



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

GRSE Marks Milestone with Successful Sea Trials of Indigenous Naval Gun



23-May-25

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully conducting sea trials of the indigenous 30mm Naval Surface Gun (NSG) for the Indian Navy, marking its transition from a shipbuilder to a weapon manufacturer. This advanced weapon system, featuring a sophisticated indigenous Electro Optical Fire Control System, was tested onboard an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft designed by GRSE. The collaboration with M/s BHSEL and M/s Elbit Systems Land facilitated this achievement, with the NSG comprising 60% indigenous content and plans for increased indigenization aligning with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The 30mm naval gun is designed for installation on both smaller and larger ships, enhancing the Indian Navy's capability to engage fast-moving surface threats. GRSE's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing is underscored by the establishment of a new business segment dedicated to producing naval guns, reinforcing India's strategic defense posture. As India continues to strengthen its indigenous defense capabilities, the successful trials of the NSG symbolize a critical advancement in bolstering the operational readiness and technological superiority of the Indian Navy, sending a strong message to regional adversaries about India's growing defense capabilities.

Reliance Defence partners with Rheinmetall for artillery supply



23-May-25

Reliance Defence, led by Anil Ambani, has entered a strategic partnership with German firm Rheinmetall AG for supplying artillery shells and explosives through a new facility in Maharashtra. This agreement, the third defense collaboration for Reliance, follows previous

partnerships with Dassault Aviation and Thales of France. The partnership aims to enhance India's defense manufacturing capabilities by supplying medium and large caliber ammunition, while also exploring joint marketing opportunities. This collaboration not only fortifies India's defense industry but also aligns with the government's efforts to promote self-reliance in defense production, showcasing India's increasing capability in advanced military technology.

DRDO Chief: Indigenous Defense Systems Key for Future Warfare



23-May-25

DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V Kamat highlighted the importance of indigenous defense systems during his visit to Solar Industries in Nagpur, underscoring the private sector's role in bolstering India's defense capabilities. He expressed satisfaction with DRDO-developed weapon systems used in recent conflicts and stressed the need for continuous improvement and adaptation to modern warfare challenges. Upcoming projects, including advanced missiles and drone technologies, are set to enhance the armed forces' effectiveness. Solar Industries' Chairman emphasized their commitment to supporting national defense needs, reflecting a collaborative effort towards achieving Aatmanirbhar Bharat and greater self-reliance in defense production. This initiative aligns with India's strategic goal of enhancing combat capabilities.

GRSE Wins L1 Status for Next Gen Corvettes, Boosting Naval Power



23-May-25

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) has secured the L1 status for constructing eight Next Generation Corvettes for the Indian Navy, marking a significant achievement in India's defense sector. This contract, valued at over ₹25,000 crores, will see GRSE building five of the corvettes, enhancing the Navy's operational capabilities with cutting-edge technology. GRSE's success highlights its growing role in India's push for self-reliance in defense manufacturing,

solidifying its status as a key player in naval shipbuilding, with a proven track record of delivering over 100 warships. This development reflects India's commitment to strengthening its naval power and advancing indigenous defense production capabilities.

Samtel Avionics and ATSC Partner to Enhance RMAF Su-30MKM Systems



23-May-25

Indian defense firm Samtel Avionics has forged a strategic partnership with Malaysia's Aerospace Technology Systems Corp (ATSC) to enhance avionics support for the Royal Malaysian Air Force's Sukhoi Su-30MKM jets. This collaboration, announced on May 22, 2025, builds on previous agreements and aims to deliver advanced avionics systems, MRO services, and post-sales support, reinforcing India's position as a key defense technology provider. By leveraging Samtel's expertise in Multi-Function Displays and Head-Up Displays, this initiative not only boosts Malaysia's air combat capabilities but also signifies India's growing influence in the global defense export market, fostering regional security and collaboration.

Titan Capital launches fund to boost Indian defense-tech startups.



23-May-25

Titan Capital has launched a dedicated investment vertical to support Indian startups in the defense and strategic technology sectors, aiming to enhance national security and foster deep-tech innovation. The firm emphasizes the need for self-reliance in defense, advocating for investment in indigenous dual-use technologies. With the Indian government increasing the defense budget and backing initiatives like iDEX and the Technology Development Fund, Titan Capital seeks to bridge capital gaps for early-stage companies. By collaborating with veterans and experts, Titan aims to accelerate India's defense-tech ecosystem, positioning it to become a leader in global defense innovation.

AVNL Shifts to Western Partnerships for Next-Gen Light Tanks



23-May-25

AVNL is strategically pivoting towards developing next-generation light tanks through partnerships with Western defense firms, moving away from historical reliance on Russian technology. This shift addresses the Indian Army's operational needs for high-altitude warfare capabilities, particularly after the 2020 China-India border standoff. AVNL's collaborations with firms

like John Cockerill and Elbit Systems aim to enhance technology transfer and establish India as a regional manufacturing hub. The focus on advanced C4ISR integration and lightweight platforms aligns with modern combat requirements, bolstering India's defense self-reliance while responding to evolving geopolitical pressures and the need for specialized armoured capabilities in challenging terrains.

