



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### Flying Wedge Secures \$30 Million Deal for Indigenous Kaala Bhairav Drone

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23-Aug-25

Flying Wedge Defence has secured a \$30 million export deal for its indigenous combat drone, Kaala Bhairav, marking a significant step in India's self-reliance in defense technology. This drone, designed for strategic autonomy, boasts a 30-hour endurance and a 3,000 km strike range, operating at a fraction of the cost of foreign competitors like the MQ-9 Reaper. The deal not only validates India's indigenous capabilities but also strengthens its position as a potential defense exporter amid rising global demand for military drones. By integrating local manufacturing and innovative warfare doctrines, India aims to reduce its reliance on foreign systems and enhance its defense industrial base.

### ThermaEdge Cold-Weather Gear Successfully Completes Army Trials

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23-Aug-25

Thermaissance, a leading Indian developer of advanced textiles, has successfully completed field trials for its ThermaEdge Cold-Weather Balaclava and Two-Layer Smart Blanket with the Indian Army's Northern Command in extreme cold conditions. Both products demonstrated excellent thermal performance, comfort, and hygiene, making them suitable for operational deployment in high-altitude areas. The balaclava features a dual-layer insulation system and antimicrobial properties, while the lightweight blanket provides versatile thermal protection and complies with military standards. This trial clearance highlights India's commitment to enhancing soldier welfare through innovative defense gear, showcasing domestic capabilities in advanced textile solutions for extreme conditions.

### Government Approves Negotiations for ₹70,000 Crore Submarine Deal

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23-Aug-25

The Indian government has cleared the Defence Ministry and Mazagon Dockyards Limited to begin negotiations for a Rs 70,000 crore deal to construct six advanced submarines under Project 75 India, in collaboration with German ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems. This strategic move aims to bolster India's indigenous submarine manufacturing capabilities amid rising naval threats from China and Pakistan. The Indian Navy anticipates phasing out around 10 submarines in the next decade, necessitating timely replacements. The deal reflects a commitment to enhancing India's defense readiness and industrial prowess, emphasizing the importance of self-reliance in defense manufacturing.

### SpaceX Launches X-37B for U.S. Military Space Operations

📞 SHARE

23-Aug-25

SpaceX successfully launched the X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle for the U.S. Space Force, highlighting the growing role of private aerospace firms in national security. This mission, significant for its focus on next-gen technologies like laser communications and quantum inertial sensors, underscores the importance of maintaining a competitive edge in space amid increasing geopolitical tensions. The X-37B's ability to operate autonomously for extended periods and return for reuse enhances logistical flexibility and strategic advantages for the U.S. As space operations evolve, this collaboration between commercial and military sectors will shape the future of secure communications and advanced navigation technologies.

### Kanpur's MK-4 Sleeping Bags Enhance Indian Army's Cold Weather Readiness

📞 SHARE

23-Aug-25

The Ordnance Equipment Factory in Kanpur has delivered 245,000 MK-4 sleeping bags to the Indian

Army, designed for extreme cold conditions on the borders, specifically effective in temperatures as low as -20C and capable of retaining warmth even in -50C. These sleeping bags are lightweight, water-resistant, and made from advanced materials, ensuring soldiers remain operational in harsh environments. This initiative aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision, showcasing significant strides towards self-reliance in defense manufacturing. The successful delivery enhances the safety and effectiveness of troops stationed in some of the world's most challenging terrains, emphasizing Kanpur's growing role in advanced defense production.

## Indian Navy's Rafale-M Jets to Include Custom SPECTRA Systems

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23-Aug-25

The Indian Navy's acquisition of 26 Dassault Rafale Marine jets, valued at around ₹63,000 crore, features customized SPECTRA electronic warfare suites tailored for maritime operations, significantly bolstering India's defense against escalating threats from China and Pakistan in the Indian Ocean Region. Developed jointly by Thales and MBDA, SPECTRA provides integrated self-protection through long-range detection, identification, and precise localization of infrared, electromagnetic, and laser threats, incorporating radar warning receivers, laser warning systems, and infrared missile warning sensors like the DDM-NG with fisheye lenses for spherical coverage and enhanced false alarm rejection. The system includes phased-array radar jammers for concentrated signal disruption, decoy dispensers for multi-threat countermeasures, and a dedicated data fusion unit for rapid reaction decisions, enabling effective jamming, decoying, and evasion maneuvers. This setup enhances the Rafale-M's anti-ship missile defense and suppression of enemy air defenses, while its angular localization aids in threat avoidance or targeting for precision strikes, ensuring superior survivability and operational dominance in contested naval environments amid evolving geopolitical tensions.

