



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

February 26, 2025 | Day 057

## Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
AZAD	1355.2	1317.1	+2.89%
NIBE	1062.1	1039.55	+2.17%
MTARTECH	1396.8	1379.15	+1.28%
BDL	1023.7	1011.55	+1.2%
HIGHENE	495.0	489.45	+1.13%

## Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
TEMBO	589.7	679.1	-13.16%
CFF	432.85	455.6	-4.99%
MARINE	163.41	170.27	-4.03%
IDEAFORGE	385.7	396.35	-2.69%
MIDHANI	261.4	267.55	-2.3%

## Defense Business and Industry

### India on Track for ₹50,000 Crore Defense Exports by 2029



26-Feb-25

India is making significant strides towards self-reliance in defense manufacturing, achieving 88% self-sufficiency in ammunition production, with a target of reaching ₹50,000 crore in defense exports by 2029. The defense sector's growth reflects a tenfold increase in exports over the last decade, reaching ₹23,000 crore in 2023-24, bolstered by the export of indigenous equipment to nations like the Philippines and Vietnam. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the importance of mastering advanced technologies, including AI and machine learning, to enhance India's defense capabilities and secure national interests. Initiatives such as the establishment of Defence Industrial Corridors and Positive Indigenisation Lists are pivotal in promoting indigenous production and innovation, positioning India as a formidable player in the global defense market.

### Indian Army Boosts CBRN Defense with Local ACADA Systems



26-Feb-25

The Indian Army has successfully signed a contract on February 25, 2025, with L&T Ltd for the procurement of 223 Automatic Chemical Agent Detection and Alarm (ACADA) systems at a cost of Rs 80.43 crore, under the Buy Indian (IDDM) initiative. This procurement significantly supports the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, as over 80% of the components will be sourced locally. Developed by DRDO's Defence

Research and Development Establishment, the ACADA system enhances the Army's capability to detect chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, thereby improving operational readiness and disaster response in both military and peacetime scenarios. This marks a major milestone in India's indigenisation efforts in the critical CBRN domain.

### Armasen Tactical Launches Versatile High Cut Helmet Cover with Battery Pack



26-Feb-25

Armasen Tactical, a Delhi-based company, has launched an innovative High Cut Ballistic Helmet Cover equipped with a detachable counterweight and battery pack, enhancing tactical operators' gear management. This cover integrates with high-cut helmets and includes customizable Velcro modules for various attachments, ensuring functionality and comfort during extended use. Crafted from durable materials, it features all-around retention and designated areas for ID patches and NVG mounts, addressing common operational challenges. Positive feedback highlights its fit and practicality, indicating its potential to become a standard accessory for tactical professionals in the field, thus advancing India's defense equipment capabilities.

### PLAAF Boosts J-35A Trials: Impact on Regional Defense Dynamics



26-Feb-25

The PLAAF is accelerating trials of the J-35A stealth fighter, indicating a strategic expansion of its aerial capabilities with implications for the naval version, the J-35C, which is set to enhance the PLAN's carrier operations. Pakistan's interest in acquiring the J-35

could be optimistic, as delays in Chinese production may limit its air superiority against India. While the J-35 could be seen as a potential threat, India is concurrently advancing its indigenous fighter programs, such as the AMCA, which may counterbalance any perceived advantages from Pakistan's acquisition. The evolving dynamics highlight the need for India to continue strengthening its defense capabilities amidst regional challenges.

## Cingularity Aerospace Launches Pratyaksha for Enhanced Military Training

[SHARE](#)

26-Feb-25

Bangalore-based Cingularity Aerospace has launched the Pratyaksha, an innovative Tow Body Hauler designed for military training that simulates slow-moving aerial threats. This reusable system, painted in daylight orange for visibility, enhances pilot proficiency in air-to-air engagements by providing a safe and cost-effective target for tracking and interception exercises. With specifications including a 5-meter length, a 60kg maximum flying weight, and the capability to carry various payloads, Pratyaksha allows for diverse training scenarios, including electronic warfare. This advancement not only reduces training costs compared to expendable targets but also minimizes risks to aircraft and pilots, showcasing India's growing defense innovation in military training solutions.

