanitarian efforts, highlighting the joint rescue operations despite challenging circumstances. This incident underscores the potential for cooperation between the two nations, even amidst ongoing tensions, showcasing the Indian Army's commitment to humanitarian assistance and community support in sensitive border areas. The collaborative approach taken during this incident reflects a positive narrative in cross-border relations, emphasizing shared humanity over conflict.

Congress Calls for CBI Inquiry into Assault on Colonel Bath SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Congress party has demanded a CBI probe into the assault on Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath and his son by Punjab police, alleging the attack represents a troubling trend of violence against military personnel. They criticized the AAP-led Punjab government for creating a "police state," claiming that police officers threatened the Colonel and that there was pressure to reach a compromise over the incident. The Congress emphasized the need for special protections for soldiers and veterans, proposing the establishment of an Ex-Servicemen Commission and a legal Covenant Act to prevent such occurrences in the future, highlighting the need for greater respect and legal safeguards for those who serve in the armed forces.

Army to Replace Brigadier in Poonch Amid Misconduct Inquiry SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Indian Army has decided to replace a Brigadier in Poonch amid an inquiry into allegations of his misconduct involving physical assault on soldiers assigned to his residence. The inquiry was initiated following claims that the Brigadier assaulted his cook, leading to further altercations with other staff. While the Army has committed to a transparent investigation, the Brigadier's wife has defended his actions, asserting they were in response to alleged molestation by the

cook. This situation highlights the Army's commitment to accountability while raising questions about internal conduct and the need for maintaining discipline within its ranks.

Two Army Jawans Sacrifice Their Lives in Ladakh Duty SHARE

22-Mar-25

Two Army jawans, Havildar Kishore Bara and Sepoy Suraj Kumar, tragically lost their lives in the line of duty in Ladakh, as confirmed by the Leh-based 14 Corps. The General Officer Commanding, Lieutenant General Hitesh Bhalla, and Northern Army Commander Lt Gen. M.V. Suchindra Kumar paid tribute to the soldiers, honoring their bravery and sacrifice. This incident underscores the relentless commitment of the Indian Armed Forces in challenging terrains and highlights the somber realities faced by soldiers stationed in sensitive border areas. The nation stands united in mourning, recognizing these sacrifices as a testament to the valor and dedication of its military personnel.

Israel Retaliates with Strikes on Lebanon After Rocket Attacks SHARE

22-Mar-25

Israeli artillery and airstrikes targeted southern Lebanon in retaliation for rockets fired towards Israel, a move that threatens the fragile ceasefire established after a devastating conflict with Hezbollah. Despite Hezbollah denying involvement in the rocket launches, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu emphasized Israel's determination to protect its citizens, holding Lebanon accountable for actions within its territory. The UN peacekeeping force expressed concern over the escalating violence, warning of serious regional consequences. This exchange underscores the ongoing tensions in the region, with both Israel and Lebanon accusing each other of failing to adhere to ceasefire agreements, reflecting a complex geopolitical landscape influenced by broader conflicts involving Iran and militant groups.

India's 2024 Ballistic Missile Tests: Strengthening National Defense SHARE

22-Mar-25

India has intensified its ballistic missile testing in 2024, showcasing advancements such as the Agni-V ICBM, long-range hypersonic cruise missiles, and the K-4 SLBM, which bolster its strategic deterrence and second-strike capabilities. The introduction of the Integrated Rocket Force (IRF) and the Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence system underscores India's

commitment to enhancing its conventional military prowess and missile defense. These developments position India among elite nations in missile technology, aiming for strategic stability in South Asia while maintaining the ability for precision strikes without nuclear escalation. However, this has implications for regional stability, potentially prompting adjustments in adversarial nuclear postures.

Armenian Spetsnaz and India's 50th Para Brigade Enhance Military Ties SHARE

22-Mar-25

In a notable advancement in military collaboration, representatives from Armenia's Spetsnaz met with India's elite 50th Para Brigade to discuss joint tactics and training in India. This dialogue underscores the strengthening defense partnership between Armenia and India, both of which seek to enhance their military capabilities amid changing regional dynamics. Key focus areas included personnel training, advanced technological integration, and operational expertise exchange, particularly in modern warfare scenarios involving drones. This partnership not only aims to improve interoperability between the forces but also reflects India's increasing role as a defense exporter while Armenia diversifies its military alliances, thereby solidifying bilateral ties through joint training and arms deals.