## GTRE Takes Lead in Co-Developing 120kN Jet Engine for AMCA

SHARE

23-Aug-25

The Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) has secured a pivotal role in the co-development of a 120kN thrust-class jet engine, which is set to power India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). GTRE will manage core design, technology transfer, production, and certification, leveraging its extensive experience

from previous projects. This initiative marks a significant step towards India's aerospace self-reliance, enabling local production and reducing dependence on foreign technology. By fostering an indigenous ecosystem for advanced jet engines, India is enhancing its strategic autonomy in defense capabilities, thereby strengthening its position as a rising power in military aviation.

## Tejas Mk1 Upgraded with SDRs to Match Mk1A Standards

SHARE

23-Aug-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is set to upgrade the Indian Air Force's Tejas Mk1 variants with advanced Software-Defined Radio (SDR) systems, bringing their capabilities in line with the Mk1A models already in production. This enhancement, focusing on indigenously developed SDR-1 and SDR-2 technologies by HAL and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), will introduce multi-band, multi-mode communication across V/UHF, L-bands, and SATCOM frequencies, supporting waveforms like Legacy AM/FM, Frequency Hopping voice, Mobile Ad Hoc Networking, and Pulse Address Multiple Access. The systems feature two RF channels, MIL-STD-1553B interfaces, compact ½ ATR form factors, and Software Communications Architecture compliance for seamless upgrades without hardware changes, improving secure data links, real-time situational awareness, and network-centric warfare interoperability. While the Mk1A incorporates Israel's Elta-supplied B-NET SDR, the upgrades emphasize domestic solutions to reduce foreign dependence, with additional global manufacturers like Thales, BAE Systems, and Elbit Systems noted for similar military-grade SDRs. This move bolsters India's indigenous defense ecosystem, enhancing aerial combat flexibility and operational efficiency amid evolving threats.

## Indian Navy Plans to Transfer Kilo-Sub for DRDO System Testing

SHARE

23-Aug-25

The Indian Navy is contemplating transferring a Kilo-class submarine to the DRDO to expedite indigenous submarine development. This submarine would serve as a test bed for advanced systems, including Air-Independent Propulsion, Submarine-Launched Cruise Missiles, and heavyweight torpedoes, crucial for future nuclear and conventional submarines. This collaboration aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and aims to enhance underwater capabilities while mitigating risks in ongoing programs such as

Project 75 Alpha and Project 75I. While retrofitting challenges may arise, DRDO's expertise positions it well to adapt these technologies, ensuring India's defense readiness and strategic deterrence in a dynamic maritime environment.

## Avtoros Shaman 88: Russian All-Terrain Vehicle Debuts in Sikkim



23-Aug-25

The Avtoros Shaman 88, a Russian all-terrain vehicle, made its debut in Sikkim, showcasing its exceptional capabilities in navigating the region's challenging environments. With features such as amphibious functionality, advanced steering modes, and robust off-road performance, it is well-suited for both adventure travel and potential military applications, particularly in disaster relief scenarios. Its high cost and road legality issues may hinder widespread adoption, yet its presence highlights the growing interest in versatile vehicles capable of tackling the treacherous terrains of Northeast India, aligning with the Indian Army's operational needs in such regions.

## DRDO Partners with Astra Microwave and BEL for Virupaksha Radar



23-Aug-25

The DRDO has selected Astra Microwave and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) as partners to develop the indigenous Virupaksha AESA radar for the IAF's Super-30 upgrade of its Su-30MKI fleet. This state-of-the-art radar will enhance the fighter's capabilities against advanced threats like China's J-20, featuring GaN technology for superior performance and a range of 300-400 km. Astra Microwave's expertise in RF technologies and BEL's experience in avionics integration ensure robust production and system integration, with testing set to begin in 2028. The project supports India's vision of self-reliance in defense, fostering collaboration within the domestic defense industry while strengthening national security.

## Airbus Flexrotor UAS Trials Enhance India's Defense Capabilities



23-Aug-25

In a pivotal boost to India's defense self-reliance, Airbus has commenced trials of its Flexrotor tactical VTOL unmanned aerial system (UAS) in India as of August 23, 2025, aligning with the Make in India initiative to foster indigenous manufacturing and technology transfers. Weighing 25 kg at takeoff with 12-14 hours of endurance, the Flexrotor excels in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) missions across

diverse terrains, enabling compact deployments from confined spaces ideal for the Indian Navy's maritime domain awareness amid escalating Indo-Pacific tensions. Key actors include Airbus Helicopters and potential Indian partners, with trials demonstrating enhanced operational flexibility for land and sea-based expeditions. This development underscores New Delhi's strategic push to modernize forces, reduce import dependencies, and counter regional threats from China and Pakistan, potentially integrating advanced payloads like electro-optical sensors and satellite connectivity for real-time intelligence in high-threat environments.