## DRDO Plans Humanoid Robot Army to Enhance Military Operations

[SHARE](#)

26-Feb-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has announced plans to develop a humanoid robot army to support Indian military operations, aimed at reducing the risk to human soldiers in high-stress combat scenarios. This initiative reflects the Indian Army's interest in integrating robotics into its framework to alleviate personnel stress, though specifics on operational requirements are still under discussion. The project, which could take 15 to 20 years to materialize, emphasizes enhancing human capabilities rather than replacement, and involves complex challenges like AI integration and ethical considerations. Collaborative efforts with academic institutions and potential international partners underline India's commitment to innovation in defense technology.

## DRDO Unveils DEW Pod for Enhanced Helicopter Combat Capabilities

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26-Feb-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India is developing a Directed Energy Weapons (DEW) Pod for helicopter deployment, enhancing aerial combat capabilities. This innovative system will integrate into helicopters like the HAL Rudra and Light Combat Helicopter, featuring a high-power laser source to neutralize airborne threats and independent power and thermal management systems. The DEW pod's design emphasizes aerodynamic efficiency and real-time adaptability, aligning with India's strategic focus on indigenization and advanced defense technologies. This initiative reflects India's commitment to modernizing its defense arsenal, ensuring versatility in mission profiles while complementing traditional weapon systems.

## India Set to Decide on AMCA Engine Partnership with Global Giants

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26-Feb-25

India is nearing a critical decision regarding its Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) engine partnership, with discussions ongoing between the DRDO and aerospace giants GE, Rolls-Royce, and Safran. A decision is anticipated by the end of 2025, with implications for India's defense self-reliance and strategic positioning. Safran's aggressive proposal includes 100% technology transfer and manufacturing in India, aligning well with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Meanwhile, Rolls-Royce offers full technology transfer but with potential delays due to IPR-sharing complexities, while GE's reluctance on full transfer could limit India's autonomy. This decision will be pivotal for India's aerospace capabilities and defense autonomy in the coming decades.

## U.S. Veto on GE F414 Sale Sparks Concerns for Tejas MkII Exports

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26-Feb-25

The U.S. has vetoed the sale of the GE F414 engine to Colombia, raising concerns about the export potential of India's Tejas MkII, which also utilizes a variant of this engine. This decision underscores U.S. influence over defense technology exports and could hinder India's ambitions to market the Tejas MkII internationally, especially in regions where the U.S. has vested interests. While the co-production agreement with General Electric marks a significant step in U.S.-India defense ties, the veto serves as a reminder of the geopolitical challenges India may face in promoting its

indigenous fighter aircraft against American competitors.

## Army Chief Dwivedi Explores Advanced Jaguar EBRC in Paris

🕒 SHARE

26-Feb-25

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army, recently observed the Jaguar EBRC during a visit to Paris, highlighting advancements in military technology. The Jaguar EBRC, part of France's Scorpion EBMR program, is a 25-tonne armored reconnaissance vehicle featuring a 40mm cannon and the innovative Galix self-defense system. Its capabilities include high speed, a significant operational range, and network-enabled collaborative combat, enhancing battlefield coordination and survivability. This visit underscores India's interest in adopting cutting-edge technologies to bolster its defense capabilities and modernize its armed forces, aligning with global trends in military modernization and interoperability.