Indian Navy Extends MiG-29K Service Life to 2040 Amid TEDBF Delays SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Indian Navy has decided to extend the operational life of its MiG-29K fighter jets to 2040, delaying their retirement from the original 2035 plan due to the holdup in the indigenous Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF) program. With the TEDBF's prototype first flight now slated for late 2029, the Navy will enhance the MiG-29K through a service life extension program involving upgrades to avionics and radar to maintain its effectiveness. This extension reflects the Navy's commitment to sustaining carrier-based air capabilities while addressing the complexities of developing a new advanced combat aircraft tailored for carrier operations.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

India and Malaysia to hold counter-terrorism exercises by 2027 SHARE

21-Mar-25

India and Malaysia announced a table-top counter-terrorism exercise in Malaysia (2026) and a field training exercise in India (2027) during the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus in New Delhi. This initiative, part of the 2024-2027 work plan, aims to enhance regional cooperation against evolving terrorism threats. Additionally, a European Union workshop in New Delhi focused on sharing best practices for countering violent extremism, underscoring the importance of collaboration in security measures. This strengthened partnership reflects India's proactive role in counter-terrorism and its commitment to fostering international cooperation, thereby enhancing regional stability and security in the face of global challenges.

Baloch activist claims Pakistani forces kill protester in Quetta. SHARE

22-Mar-25

Recent protests in Quetta, Balochistan, have escalated into violence, with prominent activist Mahrang Baloch alleging that Pakistani security forces opened fire on peaceful demonstrators, resulting in one death and numerous injuries. Mahrang was later arrested during a protest against state oppression, further highlighting the ongoing human rights crisis in the region, characterized by enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings as reported by Baloch nationalist leaders. The situation reflects deep-rooted grievances over political autonomy and economic neglect faced by the Baloch people, with human rights organizations condemning the Pakistani government's heavy-handed approach. This unrest underscores the need for a reevaluation of Pakistan's policies in Balochistan to address the legitimate concerns of its populace and to prevent further escalation of tensions in the region.

Amit Shah Highlights Success of Zero Tolerance on J&K Terrorism SHARE

22-Mar-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised the Modi government's zero tolerance policy towards terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing a significant decrease in violence since the abrogation of Article 370. He highlighted that terror incidents dropped from

7,217 between 2004-2014 to 2,242 from 2014-2024, showcasing the success of strict counter-terrorism measures. Shah noted improvements in local governance, job creation, and regional investments, attributing this progress to the government's decisive actions against terrorism and local networks. The transformation of Jammu and Kashmir into a peaceful and integrated region reflects India's commitment to national security and development, positioning the country as a key player in global affairs.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

FBI Warns US iPhone and Android Users to Delete Smishing Messages SHARE

22-Mar-25

The FBI has issued a warning to US residents about a wave of "smishing" attacks from Chinese phishers, targeting iPhone and Android users with fraudulent toll bills from US toll road operators, including E-ZPass. These messages, which are difficult to prevent due to scammers' evolving tactics, often contain links that impersonate legitimate agencies, utilizing domains with histories of abuse. Users are advised to delete these texts and verify toll charges through official channels to avoid potential scams. The issue highlights the growing threat of cyberattacks targeting individuals and the need for enhanced vigilance and reporting mechanisms to combat such phishing attempts effectively.

Consumer Trust in Digital Services Declines, Says Thales Report SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Thales 2025 Digital Trust Index reveals a notable global decline in consumer trust in digital services, with only banking, insurance, and government sectors maintaining or slightly improving trust levels. Privacy concerns are paramount, with 82% of consumers abandoning brands due to data usage fears, and a majority feeling burdened by data protection responsibilities. While consumers desire improved security measures, such as biometrics and AI, the report highlights that digital trust remains a serious challenge for online enterprises. This decline underscores the urgent need for organizations to enhance cybersecurity and consumer engagement to rebuild confidence effectively.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Indian Army and Navy Open Agnipath Recruitment for Youth SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Indian Army and Navy have both launched recruitment notifications under the Agnipath scheme, inviting applications for various positions. The Indian Army's recruitment for Agniveers is open until April 10, with eligibility criteria including age limits and educational qualifications. Similarly, the Indian Navy's Agniveer recruitment for batches 02/2025, 01/2026, and 02/2026 opens on March 29, 2025, offering a monthly pay package of 30,000. Candidates must pass an entrance examination and physical tests, with the Navy requiring specific educational qualifications in science or vocational training. This initiative not only provides a structured pathway for youth to join the armed forces but also enhances India's military capabilities, fostering a stronger defense posture in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

Indian Army Hosts Cataract Surgery Camp for Veterans and Civilians SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Indian Army organized a Special Cataract Eye Surgery Camp at the 158 Base Hospital in Bengdubi Military Station, benefiting over 350 veterans, their dependents, and select civilians. Inaugurated by Lt Gen RC Tiwari, this camp reflects the Army's commitment to healthcare outreach and exemplifies military-civil cooperation, as some civilians received surgeries as well. Led by Brigadier Sanjay Mishra, the initiative aims to enhance access to quality ophthalmic care in the strategically significant region, which includes West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, and Nepal. This third camp follows successful initiatives in Dehradun and Jaipur, demonstrating the Army's dedication to supporting the health and well-being of veterans and the broader community.