Project Kusha: India's Path to Self-Reliant Air Defense



23-May-25

Project Kusha, spearheaded by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in partnership with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), is a pivotal initiative aimed at establishing a multi-layered, long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) defense system. Designed to rival the capabilities of the Russian S-400, this indigenous system encompasses three interceptor variants: M1 with a 150 km range, M2 extending to 250 km, and M3 reaching up to 350 km. Equipped with advanced long-range surveillance and fire control radars, Project Kusha is engineered to detect and neutralize a spectrum of aerial threats, including stealth aircraft, drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles. The system's integration with the Indian Air Force's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) ensures a cohesive and responsive defense network. Following its clearance by the Cabinet Committee on Security in May 2022, the project received an Acceptance of Necessity in September 2023 for the procurement of five squadrons, with deployment targeted between 2028 and 2029. BEL anticipates a substantial order valued at approximately ₹40,000 crore, underscoring the project's economic and strategic significance. Through Project Kusha, India aims to fortify its air defense autonomy, reduce reliance on foreign systems, and bolster its position in the global defense landscape.

Akashteer Air Defence System Sparks Global Export Potential



23-May-25

The successful deployment of India's Akashteer Air Defence System during Operation Sindoor has highlighted the nation's advancing military technology and strategic autonomy. Demonstrating advanced integration for detection and engagement against aerial threats, the system is poised for international demand, reflecting India's growing stature as a defense technology developer. DRDO Chief Kamat's confidence underscores the operational validation of the system,

which may open avenues for exports, enhancing India's defense industrial ecosystem while fostering diplomatic ties. This achievement not only marks a significant transition from defense importer to exporter but also supports India's self-reliance goals and positions it favorably in the global defense market.

IAF's Banshee Drones Outsmart Pakistan, Map LoC Safely [SHARE](#)

23-May-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully utilized the Banshee Jet 80+ decoy drones to mislead Pakistani air defense systems along the Line of Control (LoC), effectively mapping their installations without risking manned aircraft. By mimicking the radar signatures of advanced fighter jets like the Su-30 MKI and MiG-29UPG, these drones compelled Pakistan to expend air defense resources on low-cost targets, revealing their tactical positions. This innovative tactic not only enhances the IAF's reconnaissance capabilities but also demonstrates India's growing proficiency in modern warfare, effectively challenging Pakistan's advanced air defense systems and positioning India as a forward-thinking player in global defense strategies.

India's Akash and MRSAM Outperform Iron Dome and Patriot in Air Defense [SHARE](#)

23-May-25

India's Akash and MRSAM air defence systems have demonstrated superior capabilities against saturated drone and missile attacks compared to established systems like the Israeli Iron Dome and U.S. Patriot. Recent operations highlighted their effectiveness, particularly during "Operation Sindoor," where the Akash intercepted multiple threats with high precision. The indigenous systems are more cost-effective, with the Akash missile costing approximately \$500,000, allowing for a denser air defence network. The high indigenous content of these systems enhances India's strategic autonomy, contrasting with reliance on foreign technologies in Western systems. Overall, India's focused development of these air defence capabilities signifies a robust and self-reliant national defense strategy.

Tejas Mk2's First Flight Scheduled for Q1 2026 as HAL Hits 60% Milestone [SHARE](#)

23-May-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has updated the first flight schedule for the Tejas Mk2, now set for Q1 2026, with over 60% of the prototype's structure completed. The Tejas Mk2, a 4.5-generation multirole

combat aircraft, aims to enhance India's self-reliant defense capabilities by integrating advanced systems, including an AESA radar and indigenous weapons. Despite minor delays, HAL's effective project management and increased local component sourcing underscore India's commitment to defense manufacturing self-sufficiency. This aircraft is vital for modernizing the Indian Air Force's fleet, bridging the gap between current and future advanced fighters, and supporting regional security objectives.

IAF to Receive 12 Tejas Mk1A Jets by Year-End as Production Ramps Up [SHARE](#)

23-May-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to receive 12 Tejas Mk1A jets by year-end, following the resumption of GE F404 engine deliveries. HAL has ramped up production capabilities, aiming to address previous delays in the LCA Mk1A program, which features enhanced avionics and performance. This delivery is crucial as the IAF faces a fighter squadron strength shortfall amid rising geopolitical tensions with Pakistan and China. The Tejas Mk1A's induction is a vital step towards modernizing India's air combat capabilities and achieving self-sufficiency in defense production, aligning with the 'Make in India' initiative.

BEL's D4: Transforming India's Air Defence in Operation Sindoor [SHARE](#)

23-May-25

India's indigenous Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDD&IS MK1), or D4, has proven to be a crucial asset in air defence during Operation Sindoor, effectively neutralizing low radar cross-section drones from Pakistan. Developed by DRDO and Bharat Electronics Limited, this laser-based system employs both soft kill and hard kill techniques to disrupt and destroy aerial threats, demonstrating India's commitment to self-reliance in defence technologies. Its performance underscores India's growing capabilities in countering modern warfare challenges and enhances national security through advanced indigenous solutions. The D4's success illustrates a strategic advancement in safeguarding critical infrastructure against emerging threats.