## EON Space Labs to Launch MIRA, India's First Ultra-Light Telescope by 2025



23-Aug-25

EON Space Labs is set to launch MIRA, India's first ultra-lightweight space telescope, by the end of 2025, following a \$1.2 million Pre-Series A funding round led by MGF Kavachh with HHV Group as a strategic partner. Unlike traditional space telescopes that scout stars and distant galaxies, MIRA is focused on Earth observation, designed to be three to four times lighter and smaller than conventional models through innovations in miniaturized optical design while maintaining high-resolution imaging without compromising quality. This enhances applications in commercial and defense sectors, including surveillance, agriculture, disaster response, and resource management, while significantly reducing deployment costs. The AI-driven electro-optical and infrared payload system targets the \$11.09 billion global EO/IR surveillance market, underscoring India's growing space technology capabilities, alignment with the Make in India initiative, and promotion of self-reliance through indigenous manufacturing and Hyderabad's space tech ecosystem collaboration.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### India's Sudarshan Chakra Mission: A 2035 Vision for Robust Defense



23-Aug-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Sudarshan Chakra Mission during his 2025 Independence Day address, aiming to establish a multi-layered, indigenous defense system by 2035 that integrates both offensive and defensive capabilities. Distinct from global counterparts like Israel's Iron Dome, this ambitious initiative will neutralize aerial

threats while conducting precise strikes against enemy targets. Key features include a three-tiered air defense system, advanced cyber defense, and seamless integration with existing military assets. This comprehensive approach will bolster India's strategic posture and deterrent capability, ensuring national sovereignty against evolving threats.

## IAF to transfer 13 acres to Pune airport by October for upgrades. SHARE

23-Aug-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to transfer 13 acres of land to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the development of Pune airport by October, coinciding with the winter flight schedule. This land will be utilized for constructing five new parking bays and three remote bays, enhancing passenger facilities during the busy festive season. Additionally, AAI will upgrade the airport's old terminal for a new departure area by December. This collaboration aims to improve access and aesthetics around the airport, reflecting a proactive approach to meet rising air travel demands and enhancing operational efficiency in the region.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### INS Tamal Completes Successful Visits to Greece and Italy SHARE

23-Aug-25

The Indian Navy's latest stealth frigate, INS Tamal, has recently concluded successful port calls in Naples, Italy, and Souda Bay, Greece, during its return journey to India. The visit to Naples from August 13 to 16 reinforced the rapidly growing India-Italy Strategic Partnership, featuring extensive naval exercises, diplomatic engagements, and a ceremonial parade for India's Independence Day. During the stay, the crew engaged with Italian military and civil authorities, discussing joint initiatives under the India-Italy Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029. Subsequently, from August 19 to 22, INS Tamal's port call at Souda Bay allowed for operational discussions with the Hellenic Navy and NATO officials, enhancing maritime cooperation. The ship's participation in a Passage Exercise with a Hellenic Navy patrol boat further validated interoperability between the navies. These port calls reflect India's commitment to strengthening defense ties with Greece and Italy, showcasing its proactive approach in maritime diplomacy and collaboration with friendly nations. The engagement with both countries not only highlights strategic partnerships but also

underscores India's vision of enhancing regional security through joint training and operational exercises, paving the way for further collaborative defense initiatives.

### Rajnath: Munir's "dumper truck" remark reveals Pakistan's failures. SHARE

23-Aug-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh responded to Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir's remarks comparing Pakistan to a "dumper truck" and India to a "Mercedes," describing these comments as a reflection of Pakistan's failures and a predatory mentality. Singh emphasized that India's progress is a result of hard work and sound policies, contrasting it with Pakistan's struggles. He highlighted the importance of maintaining strong defense capabilities and a fighting spirit, especially in light of India's recent Operation Sindoor, which showcased its proactive approach to security challenges. Singh's remarks underline India's commitment to national honor amid regional tensions.

### Pakistan Criticizes India's Agni-5 Missile Test as a Global Threat SHARE

23-Aug-25

India's successful test of the Agni-5 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which can reach targets over 5,000 kilometers away, has drawn sharp criticism from Pakistan, which claims it threatens regional and global stability. Pakistan's Foreign Office condemned the test as an escalation of tensions in South Asia, arguing that India's arms buildup exacerbates an already volatile environment. Meanwhile, the Agni-5's Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology enhances India's strategic deterrence against a growing Chinese nuclear arsenal, as China continues to expand its capabilities significantly. Moreover, India's nuclear modernization, including advancements in sea-based deterrents and future missile development like the Agni-VI, signifies a shift from a regional to a global nuclear power status, reinforcing its strategic autonomy amid deteriorating relations with the U.S. The situation underscores the delicate balance of power in South Asia, where India's enhanced capabilities are crucial for maintaining deterrence against both Pakistan and China. In this complex geopolitical landscape, India is positioning itself as a significant player, demonstrating that it will not be swayed by external pressures, and is committed to strengthening its defense posture to ensure national security.