Miscellaneous

Arunachal Guv Calls for Stronger Ties Between Communities and Forces SHARE

22-Mar-25

Arunachal Pradesh Governor KT Parnaik emphasized the importance of deeper integration between local

communities and security forces to enhance border management and build trust. Speaking at a seminar organized by the Indian Army's 56 Infantry Division, he advocated for advanced technology and community collaboration to secure the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Parnaik highlighted the government's Vibrant Villages Programme aimed at developing border villages, emphasizing self-reliance and thriving local economies. He also underscored the significance of information warfare in shaping narratives, indicating a comprehensive approach towards holistic security and community engagement in border areas, which is crucial for India's defense strategy.

Indian Navy Rescues Injured Crew from Fire on Foreign Vessel SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Indian Navy and Coast Guard successfully rescued three crew members, two Chinese and one Indonesian, from the MV Heilan Star, a Panama-flagged bulk carrier, off the Goa coast after a fire incident that left one crew member deceased. The operation, prompted by the Indian Coast Guard's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, involved diverting INS Vikrant and INS Deepak, with a Seaking helicopter executing a challenging winching operation for the evacuation. This swift response highlights India's commitment to humanitarian assistance beyond its maritime boundaries, showcasing the Navy's readiness and capability to conduct life-saving operations under challenging circumstances, reinforcing its vital role in regional maritime security and international cooperation.

National Defence College Team Explores Governance in A.P. SHARE

21-Mar-25

A team from the National Defence College, led by Major General C.P. Sangra (Rtd.), is on a study tour in Andhra Pradesh, engaging with local governance to understand welfare programs. They met Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand, who outlined initiatives under the Swarnandhra 2047 Vision Plan and introduced a WhatsApp governance system designed to streamline public service delivery. This visit underscores a collaborative approach between the state and defense sectors, facilitating the exchange of ideas on governance and welfare, which can enhance local support for defense initiatives and strengthen civil-military relations in India.

Delhi HC Halts Lokpal Proceedings Against Defence Secretary SHARE

22-Mar-25

The Delhi High Court has stayed the Lokpal proceedings against Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, who was implicated in alleged irregularities in promotions at the National Productivity Council. The court found the need for in-depth consideration and suspended the Lokpal's notices and orders issued in early January and March 2025. The petitioners argued that the promotions were conducted before Singh's tenure began in April 2023, asserting that the Lokpal's inquiry exceeded its jurisdiction under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013. This case underscores the ongoing scrutiny and challenges faced by officials in the defense sector, emphasizing the need for procedural clarity within governmental bodies.

US Judge Halts Deportation of Indian Scholar Amid Controversy SHARE

22-Mar-25

A US federal judge has blocked the deportation of Badar Khan Suri, an Indian postdoctoral fellow at Georgetown University, who was detained for allegedly spreading Hamas propaganda. The judge's order prevents his removal unless a contrary ruling is issued. Suri's lawyer asserts that he has no criminal record and argues that his detention is a consequence of his Palestinian heritage and activism, claiming that he and his wife have faced harassment due to their views on Palestinian rights. The Department of Homeland Security has labeled Suri's actions as a threat to US foreign policy, a justification often used to deport individuals deemed to support terrorism. This case highlights the tensions surrounding immigration enforcement and free speech, particularly for individuals engaging in politically sensitive topics in the US.

Delhi Police Breaks Up Illegal Bangladeshi Immigration Ring, 4 Arrested SHARE

22-Mar-25

Delhi Police's Crime Branch has successfully dismantled an illegal immigration syndicate facilitating the entry of Bangladeshi nationals into India, resulting in the arrest of four individuals, including a key operator, Mohd Iqbal Hossain. The syndicate provided forged identity documents, enabling illegal settlement in Delhi/NCR. Hossain, previously arrested for selling illegal SIM cards, operated a garment business while trafficking other Bangladeshi nationals. Authorities have seized crucial documents, including multiple fake Aadhaar

cards, and continue to investigate further associates involved in the trafficking network. This operation underscores the persistent threat of illegal immigration and the importance of stringent law enforcement to safeguard national security.

388 Indians Deported from the US in 2025 Amid Ongoing Cooperation



22-Mar-25

Since January 2025, 388 Indian nationals have been deported from the US, with 333 deported via military flights and 55 through commercial means. The Indian government is working closely with US authorities to ensure humane treatment for deportees and address illegal immigration effectively. Concerns regarding the treatment of deportees, particularly the use of restraints, have been raised by India. The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that deportations are solely of individuals violating US immigration laws and emphasized the importance of cooperation to combat illegal immigration networks while promoting safe and legal migration pathways for Indians.