Morocco Upgrades WhAP 88 with Elbit's Heavy Armament Turrets [SHARE](#)

23-May-25

Morocco is enhancing its military capabilities by equipping its Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 88, originally manufactured by India's Tata Advanced

Systems, with advanced 105mm and 120mm turrets, likely developed by Israel's Elbit Systems. This upgrade, which transitions the WhAP from a standard personnel carrier to a high-firepower platform, demonstrates Morocco's commitment to modernizing its defense forces and addressing diverse threats across challenging terrains. As the WhAP evolves into a hybrid asset, it showcases the successful Indo-Moroccan defense collaboration and India's growing influence in global defense markets, particularly in armored vehicle technology. The integration of such heavy armaments enhances operational versatility, setting a precedent for future defense partnerships.

IAF to Equip MiG-29, Mirage 2000, and Tejas with BrahMos-NG SHARE

23-May-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is enhancing its offensive capabilities by integrating the BrahMos Next Generation (NG) missile onto the MiG-29, Mirage 2000, and the indigenous Tejas aircraft. This lighter variant, weighing approximately 1.3 tonnes, retains the supersonic speed and precision of its predecessor while allowing compatibility with a broader range of platforms. The BrahMos NG will significantly bolster India's strategic deterrence, enabling strikes against high-value targets and improving operational flexibility. As part of India's self-reliance initiative, this integration transforms the Tejas into a potent strike platform, underscoring the nation's commitment to advancing its defense capabilities amid evolving geopolitical challenges.

MoD and PMO Tackle Operational Hurdles at DRDO's Chitradurga ATR SHARE

23-May-25

Top officials from the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Defence have intervened to resolve operational bottlenecks at the DRDO's Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka, which have impeded critical flight trials of indigenous defense systems due to airspace restrictions imposed by the Airports Authority of India. This high-level review emphasizes the government's commitment to bolstering India's defense R&D under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative by streamlining operations and optimizing testing infrastructure. The resolution of these issues is poised to enhance India's aerospace capabilities, reinforcing strategic autonomy and self-reliance in defense technology, crucial for national security and technological advancement.

China's Jiutian SS-UAV: A Drone Mothership Overhyped? SHARE

23-May-25

China's Jiutian SS-UAV, unveiled at the 2024 Zhuhai Airshow, is a high-altitude, long-endurance UAV designed as a drone mothership capable of deploying over 100 AI-powered drones. With a 25-meter wingspan, 15,000-meter ceiling, 7,000 km range, and a 1,000 kg weapons payload, it features modular mission pods for strike, EW, and recon. Despite its scale and tech, analysts remain skeptical of its survivability in contested airspaces. Its lack of stealth and large radar cross-section make it highly detectable, while reliance on BeiDou satellites introduces vulnerability to jamming and cyber interference. Advanced air defense (AD) systems like the U.S. Patriot PAC-3 and THAAD, South Korea's KM-SAM Block II, and Taiwan's Sky Bow III are capable of engaging such high-altitude targets. Further complicating its operational viability are Russia's S-400 and upcoming S-500 systems, Israel's Iron Dome and David's Sling—optimized for intercepting UAVs and cruise missiles—and India's multi-layered AD network including Akash, MRSAM, and the upcoming S-400 integration. These layered defenses significantly narrow the Jiutian's safe operating zones. While China envisions using it after gaining air superiority, its real-world battlefield utility remains questionable, with the risk of overhyped expectations outpacing its proven capabilities, especially against countries with integrated and modern AD systems.

HAL Expects Orders for 143 ALH-Dhruv Helicopters After Fixes SHARE

23-May-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) anticipates orders for 143 Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)-Dhruv units from the Indian Armed Forces, buoyed by the resolution of technical issues with its wheeled variant. This follows a strong production track record, with 345 units produced and 34 ordered in March 2024, bringing the total to 379. The expected orders will push production past 500 units, highlighting HAL's role in India's defense self-reliance initiative, Atmanirbhar Bharat. This development showcases the ALH-Dhruv's reliability and evolving capabilities, reflecting the growing confidence of the Indian military in indigenous aerospace solutions and reinforcing operational readiness across the armed forces.

HAL to deliver first Prachand Light Combat Helicopters by 2028 SHARE

23-May-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has secured a significant contract for the delivery of 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH), named Prachand, valued at Rs. 62,700 crore, with the first batch expected by March 2028. The order includes 66 helicopters for the Indian Air Force and 90 for the Indian Army, reflecting India's commitment to enhancing indigenous defense capabilities. HAL's advanced facility in Tumkuru will manufacture these state-of-the-art, multi-role helicopters, designed for high-altitude operations and equipped with cutting-edge technology. This initiative underscores India's strategic focus on self-reliance in defense manufacturing, crucial for securing its borders and addressing evolving threats in challenging terrains.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Govt confident in FY26 defense budget despite recent military actions SHARE

23-May-25

The Indian government has indicated that no additional defense budget allocations will be required for FY26, despite recent military actions, including Operation Sindoor, which successfully targeted nine terror camps in Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people. The defense budget for 2025-26 has been set at over Rs 6.81 lakh crore, reflecting a commitment to modernization amid ongoing security challenges from China and Pakistan. Officials assert that India's strategic requirements will be adequately met within the existing budget framework, reinforcing the government's focus on national security and defense readiness. This stance highlights confidence in the current defense funding amidst regional tensions.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India Backs UK's Transfer of Chagos Islands to Mauritius SHARE

23-May-25

India has welcomed the UK's decision to transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Islands, including Diego Garcia, to Mauritius, marking a significant milestone in decolonization efforts. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs emphasized its consistent support for

Mauritius's claims, highlighting the importance of respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity. This treaty paves the way for enhanced maritime security and stability in the Indian Ocean region, aligning with India's strategic interests. By reaffirming its commitment to collaborate with Mauritius and other like-minded nations, India aims to bolster regional peace and prosperity, reflecting its proactive stance in regional geopolitics and security dynamics.