## Pakistan Open to Talks with India on Kashmir and Other Issues [SHARE](#)

23-Aug-25

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has expressed the country's readiness for comprehensive dialogue with India to address Kashmir and other pending issues, emphasizing a multi-faceted approach rather than a single-point agenda. This comes after a recent military crisis marked by India's Operation Sindoor, targeting terrorist infrastructure following a deadly attack in Pahalgam, and Pakistan's retaliation with drone strikes on Indian military installations. Despite the ceasefire brokered by the U.S., which remains in effect, India's position is firm: it will only engage in talks focused on the return of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and countering terrorism, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reiterating that dialogue cannot occur with a nation that harbors terrorist elements. There is a significant disconnect between India's insistence on addressing terrorism as a precondition for dialogue and Pakistan's broader agenda for discussion. While Pakistani officials remain optimistic about potential talks, the lack of concrete progress and contact on political matters suggests a diplomatic stalemate. The situation illustrates the complexities of Indo-Pak relations, where mutual suspicion and differing priorities hinder meaningful engagement, necessitating a reevaluation of strategies on both sides to foster dialogue and stability in the region.

## SWITCH UAV Achieves NATO Stock Number, Boosting India's Defense Exports [SHARE](#)

23-Aug-25

India's defense industry achieved a significant milestone with the SWITCH UAV, developed by ideaForge Technology Limited, receiving a NATO Stock Number (NSN), which validates its compliance with international military standards. This recognition enhances India's position as a global hub for drone innovation and opens new avenues for defense exports, particularly for integrated NATO procurement. The SWITCH, designed for challenging conditions with a maximum endurance of two hours and advanced features, has already garnered interest from the Indian Army. This achievement not only solidifies India's growing defense capabilities but also reinforces the potential for expanded collaboration with allied forces on a global scale.

## Baltic States Boost Defenses Against Russian GPS Jamming Threats [SHARE](#)

23-Aug-25

Baltic states are facing heightened electronic warfare threats from Russia, particularly in the form of GPS jamming that disrupts air and maritime communications. Lithuania reported a 22-fold increase in GPS jamming incidents, which poses risks to civilian transport and military readiness in a region critical for NATO's security posture. In response, Baltic nations and their allies are seeking international intervention through organizations like the ITU and ICAO while enhancing their own countermeasures. This situation underscores Russia's aggressive tactics aimed at undermining NATO cohesion, highlighting the need for strengthened defenses and regional cooperation among allied forces, including India's strategic interest in maintaining stability in its own neighborhood amidst rising geopolitical tensions.

## India extends airspace ban on Pakistan flights until September 24. [SHARE](#)

23-Aug-25

India has extended the closure of its airspace for Pakistan planes until September 24, following a series of measures in response to the Pahalgam terror attack in April, which resulted in 26 fatalities. Initially implemented on April 30, the ban affects all Pakistan-registered and operated aircraft, including military flights, and has seen monthly extensions. Pakistan has similarly extended its airspace closure for Indian aircraft. This reciprocal action underscores ongoing tensions between the two nations while highlighting India's commitment to national security and stability in the region, reinforcing its stance against terrorism and threats to its sovereignty.

## INS Kadmatt Strengthens Ties with Indonesia During Port Call [SHARE](#)

23-Aug-25

The Indian Naval Ship INS Kadmatt, an indigenous anti-submarine warfare corvette, successfully completed a three-day port call at Surabaya, Indonesia, enhancing maritime cooperation with the Indonesian Navy (TNI AL). The visit included professional interactions, cross-deck visits, and community outreach activities, such as welcoming the Indian diaspora and engaging in a friendly volleyball match, reinforcing camaraderie. This port call underscores India's commitment to strengthening partnerships in the region and emphasizes the Indian Navy's role as a trusted security

partner, aligned with the shared vision of 'Partnership Across Sea' to ensure a secure maritime domain.

## Pentagon Intelligence Chief Jeffrey Kruse Fired in Purge



23-Aug-25

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth fired Lieutenant General Jeffrey Kruse, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, on August 22, 2025, amid a broader purge of senior military officials by the Trump administration. The dismissal followed a leaked DIA preliminary assessment in June 2025 that contradicted President Trump's claims of having obliterated Iranian nuclear facilities through US airstrikes, stating instead that the strikes merely delayed Iran's program by a few months. This move, which also included the removal of Vice Admiral Nancy Lacore, head of the Navy Reserve, and Admiral Jamie Sands, commander of Naval Special Warfare Command, marks the latest in a series of terminations, including General Timothy Haugh from the National Security Agency in April 2025 and General C.Q. Brown from the Joint Chiefs of Staff in February 2025. Critics, including Senator Mark Warner, have raised concerns that such actions politicize intelligence by prioritizing loyalty over objective analysis, potentially undermining national security and the integrity of military governance. Deputy Director Christine Bordine has assumed the role of acting DIA director.