## NewSpace's Sheshnaag 150 UAV Takes Successful Maiden Flight

🕒 SHARE

26-Feb-25

Bengaluru-based NewSpace Research and Technologies has successfully conducted the maiden flight of its Sheshnaag 150 UAV, marking a significant advancement in India's indigenous defense capabilities. This long-range strike UAV showcased impressive precision with a Circular Error Probable of just 5 meters during its test, highlighting its potential for high-value target neutralization with minimal collateral damage. As India intensifies its efforts to enhance unmanned systems and pursue self-reliance in defense manufacturing, the Sheshnaag 150 emerges as a critical asset for military planners, offering strategic flexibility in deep-strike missions essential for modern warfare. This achievement underscores India's growing expertise in aerospace technology and its commitment to bolstering defense capabilities.

## Tejas Mk2 Reduces Radar Signature by 75% Compared to Mk1A

🕒 SHARE

26-Feb-25

India's Tejas Mk2 fighter jet is set to significantly enhance its stealth capabilities, boasting a Radar Cross Section (RCS) just 25% of its Mk1A predecessor, according to Project Director Dr. V. Madhusudana Rao. Key design improvements include radar-absorbent materials and a modular structure, enabling HAL to produce up to 25 jets annually. The Mk2 will feature advanced avionics and is designed to replace older IAF

aircraft, with operational readiness anticipated by 2028. Interest from over 16 countries highlights its potential as an export fighter, positioning India strategically in the global defense market.

## ADA's Stealth Drone RSPA to Revolutionize Surveillance with EOTS

🕒 SHARE

26-Feb-25

India's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has unveiled its Remotely Piloted Stealth Aircraft (RSPA), a groundbreaking unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) that will feature an Electro-Optical Targeting System (EOTS) from the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program. This integration marks a significant leap in military technology, being the first of its kind to equip a stealth UAV with advanced targeting capabilities typically reserved for manned fighter jets. The RSPA UCAV is poised to enhance India's operational effectiveness in high-risk environments, allowing for precise strikes and detailed surveillance while maintaining stealth. This innovative development underscores India's position as a leader in military aviation technology.

## HAL Developing Indigenous CATS Hunter Missile with Stealth Features

🕒 SHARE

26-Feb-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is developing the CATS Hunter, an indigenous air-launched cruise missile inspired by the SCALP, as part of India's Combat Air Teaming System (CATS). This missile, featuring a low-observable design and capable of sea-skimming flight, aims to enhance the Indian Air Force's operational capabilities with a range of approximately 300 kilometers. The propulsion will be powered by the HAL PTAE-7 engine, enhancing its performance and range. The CATS Hunter represents a significant step towards self-reliance in defense technology, allowing for deployment from various IAF platforms and bolstering India's strategic deterrence capabilities. A prototype is expected by 2026.

## DRDO and Indian Navy Achieve Milestone with Naval Anti-Ship Missile Trials

🕒 SHARE

26-Feb-25

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully conducted flight trials of the first-of-its-kind Naval Anti-Ship missile (NASM-SR) on February 25, 2025, achieving a direct hit on a target from a Seaking Helicopter. The missile demonstrated advanced capabilities, including a unique

Man-in-Loop feature for in-flight retargeting and utilized an Indigenous Imaging Infra-Red Seeker for terminal guidance. With its development involving several DRDO labs and production partnerships with MSMEs and start-ups, this successful trial highlights India's growing self-reliance in defense technology, as acknowledged by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, marking a significant milestone in enhancing naval warfare capabilities.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### UK to Boost Defense Spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2027



26-Feb-25

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a plan to raise defense spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2027, citing a new era of insecurity prompted by global conflicts, particularly regarding Ukraine. This increase, amounting to an additional £13.4 billion annually, will be funded by reducing overseas development aid from 0.5% to 0.3% of national income. While Starmer aims for the UK to bolster its defense capabilities amid changing U.S. foreign policy under Trump, critics warn that cutting aid could exacerbate global instability. The move reflects a broader European push for stronger defense postures in response to threats, particularly from Russia.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### Modi Set to Attend Russia's WWII Anniversary Parade, Strengthening Ties



26-Feb-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Russia to attend the May 9 parade commemorating the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, highlighting the ongoing strategic partnership between India and Russia amidst global tensions. The visit may feature the participation of a ceremonial unit from the Indian armed forces, necessitating their arrival a month prior for rehearsals, as discussions around logistics are underway. Modi's attendance underscores India's commitment to diplomacy and peace, following his recent engagements with Russian President Vladimir Putin, which focused on conflict resolution. This visit is significant not only for India-Russia ties but also as a show of solidarity amidst the shifting geopolitical

landscape, reinforcing India's position as a key player in international diplomacy.