Bangladesh's Yunus Faces Pressure for Timely Elections Amid Tensions SHARE

23-May-25

In the wake of escalating political tensions in Bangladesh, interim government chief Professor Muhammad Yunus is contemplating resignation due to the lack of cooperation among political parties and growing pressure from the military for timely elections. Army Chief General Waker Uz Zaman has expressed dissatisfaction with the interim government's decisions and emphasized the need for elections by December 2025, reinforcing that only an elected government should dictate the nation's future. This unrest follows months of protests that led to the ousting of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, culminating in Yunus taking charge amid military support. The interim government's proposed humanitarian corridor to Myanmar's Rakhine province has been met with skepticism from the military, citing security risks, while supporters of Yunus plan protests to demand his continued leadership and a focus on reforms before elections. The situation reflects a critical juncture for Bangladesh's political landscape, where military influence remains significant, and the prospect of democratic governance hangs in the balance, with concerns about a potential decline in civil liberties and political stability should a power vacuum emerge. Yunus' leadership is viewed as pivotal amidst calls for unity among political factions, but the military's insistence on a swift electoral process highlights the fragile equilibrium of power in Bangladesh.

South Korea Confirms No U.S. Troop Withdrawal Talks Amid Tensions SHARE

23-May-25

South Korea's defense ministry has firmly denied reports suggesting discussions with the United States about withdrawing U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula, following a Wall Street Journal article indicating that the Pentagon is considering relocating approximately 4,500 of the 28,500 stationed troops to other Indo-Pacific locations like Guam. Seoul

emphasized its commitment to maintaining a robust joint defense posture with Washington to deter North Korean aggression. This stance aligns with the longstanding Mutual Defense Treaty signed in 1953, which obligates both nations to mutual defense in the event of external armed attacks. In recent years, the U.S. and South Korea have bolstered their alliance through initiatives like the Washington Declaration, which includes the establishment of a Nuclear Consultative Group aimed at enhancing nuclear deterrence strategies. Amid escalating regional tensions, including North Korea's intensified missile tests and closer ties with Russia, the reaffirmation of U.S. military presence serves as a critical element in preserving stability in Northeast Asia. This development also holds significance for India's strategic interests, as it underscores the importance of strong defense partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region

Bangladesh Cancels ₹180 Crore Defense Deal with India Amid Tensions



23-May-25

Bangladesh has cancelled a ₹180 crore (approximately \$21 million) defense contract with India's Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) for an advanced ocean-going tug, reflecting deteriorating diplomatic relations amid a shift in Bangladeshi leadership towards China and Pakistan. This decision comes in the wake of tensions following the ousting of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and is seen as a retaliatory move after India imposed restrictions on Bangladeshi imports and withdrew transshipment facilities crucial for its trade. The tug was part of a broader \$500 million line of credit from India to Bangladesh for defense purchases, yet the new administration under Muhammad Yunus has indicated a desire to diversify military supplies away from India. Despite the cancellation, GRSE noted that this contract would have had minimal impact on its financial health and is instead focusing on larger contracts, including a significant project for the Indian Navy. This situation highlights the fragile state of India-Bangladesh relations, which were once marked by cooperation, now shifting towards a more cautious and competitive dynamic as both countries navigate their geopolitical strategies in the region.

Jaishankar Rejects Trump's Mediation Claim Amid Operation Sindoor



23-May-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has refuted former US President Donald Trump's claim of mediating

a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, emphasizing that any resolution should occur through direct dialogue focused on ending cross-border terrorism. Jaishankar highlighted Pakistan's historical hostility since the 1947 Partition and reiterated India's position that issues with Pakistan are bilateral and do not necessitate external involvement. Following a recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, India launched Operation Sindoor, successfully targeting key terror hubs and neutralizing over 100 terrorists linked to groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, reinforcing India's commitment to counter-terrorism efforts.

Israeli Strikes Claim 60 Lives in Gaza Amid Crisis and Aid Shortage



23-May-25

At least 60 people were killed by Israeli strikes in Gaza as the military offensive continues amidst international criticism and a severe humanitarian crisis. Israel has allowed minimal aid to enter the region, with U.N. agencies stating it is insufficient to meet the needs of the population. Prime Minister Netanyahu emphasized that strikes will persist until Hamas disarms and all Israeli hostages are released. Meanwhile, ceasefire negotiations in Doha remain stagnant, with significant gaps between the parties. The situation highlights the complex interplay of military strategy, humanitarian needs, and geopolitical pressures surrounding the conflict.