Heathrow Airport Shuts Down Due to Power Outage and Fire



22-Mar-25

Heathrow Airport announced a complete shutdown due to a power outage caused by a fire at an electrical substation, affecting around 67,000 homes and leading to the cancellation or diversion of over 1,300 flights. Authorities evacuated approximately 150 people from nearby properties as a safety precaution. Despite a backup transformer, it could not support the airport's full power demands, resulting in significant disruptions. Operations resumed on March 22, 2025, but travelers are advised to verify flight statuses, with British Airways planning to operate about 85% of its flights that day, highlighting the extensive impact of infrastructure failures on global air travel.

ISRO Launches Space Tech Hub at NIT- Rourkela for Future Missions



22-Mar-25

ISRO has launched a Space Technology Incubation Center (STIC) at NIT-Rourkela, aiming to bolster future missions like the Venus Orbiter and the Gaganyaan initiative, which plans to send Indian astronauts into space. ISRO Chairman Dr. V Narayanan emphasized collaboration between ISRO, academia, and industry to foster innovation and develop skilled human resources. The STIC will serve as a regional hub for eastern India, promoting research and projects that enhance India's

space capabilities. This initiative reflects ISRO's commitment to strengthening India's position in space technology and cultivating young talent to support ambitious national space objectives.

EAM Jaishankar: Ask Americans About New World Order Intentions



22-Mar-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar humorously suggested that questions regarding U.S. intentions should be directed at Americans, emphasizing India's focus on maximizing its options and engaging with both the U.S. and the Global South. He highlighted India's strategy to enhance technological capabilities and economic growth while navigating the complexities posed by U.S. withdrawal from key international agreements. This approach aims to balance relationships with global powers while asserting national interests, positioning India as a crucial player in shaping future global dynamics. As India strengthens its technological and manufacturing sectors, it seeks to foster international partnerships that contribute to a more balanced world order.

India and China Discuss Resuming Mansarovar Yatra in 2025



22-Mar-25

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs announced that while there is an understanding for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to resume in 2025, the specific modalities are still under discussion. This follows constructive engagements between Indian and Chinese officials since the meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping in October. The yatra, which has been suspended since 2020 due to COVID-19, is poised for renewal thanks to agreements reached earlier this year. This development reflects a positive trajectory in India-China relations, emphasizing the importance of dialogue and cooperation in managing bilateral ties and regional stability.

India Raises Concerns with US on Treatment of Deportees



22-Mar-25

The Indian government has raised concerns with U.S. authorities regarding the treatment of Indian deportees, particularly the use of shackles on women during repatriation flights. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh confirmed that the U.S. has assured that no women or minors were restrained on flights that landed on February 15 and 16. The Ministry of External Affairs is actively engaging with the U.S. to ensure

humane treatment and to accommodate religious sensitivities and dietary preferences of deportees. This diplomatic dialogue underscores India's commitment to protecting its nationals abroad while addressing illegal immigration issues.

Indian Railways Pursues Nuclear Power for 2030 Net-Zero Goals



22-Mar-25

Indian Railways is pursuing the establishment of small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030, significantly reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Engaging with the Department of Atomic Energy and the Ministry of Power, the initiative aims to meet a projected 10 GW traction power requirement while leveraging the advantages of SMRs, such as smaller footprints and enhanced safety. By utilizing its extensive land along the railway network, Indian Railways can streamline project implementation, supported by a combination of public and collaborative funding. This move aligns with India's broader climate goals and demonstrates a commitment to sustainable energy and reduced carbon emissions in the transport sector.

INS Vikrant Joins Modern Warships, Showcasing India's Naval Might



22-Mar-25

INS Vikrant, India's first domestically built aircraft carrier, is set to be integrated into the popular game

Modern Warships, enhancing its naval combat experience. This addition reflects India's growing naval capabilities and engineering prowess, showcasing Vikrant's versatile air and offensive combat capabilities. As players can employ strategic tactics using its MiG-29K fighters and advanced weaponry, the inclusion highlights the realistic portrayal of modern naval warfare. While Vikrant's air defense may have limitations, its speed and combat versatility emphasize the importance of teamwork and strategy, mirroring real-world naval engagements. This development excites the game's community, further promoting India's indigenous defense achievements.

Rise in Prolonged Cyberattacks: 35% Last Over a Month



22-Mar-25

The Kaspersky Incident Response analyst report highlights a significant rise in long-lasting cyberattacks, with 35.2% exceeding one month in duration, averaging 253 days. These persistent attacks primarily target data encryption and leakage, exploiting public-facing applications and trusted relationships. The incident response time averaged 50 hours, emphasizing the complexity of mitigating such threats. To combat these evolving challenges, organizations are urged to adopt robust cybersecurity solutions and managed security services for comprehensive protection and expert support. This emphasizes the necessity for proactive measures as cybercriminals become increasingly sophisticated amidst advancing technology.

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