### Bangladesh Army Chief Urges Unity Amid Political Infighting



26-Feb-25

Bangladesh Army Chief General Waker-uz-Zaman has cautioned political parties about the risks posed by their internal conflicts, highlighting that such infighting endangers the country's sovereignty. He noted that the present chaotic conditions have allowed criminals to exploit the situation, and emphasized the necessity for national unity among Bangladeshis. General Zaman recalled the tragic Pilkhana mutiny of 2009, where many army officers were killed, underscoring the importance of prioritizing the nation's welfare over political discord. His warning reflects a crucial perspective on maintaining stability and security in Bangladesh amidst rising tensions.

### Congress Criticizes Modi's Diplomacy After US Aid to Pakistan F-16s



26-Feb-25

The Congress party has criticized the Modi government's diplomatic strategy following the US's approval of nearly \$400 million for Pakistan's F-16 fleet maintenance. This move raises concerns about India's security, especially given Pakistan's historical use of F-16s against India. Congress's Pawan Khera emphasized the importance of reassessing India's foreign policy to maintain national interests and questioned whether the government has a comprehensive plan to counter US military aid to Pakistan. He noted past successes in deepening Indo-US ties and suggested alternatives like Russia's offer for Su-57 jets, contrasting with the criticisms of the US F-35 program.

### CDS Stresses Integrated Air-Naval Power for Maritime Security



26-Feb-25

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan emphasized the integration of India's air and naval power to enhance maritime security and deterrence in a recent conference. He highlighted India's strategic position in the Indian Ocean and the necessity for joint operational capabilities among the Army, Navy, and Air Force under the upcoming integrated theatre commands. This transformative reform aims to optimize military resources and improve real-time intelligence sharing, as remarked by Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SP Dharkar. The focus on



technological advancements and strategic partnerships will significantly fortify India's defense posture amid evolving regional threats.

## 70% Complete: India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway Stalled by Conflict SHARE

26-Feb-25

The India-Myanmar-Thailand highway project, aimed at connecting India to Southeast Asia, is currently 70% complete but stalled due to Myanmar's internal conflicts, as articulated by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. He emphasized the project's potential to enhance trade and relations among the three nations and expressed India's commitment to overcoming these challenges, reflecting a broader strategy of prioritizing neighboring countries since 2014. This highway, which extends 1400 km from More in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand, could significantly boost economic ties, health, education, and tourism once completed, despite the setbacks caused by Myanmar's political turmoil.

## Kim Jong Un Urges Military Modernization Amid War Preparations SHARE

26-Feb-25

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for the modernization of the country's military during a visit to the Kang Kon Military Academy, emphasizing the need to prepare for potential war. This comes amid reports of North Korean troops being sent to support Russia in its conflict with Ukraine. Kim criticized the academy's management and stressed the importance of practical education in modern warfare and advanced technology. As South Korea warns of North Korea's potential gains from this military engagement, the situation highlights the complex dynamics of global military alliances and the implications for regional security, particularly for India, which must remain vigilant in its own defense strategies.