India Pushes for Easing Export Controls Among BRICS Members



23-May-25

India has called for the dismantling of export controls among BRICS members to enhance trade during the 15th BRICS trade ministers' meeting in Brazil. Indian Economic Adviser Yashvir Singh emphasized the adverse effects of restrictive trade measures on critical supply chains and proposed the '30 for 30' initiative to mark the WTO's 30th anniversary. As India gears up for its BRICS Presidency in 2026, it urged developed nations to facilitate the concessional transfer of environmentally sound technologies and reaffirmed its commitment to global cooperation in digital infrastructure and cybersecurity. This proactive stance reinforces India's leadership role within BRICS, aiming for mutual support and improved trade relations among member countries.

IAF Debunks PAF's Claims of Rafale Pilot Voice Transcript as False SHARE

23-May-25

A senior Indian Air Force (IAF) official has dismissed claims by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) regarding a purported voice transcript of an IAF Rafale pilot, asserting these allegations are baseless. The IAF emphasizes the advanced secure communication systems utilized in Rafale jets, which incorporate cutting-edge Software-Defined Radio (SDR) technology, making interception highly improbable. This refutation highlights India's technological superiority and secure operational capabilities. The IAF's encrypted networks and state-of-the-art avionics ensure robust protection against adversarial attempts to manipulate or intercept communications, reinforcing the credibility of India's defense strategies in the region.

Military Operations

Kishtwar Encounter with Terrorists Enters Second Day as Forces Intensify Efforts SHARE

23-May-25

The encounter between security forces and terrorists in Kishtwar's Chhatru area has entered its second day, with intense gunfire reported and one soldier tragically losing his life despite medical efforts. The Indian Army, alongside Jammu and Kashmir Police, has intensified operations following recent escalations in terrorist activity, successfully neutralizing six terrorists in two separate operations earlier. Kishtwar MLA Shagun Parihar expressed confidence in the Indian Armed Forces' capability to respond decisively to threats from Pakistan, emphasizing that the local populace is more interested in employment opportunities than supporting terrorism. She highlighted the commitment of Prime Minister Modi's government to ensure a strong response to any hostile actions, reinforcing the narrative that terrorism will not be tolerated. The ongoing counter-terrorism operation in Kishtwar reflects a strategic focus on dismantling the terrorist ecosystem in the Kashmir Valley, with additional troops deployed to ensure effective containment and search operations. The situation underscores the determination of Indian forces to maintain security and stability in the region, while also addressing the socio-economic concerns of the local community.

Supreme Court Halts Release of IAF Officer Pending Appeal for Permanent Commission SHARE

23-May-25

The Supreme Court of India has temporarily stayed the release of Wing Commander Niketa Pandey, a woman officer in the Indian Air Force (IAF), pending her appeal for a permanent commission after 13.5 years of service. Pandey, known for her significant contributions during Operation Sindoor and the Balakot airstrikes, argued in her plea that the current policy creates uncertainty among short service commission (SSC) officers regarding their future in the armed forces. The bench highlighted the necessity for a clear policy to ensure that women SSC officers have equitable opportunities for permanent commissions, reflecting on the competitive nature of the selection process that can lead to dissatisfaction among officers. Justice Surya Kant praised the IAF for its exemplary coordination and emphasized the importance of addressing these concerns for the well-being of the armed forces. The case underscores the ongoing discussion about gender equality in the Indian military, particularly for women officers who, despite serving commendably, face restrictions based on their commission type, which has not evolved in tandem with the changing societal context. This situation invites a reevaluation of policies to promote inclusivity and recognize the contributions of all officers equally, irrespective of gender.

Andaman Airspace Closed for 3 Hours for Tri-Service Weapon Test SHARE

23-May-25

The airspace over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was closed for three hours for a high-altitude weapon test conducted by the tri-services command, with similar restrictions set for the following day. This routine practice underscores India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities in strategically important regions. The closure, communicated through a Notice to Airmen, reflects the operational readiness and advanced testing of military technology by the Andaman and Nicobar Command, India's only tri-services command. Such exercises are vital for maintaining regional security and demonstrating India's defense prowess, particularly in the face of evolving geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region.

Chinar Corps Chief Reviews LoC Readiness Post Operation Sindoor



23-May-25

Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava, GOC of Chinar Corps, recently reviewed operational preparedness along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara, highlighting the troops' exemplary performance during recent ceasefire violations by Pakistan. Following Operation Sindoor, which effectively targeted terror infrastructure and resulted in the elimination of over 100 terrorists, he emphasized the importance of vigilance and technological advancements in addressing future challenges. The Indian military's decisive actions underscore its commitment to countering terrorism, with the External Affairs Ministry calling for global accountability towards Pakistan's support of terror outfits. Overall, India's strategic responses reflect a robust defense posture in safeguarding national security.

Indian Drones Excel in Recent Pakistan Conflict, Boosting Self-Reliance



23-May-25

Indian-made drones, specifically the JM-1, Nagastra-1, and ALS-250, have outperformed both foreign and collaboratively developed systems during recent operations against Pakistan, highlighting advancements in indigenous defense capabilities. These drones were customized for India's unique operational needs, proving more reliable, cost-effective, and easier to maintain than their imported counterparts. Their success demonstrates a significant leap towards achieving self-reliance in defense manufacturing, aligning with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The efficacy of these systems is prompting the Indian armed forces to consider their expanded procurement, ensuring that India's defense strategy remains robust and adaptive in the face of evolving challenges.

conditions, involved a fierce exchange of fire after the Maoists opened fire on security forces. The successful operation not only led to the recovery of weapons and supplies but also highlighted the ongoing efforts by law enforcement to curb Maoist activities in the region. This achievement, following a significant crackdown in Chhattisgarh, reflects the Indian government's commitment to restoring stability and promoting security in Maoist-affected areas.