## FBI Raids John Bolton Following Criticism of India Tariffs



23-Aug-25

The FBI raided the home of former national security adviser John Bolton, following his criticism of former President Trump's tariffs on India regarding Russian oil, which Bolton argued could strengthen ties between India, Russia, and China. This high-profile investigation relates to Bolton's handling of classified information in his memoir, which Trump had sought to block for allegedly revealing national secrets. Bolton's comments imply negative implications for U.S. interests as India engages more with Moscow and Beijing, highlighting the complexities of U.S.-India relations amid shifting geopolitical alliances. The situation underscores the importance of strategic diplomacy and the need for India to navigate its partnerships carefully.

## Military Operations

### Indian Army Conducts Relief Operations in Chamoli Floods



23-Aug-25

A devastating cloudburst struck Tharali town in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on the night of August 22, 2025, triggering flash floods and mudslides that caused widespread destruction, including the burial of homes, shops, vehicles, and infrastructure under debris. One woman, identified as Kavita from Sangwada village, died after being trapped under rubble, while at least two others—a girl in Sagwara village and a person in Chepdo village—remain missing, with several residents injured and airlifted for treatment. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate's residence, tehsil complex, and markets in areas like Chepdon and Kotdeep were severely damaged, rendering roads such as Tharali-Gwaldam and Tharali-Sagwara impassable and prompting the closure of schools up to Class 12 in Tharali tehsil on August 23. The Indian Army swiftly deployed around 50 personnel from Rudraprayag, supported by medical teams from Joshimath, search-and-rescue dogs, and drones, to join NDRF and SDRF in ongoing relief operations, evacuating locals to camps amid chaotic scenes of residents fleeing inundated homes.

### IAF Chief A.P. Singh: Train Hard for Stronger National Defense



23-Aug-25

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh emphasized the critical need for continuous investment in defense and rigorous training for the armed forces, addressing students in Delhi. He asserted that India's safety hinges on the preparedness of its military and police, and highlighted the country's rising defense capabilities through ongoing modernization efforts. Singh pointed out the humanitarian role of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in disaster response and reaffirmed its primary responsibility for national air defense. He cited Operation Sindoor to stress the importance of intense training for effective deterrence, stating, "the more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war," while underscoring the IAF's readiness with aircraft on standby.

## CRPF Takes Charge in Jammu, Freeing Army for Border Security



23-Aug-25

The Indian government has initiated a significant defense restructuring by deploying three CRPF battalions in Jammu to enhance counter-terrorism efforts, allowing Army units to focus on securing the Line of Control with Pakistan and the Line of Actual Control with China. This strategic shift, part of a two-year plan following the abrogation of Article 370, aims to repurpose military resources more effectively, leveraging CRPF's capabilities and modern equipment for internal security. The move underscores the government's commitment to strengthening border security while addressing internal threats, illustrating a proactive approach to national defense amidst changing security dynamics.

## Indian Navy's P-8I Fleet Enhancing Capability Against Threats



23-Aug-25

The Indian Navy's P-8I fleet, essential for maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, faces challenges from advanced Chinese and Pakistani naval assets equipped with long-range surface-to-air missiles. To enhance its operational effectiveness, the Navy aims to integrate indigenous systems like the Nirbhay cruise missile and the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR), which would allow for standoff capabilities against high-value targets. Accelerating the development and integration of these systems is critical, as it would bolster the P-8I's striking power while reducing vulnerability to enemy air defenses. Timely deployment is essential to counter evolving maritime threats and maintain regional dominance.

## PoK Man Arrested for Sharing Mosque GPS Data with India



23-Aug-25

A man named Obaid Jahangir from PoK has been arrested for allegedly sharing GPS coordinates of a mosque with Indian intelligence, linked to airstrikes targeting terror bases. Police claim he transmitted classified information for monetary rewards, while his family disputes these allegations, asserting he is a victim rather than a conspirator. The case highlights growing distrust and espionage activity in Kashmir, reflecting the complex interplay of narratives between India and Pakistan. As legal proceedings unfold, this incident may impact perceptions of espionage laws in the region, showcasing the delicate balance of national security and individual rights amid ongoing tensions.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### Hizb-ut-Tahrir expands in South India, radicalizes youth with Palestine narrative.



23-Aug-25

The Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT) is reportedly expanding its operations in South India, particularly targeting states like Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, leveraging a narrative centered around Palestine to radicalize and recruit youth. Indian intelligence agencies are alarmed by the group's potential to establish a support base and organize hit squads under newly established Sharia courts. Past attempts to incite communal tensions and links with the Pakistan Army for assistance in operations against India underscore the seriousness of this threat. The situation necessitates vigilant monitoring by Indian security forces to counteract the radicalization efforts and prevent any escalation of violence.