## Iran Ramps Up Near Weapons-Grade Uranium Production, Raises Alarms SHARE

26-Feb-25

Iran has significantly increased its production of near weapons-grade uranium, accumulating 274.8 kg enriched to 60%, raising concerns over potential nuclear weapon capabilities. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) warns that with 42 kg of such uranium, Iran could theoretically produce an atomic bomb. Despite Iran's claims of a peaceful nuclear program, signals from its leadership indicate a possible shift

towards pursuing nuclear weapons. The IAEA's findings emphasize the importance of international oversight and dialogue, particularly as Iran has recently banned some inspectors from monitoring its activities, raising tensions in an already fraught geopolitical landscape.

## Iranian Warships Visit Mumbai to Boost Naval Cooperation SHARE

26-Feb-25

Two Iranian warships, IRIS Boushehr and IRIS Lavan, are on a goodwill and training visit to Mumbai, enhancing cooperation between the Indian and Iranian navies. During their stay from February 25 to 28, 2025, discussions between commanders focused on mutual interests and training programs, complemented by sports activities to foster Navy-to-Navy interactions. A notable highlight was the Indian Navy's medical evacuation of a trainee officer from IRIS Boushehr, showcasing strong bilateral ties and commitment to mutual support. This visit underscores the growing defense collaboration between India and Iran in the maritime domain, reflecting a strategic partnership that benefits regional stability.

## Taiwan Mobilizes Forces Amid China's Provocative Drills Nearby SHARE

26-Feb-25

Taiwan has responded to China's recent "live-fire" military drills near its coast by mobilizing its sea, air, and land forces, condemning China's actions as dangerous provocations and a violation of international norms. The exercises, which come amid growing military tensions in the region, highlight China's increasing assertiveness in asserting its claim over Taiwan, a self-ruled island. Taiwan's defense ministry stresses that such actions threaten regional stability and that they will continue to enhance their military readiness. The situation underscores Taiwan's strategic significance as a potential flashpoint in the broader context of US-China tensions, with the US remaining Taiwan's crucial supporter despite its strategic ambiguity on military intervention.

## EU Chief's India Visit: Trade Talks, Ukraine Conflict, and IMEC SHARE

26-Feb-25

European Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen's upcoming visit to India focuses on crucial topics such as the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, the Ukraine conflict, and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). The FTA aims to enhance trade ties and defense cooperation between India and

the EU, reflecting India's strategic significance in the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, discussions will cover the need for lasting peace in Ukraine and the enforcement of sanctions on Russia. The IMEC initiative, supported by international investment, seeks to improve connectivity, signaling deeper EU-India collaboration in trade, technology, and security, which is vital for regional stability and growth.

## Chinese Envoy Acknowledges India's Key Role in SCO Contributions



26-Feb-25

India's active participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has been acknowledged by the Chinese envoy, highlighting its contributions since becoming a full member in 2017. India has focused on cooperation in connectivity, counterterrorism, and cultural exchanges, while also driving initiatives in start-ups and innovation. This engagement allows India to enhance ties with Central Asian nations, strategically balancing its interests amid regional dynamics influenced by China's Belt and Road Initiative. The envoy's remarks indicate a readiness for collaboration, reflecting the importance of India's role in strengthening the SCO's influence in regional affairs.

## Modi-Xi Consensus Paves Way for Improved India-China Ties



26-Feb-25

Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong has underscored the significance of the recent consensus between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi in revitalizing bilateral relations. He emphasized the need to respect core interests and enhance mutual trust, with recent high-level visits fostering cooperation on boundary issues. While this diplomatic thaw is viewed positively for global stability, India remains cautious, stressing the necessity of restoring trust and maintaining peace along the borders. As China prepares for the upcoming SCO summit, there is potential for further engagement, reflecting the importance of the India-China relationship in promoting regional and international stability.

## Omar Abdullah: Reassess J&K Accession If Article 370 Is Temporary



26-Feb-25

Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has asserted that the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India should be re-evaluated if Article 370 is deemed temporary, arguing that its abrogation was unilateral and disregarded the people's voice. He emphasized the

need for a plebiscite to formalize J&K's status, asserting that such a significant change demanded the involvement of Jammu and Kashmir's residents. Abdullah contends that while the accession may appear permanent, the constitutional framework supporting it should also be recognized as such, questioning the contradiction in labeling one as permanent while the other remains temporary. This discussion highlights the ongoing complexities surrounding J&K's integration into India and the implications for regional stability.