Major Blow to Maoists: 27 Killed with Rs 3.33 Crore Bounty



23-May-25

In a significant counter-insurgency operation in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district, security forces killed 27 Maoists, including their leader Nambala Keshav Rao, alias Basavaraju, who had a cumulative bounty of Rs 3.33 crore. This encounter, one of the largest against Maoists, resulted from intelligence inputs and lasted three days, highlighting the ongoing efforts by Indian security forces to dismantle Maoist operations. The operation also involved heavy weapon seizures, showcasing the capability and readiness of Indian security forces in combatting left-wing extremism. The killing of Basavaraju, a key figure in numerous violent incidents against security personnel, represents a substantial blow to Maoist leadership and morale.

UP Man Arrested for Espionage, Linked to Anti-National Groups



23-May-25

An individual named Tufail, from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, has been arrested by the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) for allegedly sharing sensitive internal security information with individuals in Pakistan. Tufail was linked to anti-national WhatsApp groups and shared videos promoting extremist ideologies, including calls for violence against India. His extensive contacts with over 600 Pakistani numbers raised concerns about national security, as he disseminated information related to significant Indian locations. This incident underscores the ongoing threat posed by cross-border terrorism and the importance of vigilant intelligence operations to safeguard India's sovereignty and integrity.

Iran to Build Border Wall with Pakistan to Curb Terrorism



23-May-25

Iran plans to seal its border with Pakistan by constructing a four-meter high, 300-kilometer long wall to combat cross-border terrorism, drug smuggling, and

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Four Maoists Neutralized in Gadchiroli District Operation



23-May-25

In a recent operation in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra, elite C-60 commandos and the CRPF neutralized four Maoists following credible intelligence about their presence near a Forward Operating Base. The operation, which took place under challenging weather

illegal crossings. This initiative follows multiple high-profile terrorist attacks attributed to groups like Jaish al-Adl, which operates in Sistan-Balochistan. Iran's security services link this border to 80% of the drug trafficking into the country. The wall construction commenced after a missile and drone attack targeting Jaish al-Adl in January 2024, which Pakistan condemned as illegal. This move reflects Iran's commitment to enhancing regional security and combating terrorism, a sentiment echoed in its recent diplomatic engagements with India.

Security Operations Centers (SOCs) that combine automation, threat intelligence, and human expertise to combat evolving threats. With cybercriminals leveraging AI for phishing and malware development, proactive measures are crucial for safeguarding sensitive data and ensuring business continuity in an increasingly complex threat landscape. Kaspersky's insights underscore the necessity for advanced defenses in cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Major Security Flaws in Apple's AirPlay Could Enable Device Hijacking



23-May-25

Cybersecurity firm Oligo has identified 23 critical vulnerabilities in Apple's AirPlay protocol and SDK, collectively termed "AirBorne," which pose significant risks to both Apple and third-party devices. These flaws enable zero-click and one-click remote code execution (RCE), allowing attackers on the same Wi-Fi network to hijack devices without user interaction. Affected devices include iPhones, iPads, Macs, Apple TVs, smart speakers, and CarPlay-enabled vehicles. Notably, two vulnerabilities, CVE-2025-24252 and CVE-2025-24132, are "wormable," facilitating malware spread across devices on the same network. Apple addressed these issues in updates released on March 31, 2025, covering iOS 18.4, iPadOS 18.4, macOS Ventura 13.7.5, Sonoma 14.7.5, Sequoia 15.4, and visionOS 2.4. However, many third-party devices remain vulnerable pending manufacturer-issued firmware updates. Exploitation scenarios include unauthorized access to microphones for eavesdropping and manipulation of CarPlay systems to distract drivers or track locations. Users are advised to update their devices promptly, disable AirPlay when not in use, and restrict AirPlay access to trusted devices to mitigate potential threats.

Kaspersky Warns of AI Cyber Threats in APAC, Urges Proactive Defense



23-May-25

Kaspersky has raised urgent alarms regarding the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) in cyberattacks across the Asia Pacific region, highlighting over 3 billion malware attacks in 2024 and a significant rise in AI-driven cyber threats. The company emphasizes the need for organizations to adopt AI-aware cybersecurity strategies, including the establishment of intelligent

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Army Chief Gen Dwivedi Honors Families of Fallen Soldiers



23-May-25

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi recently honored fallen soldiers' families by presenting the Badge of Sacrifice and Certificate of Honour during a ceremony at the Manekshaw Centre, following the Defence Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The awards, which symbolize valor and sacrifice, were given to the next of kin of soldiers who lost their lives in enemy and terrorist actions, including Colonel Manpreet Singh, Major Aashish Dhonchak, and several others. The Badge of Sacrifice is a 24-carat gold-plated insignia engraved with the soldier's details, while the Certificate of Honour is crafted on permanent-finish gold foil, reflecting the army's deep respect for its heroes. Instituted in July 1999, these honors serve to maintain the Army's tradition of remembering its bravehearts since conflicts began in 1947. Gen Dwivedi emphasized that these stories of courage will continue to inspire future generations, underscoring the Indian Army's commitment to honoring the sacrifices made by its personnel in service to the nation. The ceremonies signify not only recognition of individual bravery but also reinforce the collective ethos of duty and sacrifice inherent in the Indian Armed Forces, illustrating the deep-rooted respect the nation holds for its defenders.