### NIA uncovers PFI's efforts to regroup via foreign funding and social media



23-Aug-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has conducted raids in connection with the Popular Front of India (PFI), revealing ongoing activities despite its ban under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in 2022. The PFI is reportedly attempting to regroup through foreign funding and social media campaigns aimed at inciting communal tensions. Intelligence agencies have identified operational modules abroad, particularly in Gulf nations, involved in fundraising and potentially reviving the PFI under a new identity. The government continues to monitor these developments closely, recognizing the threat posed by the PFI's attempts to operate similarly to networks like the Islamic State, which could jeopardize India's national security and social harmony.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### Cybercriminals Exploit GeoServer Flaw for Cryptomining Attacks



23-Aug-25

Recent reports highlight a critical vulnerability in GeoServer software, tracked as CVE-2024-36401, which cybercriminals are actively exploiting to deploy

cryptomining malware and create IoT botnets. This vulnerability enables remote code execution, allowing attackers to install miners like XMRig on both cloud and on-premise systems, and facilitating multi-stage payloads that evade detection. The exploitation campaigns target high-value sectors such as energy and telecommunications, with tactics including disabling security features and establishing persistence through cron jobs. Researchers have noted a significant increase in scanning activity linked to known threat actors, emphasizing the urgency for organizations using GeoServer to update to patched versions and monitor for unusual CPU usage. The convergence of open-source software vulnerabilities with cryptocurrency incentives poses a substantial threat to national critical infrastructure, necessitating international collaboration for effective countermeasures. Furthermore, the trend reflects a shift in cybercrime tactics, focusing more on targeted, profitable attacks rather than conventional botnet operations, underscoring the importance of proactive cybersecurity strategies and threat hunting in safeguarding critical assets.

## Trojan 1337 Hacktivists Breach Punjab Assembly Website



23-Aug-25

The Indian hacktivist group Trojan 1337 has claimed responsibility for breaching the website of Pakistan's Provincial Assembly of Punjab, highlighting a rise in nationalist cyberattacks in the region. This incident, occurring on August 19, 2025, echoes previous actions where the group targeted over 100 Bangladeshi sites during India's Independence Day, indicating a trend of politically motivated cyber activities that may exacerbate diplomatic tensions. Such hacktivist actions raise concerns about the security of digital assets within institutions and reflect the ongoing rivalry and strategic posturing in South Asia, showcasing cyber warfare as an emerging front in regional geopolitics.

## India Trains Cyber Commandos to Tackle AI-Driven Cybercrime



23-Aug-25

India's Ministry of Home Affairs is responding to the rising threat of AI-driven cybercrime by training specialized "cyber commandos" at the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) in Pune. This six-month course, developed in collaboration with DRDO scientists and academic experts, addresses challenges such as deepfakes and automated phishing. The initial cohort of 30 commandos, primarily from Jammu & Kashmir

Police, has already been involved in key operations, although low pass rates among Maharashtra Police candidates indicate a need for enhanced training efforts. This initiative highlights India's proactive approach to strengthening its cybersecurity capabilities amidst evolving threats.

## IIT Kanpur Launches Five Advanced Cyber Defense Tools



23-Aug-25

At the C3iHub 'Connect 1.0' Startup Demo Day, IIT Kanpur unveiled five innovative cyber defence and surveillance tools developed by incubated startups, showcasing India's commitment to self-reliance in defensive technologies. Notable innovations included the Eliminator kamikaze drone for GPS-denied environments, the solar-powered TEJASVAAN ISR drone with a 12-hour endurance, and the BlackFence cyber threat intelligence platform aimed at combating fraud and phishing. This event, which included participation from government and industry leaders, highlights India's strategic focus on enhancing its cybersecurity capabilities and fostering domestic technological advancements in the defense sector, thereby strengthening national security.

## Former Chief Warns India Needs Stronger Cybersecurity Systems



23-Aug-25

Vice Admiral Raman Puri, former Chief of Integrated Service, highlighted during a seminar at VNIT, Nagpur, the inadequacy of India's cybersecurity infrastructure, which can manage routine cybercrime but lacks the robustness for large-scale threats. He urged the need for stronger, indigenous cybersecurity systems and warned against dependence on foreign technology, especially during crises. Puri called for government support to bolster domestic industries in developing critical technologies, emphasizing that self-reliance is essential for national resilience against evolving cyber threats. This perspective underscores a crucial facet of India's defense strategy in safeguarding its digital frontiers.

## China's Silk Typhoon Breaches North American Cloud Networks



23-Aug-25

China's state-sponsored hacking group Silk Typhoon has intensified cyberattacks on North American cloud networks, exploiting zero-day vulnerabilities in products like Commvault and Citrix Netscaler to access sensitive government and defense data. Since late spring 2025,



the group has targeted software-as-a-service providers, technology firms, and legal services through supply chain compromises, using flaws such as CVE-2023-3519 in Citrix Gateway and CVE-2025-3928 in Commvault devices to infiltrate downstream customer environments. CrowdStrike reported over a dozen incidents by August 2025, including abuses of Entra ID permissions and delegated access to enable lateral movement and data exfiltration. U.S. officials link these operations to Beijing's strategy amid Indo-Pacific tensions, prompting calls for urgent patching, enhanced supply chain security, and multi-factor authentication to mitigate risks to critical infrastructure.