## Jaishankar highlights India's strong ties with Africa and Japan.



26-Feb-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized India's commitment to sustainable partnerships with Africa and Japan at the Japan-India-Africa Business Forum, highlighting India's role in promoting Africa's economic growth through capacity building and technology transfer. He noted India's position as Africa's fourth-largest trading partner, with significant investments in essential infrastructure, generating local employment and enhancing community resilience. Jaishankar also pointed out the alignment of India and Japan's strategic interests, particularly through the Quad, which complements their bilateral cooperation. This collaboration is vital for fostering global stability and economic progress, showcasing India's potential as a hub for Japanese companies venturing into Africa and the Middle East.

## China Builds 5,000km Radar Near Myanmar to Monitor India's Missiles



26-Feb-25

China has reportedly established a 5,000-kilometer range radar facility in Yunnan Province near the Myanmar border, enhancing its ability to monitor Indian missile tests and bolster its defense infrastructure in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). This Large Phased Array Radar (LPAR) may track missile launches from India, including developments like the Agni-V. The move underscores China's strategic ambitions amid ongoing tensions with India, particularly regarding border disputes. In response, India is likely to accelerate its ballistic missile defense initiatives and enhance its indigenous radar capabilities to mitigate the growing technological challenge posed by China's surveillance capabilities.

## Military Operations

### Rajnath Singh lauds Coast Guard's anti-piracy efforts, honors 32 personnel. SHARE

26-Feb-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently praised the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) for its exemplary performance in combating piracy, terrorism, and illegal activities, awarding 32 medals for gallantry and service at the 18th ICG Investiture Ceremony. He highlighted the ICG's significant achievements, including the apprehension of 115 pirates and drug seizures worth Rs 37,000 crore, while emphasizing the importance of a robust security system for India's prosperity. The government is committed to modernizing the ICG, with a 26.50% budget increase for FY 2025-26 and the approval of new vessels to enhance operational capabilities. Singh urged the ICG to remain vigilant against both conventional and unconventional threats, underscoring its critical role in ensuring national security and sovereignty. This proactive approach reflects the government's dedication to strengthening maritime security and addressing emerging challenges effectively.

### BSF Foils Intrusion at Pathankot, Reinforces Border Security SHARE

26-Feb-25

The Border Security Force (BSF) successfully thwarted an infiltration attempt at the Pathankot border, neutralizing an intruder who ignored warnings and advanced towards the International Border. This incident underscores the vigilance and readiness of the BSF in safeguarding India's borders, with a strong protest expected to be lodged with the Pakistan Rangers following the event. Additionally, BSF troops in Meghalaya apprehended multiple individuals trying to illegally cross the border, reflecting ongoing efforts to combat trans-border crimes. These operations highlight the BSF's proactive measures in ensuring national security and maintaining order along India's borders, demonstrating their commitment to countering infiltration and illegal immigration effectively. The BSF's decisive actions send a strong message to potential intruders about India's robust border protection strategy.

## India and Japan Launch Major Wargame to Boost Defense Ties SHARE

26-Feb-25

India and Japan have launched a two-week mega wargame, marking a significant step in their bilateral defense cooperation, with company-strength troops participating for the first time. The exercise focuses on counter-terror operations and simulated UN peacekeeping missions amid growing concerns over China's military presence in the Indo-Pacific. This initiative aims to enhance operational readiness and interoperability between the two armies, reinforcing their commitment to regional stability. The opening ceremony featured key military leaders, highlighting the strengthened strategic partnership and readiness for future joint missions, ultimately contributing to peace and security in the region.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### India Marks Balakot Airstrike Anniversary: A Testament to Resolve Against Terrorism SHARE