Women Shine in Op Sindoor: BSF Officer Celebrates Their Courage



23-May-25

The Border Security Force (BSF) showcased exemplary courage during Operation Sindoor, with women troops standing resolutely alongside their male counterparts against cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. BSF officials highlighted their effective retaliation against Pakistani aggression, destroying multiple enemy posts and thwarting infiltration attempts. DIG Varinder Dutta praised the women soldiers as "the

epitome of shakti," emphasizing the need to eliminate gender distinctions in the force, as all personnel, regardless of gender, performed their duties commendably. This incident underscores the integral role of women in the Indian defense forces, reinforcing India's commitment to gender equality and operational effectiveness in safeguarding national security.

President Murmu Awards 6 Kirti Chakras and 33 Shaurya Chakras



23-May-25

President Droupadi Murmu conferred six Kirti Chakras, including four posthumously, to Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel for their exceptional bravery in duty. The awards, representing India's second-highest peacetime gallantry honor, were presented during a defense investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Additionally, 33 Shaurya Chakras, awarded for displays of valor, were also conferred, with Squadron Leader Deepak Kumar recognized for his heroic actions in a critical aircraft situation. These recognitions not only honor individual courage but also highlight the commitment of Indian forces to safeguard national integrity and security, reinforcing the importance of valor in the face of adversity.

BJP's Gaurav Bhatia slams Rahul Gandhi for undermining IAF morale



23-May-25

BJP leader Gaurav Bhatia criticized Rahul Gandhi for his remarks questioning the Indian Air Force's (IAF) aircraft losses during Operation Sindoor, deeming them careless and damaging to troop morale. Gandhi accused the government of endangering national security by informing Pakistan about the operation, demanding transparency regarding the aircraft losses. Bhatia emphasized that such statements, especially amid ongoing military operations, undermine the confidence of the armed forces. This exchange highlights the political tensions surrounding defense narratives in India, suggesting that united support for the military is crucial during conflict situations to maintain morale and strategic integrity.

Combat Army Aviation Training School Celebrates New Aviators



23-May-25

The Combat Army Aviation Training School (CAATS) in Nashik held a passing out parade for newly commissioned aviators and instructors, including international students from Nepal and Nigeria. Lt Gen Vinod Nambiar emphasized the vital role of Army

Aviation in future operations, highlighting the expansion of training programs and the introduction of new simulators in collaboration with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. The parade showcased skills through the "Sky Soldier" exercise and acknowledged outstanding officers. This event underlines the Indian Army's commitment to enhancing aviation capabilities and fostering international collaboration in defense training, reinforcing India's strategic position in regional security dynamics.

Miscellaneous

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan's Book Addresses Future Threats and Reforms



23-May-25

In a notable development for India's military evolution, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan has released a book titled "Ready, Relevant and Resurgent," highlighting the urgent need for transformation amid rising uncertainties in global threats. The book, launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, focuses on the core pillars of jointness, integration, and self-reliance, advocating for the establishment of integrated theatre commands to optimize military resources and enhance operational agility. General Chauhan's insights, derived from his extensive experience, emphasize the importance of adapting to new forms of warfare, leveraging emerging technologies, and aligning military reforms with the national aspiration of a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047. He stresses the necessity of a holistic approach that balances operational excellence with emerging threats across various domains, including land, sea, air, space, and cyber. Additionally, the CDS underscores the synergy among diplomatic, economic, and military instruments to secure India's long-term security and development goals. This book serves as a significant blueprint and a powerful call to action for the Indian armed forces to meet the challenges of the 21st century while drawing strength from India's rich strategic heritage.

IAF Chief: Precision and Excellence Key to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'



23-May-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) recently celebrated the completion of the 47th Flight Test Course at the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE) in Bengaluru, with Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh emphasizing the importance of precision and excellence in shaping a self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar

Bharat). This prestigious course, lasting 48 weeks, plays a crucial role in developing the nation's capabilities in testing cutting-edge aerial platforms and systems. Graduating officers now become experimental test pilots responsible for testing new aircraft and establishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The IAF's commitment to indigenisation was highlighted by projects like the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and LCA MK-II. ACM Singh, a graduate of this course himself, reiterated the critical nature of test flying as a specialist domain requiring high professional standards, integrity, and dedication. Notable awards were presented to exceptional performers of the course, showcasing the high caliber of training and expertise being developed within the IAF. This initiative not only strengthens India's defense capabilities but also aligns with the broader goal of achieving self-sufficiency in defense manufacturing, thereby enhancing national security and operational efficiency.