## China-Linked Murky Panda Cyber Espionage Targets North America



23-Aug-25

A China-linked hacking group, Murky Panda, has been conducting sophisticated cyber-espionage operations against North American entities, utilizing compromised cloud services to access sensitive information. This group employs advanced techniques, including weaponizing zero-day vulnerabilities and using custom malware, to target critical sectors, including defense technologies. The incident underscores vulnerabilities in cloud environments and highlights the risks posed by third-party dependencies. In light of growing U.S.-China tensions over technology, international cooperation and enhanced cybersecurity measures are crucial to counter such persistent threats and protect national interests.

## Indian government maintains TikTok ban, clarifies misinformation.



23-Aug-25

The Indian government has not unblocked TikTok, contrary to misleading reports suggesting otherwise. Official sources clarified that TikTok and other Chinese apps, initially banned in June 2020 following border clashes in Ladakh, remain blocked. The ban reflects India's commitment to safeguarding national security and digital sovereignty amidst ongoing tensions with China. This decisive stance reinforces the government's strategy to limit Chinese influence in the digital domain, ensuring that platforms posing potential risks to security are kept at bay. Overall, the government's firm approach demonstrates a clear prioritization of national interests in the digital landscape.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Army Rescues Injured Constable in Bomdila Gorge Incident



23-Aug-25

A police constable named Sange Phuntso sustained a skull fracture after falling into a gorge in Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh, during a geotagging operation. The Army's Gajraj Corps swiftly launched a rescue operation, navigating difficult terrain to provide first aid and evacuate him to a hospital in Tezpur, Assam, where he is now out of danger. This incident highlights the Army's readiness and capability in humanitarian assistance and disaster response, showcasing their commitment to supporting local law enforcement and ensuring the safety of personnel in challenging environments. Such coordinated efforts strengthen civil-military relations and enhance operational synergy in remote areas.

### Indian Army Honors Kargil Martyrs' Families in Tamil Nadu



23-Aug-25

The Indian Army recently honored families of Kargil war martyrs from Tamil Nadu in a heartfelt gesture commemorating the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. Personnel from the 96 Medium Regiment recognized the sacrifices of soldiers like Naik R Subramani and SPR M Jayavelu, presenting their families with letters of appreciation and mementos. Major Mariappan Saravanan, renowned for his valor during the conflict, was also honored posthumously. This initiative underscores the Indian Army's commitment to honoring the sacrifices made by its personnel and fostering a strong bond with the families of fallen heroes, thereby reinforcing national pride and solidarity in remembrance of past sacrifices.

## Miscellaneous

### ISRO Reveals Model of Bharatiya Antariksh Station for 2028 Launch



23-Aug-25

ISRO has unveiled a model of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) during the National Space Day celebrations, with plans to launch its first module by 2028. This initiative will place India among a select group of nations with orbital laboratories, supporting

advanced research in space, life sciences, and technology demonstrations. The BAS will feature an Environmental Control and Life Support System and is expected to foster international collaborations and space tourism. With five modules planned by 2035, the BAS underscores India's commitment to advancing its space capabilities and inspiring future generations in space science.

## Indian Army Showcases Drone Capabilities in Agartala Demonstration SHARE

23-Aug-25

The Indian Army's Eastern Command conducted Exercise Drone Prahaar 2 on August 18, 2025, in Agartala, Tripura, demonstrating the tactical integration of indigenously developed unmanned aerial vehicles under the theme "an eagle on every arm." The drill focused on real-time sensor-to-shooter links for precision targeting, layered surveillance in complex battlefield conditions, airspace deconfliction between manned and unmanned platforms, secure communications, and joint coordination among various arms and services. On August 21, 2025, Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha attended a joint demonstration by the Indian Army and Assam Rifles at the Assam Rifles ground, where he was briefed on the operational capabilities of advanced drone and anti-drone systems near the Bangladesh border. Saha praised the armed forces for adopting modern technology to enhance national security, noting that such innovations, aligned with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, would strengthen India's defense posture and reduce reliance on imports. The event highlighted the Army's commitment to operational innovation, battlefield agility, and self-reliance, positioning India as a regional leader in drone warfare amid evolving

## Ex-Army man's nostalgic love letter goes viral, celebrated by India Post SHARE

23-Aug-25

A viral video shared by Captain Dharmveer Singh features a decades-old handwritten love letter he received in 2001 while training at the Officers Training Academy in Chennai. The letter, which required him to complete 500 push-ups for delivery, evokes nostalgia for a time when letters were heartfelt tokens of affection. India Post joined in the sentiment, highlighting the enduring power of written words over fleeting digital messages. This story underscores the deep emotional connections fostered through traditional communication, contrasting modern-day

instant messaging with the timeless significance of handwritten notes.

## Indian Army and Bharti Airtel to Boost Telecom in Arunachal SHARE

23-Aug-25

The Indian Army's Dao Division has signed a memorandum of understanding with Bharti Airtel to enhance mobile communication infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley and Anjaw districts. This initiative aims to improve cellular coverage, benefiting both local communities and troops stationed in these strategically significant areas. Defence PRO Lt Col Mahendra Rawat emphasized that this partnership will not only bolster security and communication for the armed forces but will also empower local residents through enhanced access to services in education, healthcare, and governance. The collaboration aligns with India's Digital India vision, reflecting a commitment to overcoming connectivity challenges in remote regions.

## Rescue operations in Kishtwar scaled down; 36 still missing after cloudburst. SHARE

23-Aug-25

In Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, rescue operations are being scaled down after three days of no discoveries in the aftermath of a devastating cloudburst that claimed at least 68 lives, with 36 individuals still missing. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Army, and local agencies have been utilizing advanced equipment, including all-terrain vehicles and dog squads, to search a 40-kilometer stretch downstream from the affected village. Despite efforts, including controlled blasting to uncover bodies, hopes of finding survivors are diminishing, highlighting the challenges faced by rescue teams in such extreme weather conditions. The situation underscores the importance of preparedness and rapid response capabilities in disaster management.

## ISRO, IAF, Navy to conduct Gaganyaan test on August 24 SHARE

23-Aug-25

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), along with the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy, is set to conduct a pivotal test for the Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight mission on August 24, weather permitting. This Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT) will involve a Chinook helicopter simulating the capsule's splashdown sequence. With extensive coordination among military and space agencies, this test is crucial

for validating parachute deployment and recovery operations, enhancing India's capabilities in space exploration. The Gaganyaan mission represents a significant leap for India in establishing a robust human spaceflight program, showcasing national synergy in advancing space technology.

## Uttarakhand CM Dhami leads relief efforts after Chamoli cloudburst. SHARE

23-Aug-25

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has coordinated relief efforts following a cloudburst in the Chamoli district, leading to significant damage and prompting immediate action from local authorities, including the State Disaster Response Force and police. The Indian Army has deployed around 50 personnel to assist in rescue operations, alongside medical teams and surveillance drones. The India Meteorological Department issued an orange alert for thunderstorms and intense rain in the region. This proactive response showcases the efficiency of Indian defense and emergency services in disaster management, highlighting their commitment to public safety and effective crisis response.

## Texas Instruments Enhances ISRO's NISAR Mission Capabilities SHARE

23-Aug-25

India's collaboration with Texas Instruments (TI) has significantly enhanced the capabilities of ISRO's NISAR mission, a pioneering Earth-observation initiative utilizing dual-band synthetic aperture radar technology. TI's radiation-hardened semiconductors are crucial for the satellite's power management and data processing, enabling it to capture ultra-high-resolution images every 12 days for environmental monitoring and disaster management. This partnership exemplifies Indo-U.S. cooperation and underscores the importance of advanced semiconductor technology in space missions, setting a benchmark for future endeavors and highlighting the vital role of long-term industrial partnerships in advancing scientific and technological frontiers.

## Eight Arrested in UP for Forging Aadhaar Cards for Foreigners SHARE

23-Aug-25

The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested eight individuals involved in a racket that

forged Aadhaar cards for foreign nationals, including Rohingyas and Bangladeshis. The gang utilized both electronic and manual methods to create fake documents across nine states, charging between Rs 2,000 and Rs 40,000 for each card. They circumvented regulations by issuing forged certificates for those over 18 to obtain Aadhaar cards, which were later used to secure passports and access government schemes. This operation highlights the vulnerabilities in India's identification systems and underscores the need for enhanced security measures to protect national integrity.

## J&K Government Takes Over 215 Schools Linked to Banned JeI SHARE

23-Aug-25

The Jammu and Kashmir government has initiated the takeover of 215 schools linked to the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) organization, following concerns from intelligence agencies regarding their affiliations. This action aims to ensure the academic future of students by placing school management under the control of local authorities. The process includes verifying and establishing new management committees to maintain educational standards. This measure underscores the government's commitment to counter extremism and safeguard the integrity of education in the region, aligning with broader national security strategies to dismantle unlawful organizations and their influence on youth.

## L&T Delivers Steam Generator Ahead of Schedule for Haryana Nuclear Plant SHARE

23-Aug-25

L&T Heavy Engineering has successfully despatched a Steam Generator to the Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Pariyojana (GHAVP), marking a significant advancement in India's nuclear energy program. This Steam Generator, part of the manufacturing of four units for GHAVP's Units 3 and 4, was delivered seven months ahead of schedule, highlighting L&T's capabilities in nuclear component manufacturing. The initiative supports India's ambitious goal of achieving 100 GWe of nuclear power by 2047, emphasizing the importance of indigenous production and industry preparedness in bolstering the nation's energy security and technological self-reliance. This achievement reflects the growing strength and reliability of India's defense and energy sectors.

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