Pak Denies IndiGo Pilots' Request Amid Severe Turbulence



23-May-25

An IndiGo flight from Delhi to Srinagar, carrying over 220 passengers, encountered severe turbulence due to a sudden hailstorm on May 21, 2025. The pilots initially sought permission from both Indian Air Force (IAF) and Lahore Air Traffic Control (ATC) to deviate through Pakistani airspace to avoid the adverse weather; however, both requests were denied, citing restrictions on Indian aircraft entering Pakistani airspace, which Pakistan had extended until June 24. Despite the denial, the IAF quickly coordinated with Delhi ATC to provide essential navigational support, enabling the aircraft to land safely in Srinagar, although it sustained damage to its nose cone. The incident highlights not only the challenges faced by Indian airlines in navigating international airspace but also underscores the effective response and capability of the IAF in ensuring the safety of passengers during emergencies. The situation reflects the ongoing geopolitical tensions, as Pakistan's restrictions on Indian flights remain in place, yet the IAF demonstrated its readiness and professionalism in guiding the aircraft to safety, illustrating India's commitment to ensuring the safety of its civil aviation amidst challenging circumstances.

IMF Stands Firm on Pakistan Bailout Amid India's Concerns



23-May-25

India has expressed strong reservations regarding the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) recent bailout package to Pakistan, citing ongoing cross-border tensions and concerns about state-sponsored terrorism. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman communicated India's objections to the IMF, emphasizing that while India does not oppose Pakistan receiving aid in principle, the current geopolitical climate makes it an inappropriate time for such disbursement. India highlighted historical trends showing increased arms procurement by Pakistan coinciding with IMF loans, which raises concerns about potential misuse of funds for military purposes. The IMF, however, defended its decision, asserting that the bailout was contingent upon Pakistan's compliance with strict reform conditions, including budgetary and fiscal discipline, while also acknowledging the potential risks posed by escalating India-Pakistan tensions. Despite India's abstention during the IMF Executive Board vote, the IMF approved a \$1 billion aid package, underscoring the organization's procedural emphasis on economic reforms over geopolitical considerations. This situation reflects the complex interplay between financial assistance, regional stability, and security challenges, with India keen on ensuring that international support does not inadvertently bolster Pakistan's military capabilities amidst ongoing hostilities.

India to Lead Global Oil Demand Growth, Outpacing China



23-May-25

According to a Moodys report, India is set to surpass China in oil demand growth over the next decade, with anticipated annual growth of 3-5% compared to China's peaking demand. While both nations heavily rely on oil imports, China's reliance is expected to decline due to slower demand and increased domestic production, whereas India's will rise unless production issues are addressed. Indian state-owned companies are investing significantly in refining capacity to meet this growing demand, aiming to increase it by 20% by 2030. This situation underscores India's energy security concerns and potential for economic growth, contrasting with China's transition towards cleaner energy.

ISRO Sets 2025 for Gaganyaan with 7,200 Tests Completed



23-May-25

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has declared 2025 as the Gaganyaan year, with 7,200 tests completed and 3,000 pending for its ambitious human spaceflight program. The ISRO chief, V Narayanan, announced that three uncrewed missions are planned, starting with Vyommitra by December 2023, and the first human flight is targeted for early 2027. Notably, ISRO's upcoming missions also include a NASA-ISRO synthetic aperture radar satellite and a commercial communication satellite, showcasing India's growing capabilities in space technology and international collaboration. This initiative marks a significant step in enhancing India's stature in global space exploration and technology.

Indian Army Unveils 'Panchshul Pulse' FM Radio Station in Uttarakhand



23-May-25

The Indian Army has inaugurated its first FM radio station, 'Panchshul Pulse,' in Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand, under 'Operation Sadbhavana.' Launched by General Officer Commanding Anindya Sengupta, the station aims to foster goodwill between the Army and local communities by broadcasting programs that highlight regional culture, history, and agricultural practices. Covering a 12 km radius, it will also honor local martyrs, athletes, and individuals contributing to social and cultural sectors. This initiative not only enhances civilian-military relations but also reinforces the Army's commitment to community engagement in border areas, reflecting a strategic approach to national security and social cohesion.

Imran Khan Critiques Army Chief's Promotion, Calls for Unity



23-May-25

Imran Khan criticized Pakistan's military leadership following General Asim Munir's promotion to Field Marshal, suggesting that Pakistan is ruled by unchecked authority akin to a jungle. He called out the selective application of justice and highlighted his legal struggles as politically motivated. Khan emphasized the need for national unity against external threats, particularly from India, while condemning recent counterterrorism tactics that have led to civilian casualties. His statements reflect his deep frustration with the current power dynamics in Pakistan, portraying his political battles as a struggle for justice and democracy amid rising challenges.

India and US Advance Bilateral Trade Agreement Talks for Growth



23-May-25

India and the US are advancing negotiations on a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) aimed at reducing tariffs and enhancing market access, with the potential for an initial agreement by July 2025. India emphasizes its economic growth and demographic advantages while seeking exemptions from US tariffs, particularly in sensitive sectors like agriculture. The trade talks reflect a shared ambition to significantly strengthen economic ties, with a target of boosting bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. Both nations underscore the importance of a mutually beneficial agreement that safeguards domestic interests while fostering job creation and resilient supply chains, highlighting the complexities involved in these negotiations.

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