26-Feb-25

India recently commemorated the sixth anniversary of the Balakot airstrike, executed by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in retaliation for the Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 Central Reserve Police Force soldiers in February 2019. The operation, noted for its precision and swiftness, was carried out against a Jaish-e-Mohammed facility in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, showcasing India's strong stance against cross-border terrorism and its commitment to national security. This airstrike not only marked a significant military achievement for India, being the first aerial operation in Pakistan since 1971, but also highlighted the effectiveness of Indian intelligence in identifying and targeting terror structures. In stark contrast, Pakistan continues to grapple with a severe security crisis, reporting a record number of casualties among its security forces due to the resurgence of violence attributed to the very terror factions it fostered. In 2024 alone, Pakistani statistics revealed over 680 military fatalities amidst 444 terror attacks, underscoring a deteriorating security environment exacerbated by political instability and economic challenges. The Pakistani military's consistent underreporting of casualties further undermines its credibility and reflects a long history of concealing losses, from the Kargil conflict to the present day. This juxtaposition between

India's decisive counter-terrorism strategies, exemplified by the Balakot airstrike, and Pakistan's chaotic security situation illustrates the efficacy of India's approach to combating terrorism while exposing Pakistan's failures in managing its own internal threats. As India reinforces its commitment to the Balakot Doctrine and robust border security, it stands in a position of strength against a backdrop of Pakistan's increasing vulnerability, reinforcing the narrative of New India's resolve in the face of terrorism.

## **Terrorists Target Army Vehicle in Rajouri, Response Underway**



26-Feb-25

An army vehicle in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district came under fire from suspected terrorists near the Line of Control, although no casualties were reported. The attack occurred in a forward village, with the militants believed to be hiding in nearby forests, utilizing a traditional infiltration route. In response, the Indian Army troops returned fire and initiated a cordon and search operation to neutralize the threat as reinforcements were dispatched to the area. This incident highlights the ongoing challenges faced by Indian security forces in combating terrorism in sensitive border areas, reaffirming their commitment to maintaining security and responding swiftly to such threats.

## **Israeli Ambassador Warns of Terrorist Collaboration in PoK**



26-Feb-25

Israeli Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, expressed grave concerns regarding the collaboration between Hamas and terrorist groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, emphasizing the need to dismantle this network to prevent future attacks. He asserted Israel's commitment to bringing back hostages and eradicating Hamas as a military threat, citing successful military operations that have significantly diminished the capabilities of Hamas and Hezbollah. Azar highlighted the importance of neutralizing these threats to ensure stability and security in the region. Additionally, he noted that a window of opportunity exists for peace and strategic advancements, particularly with Israel's military successes and potential political shifts in the U.S. administration. This underscores the broader implications of regional terrorism and the necessity for decisive counter-terrorism strategies.

## **Cybersecurity and Information Warfare**

### **Fired cybersecurity chief warns of risks to veterans' data security**



26-Feb-25

A recently fired cybersecurity chief, Jonathan Kamens, has warned that sensitive health and financial data of millions of veterans on the VA.gov site is at risk following significant government cuts. Kamens, who was the sole technical expert on the cybersecurity team, emphasized that without his expertise, essential oversight is lacking, potentially exposing confidential information to threats. Although Veterans Affairs maintains that the operations won't be affected due to a large cybersecurity workforce, Kamens expressed concerns about the integrity and security of data management under new leadership, fearing a centralization of data could heighten risks of abuse. This situation raises critical questions about the efficacy of current cybersecurity measures within government services.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Pakistan and Uzbekistan set trade target at \$2 billion, enhancing regional ties.**



26-Feb-25

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed to boost bilateral trade to USD 2 billion, focusing on cooperation in defense, technology, and technical training during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit. The two leaders discussed enhancing tourism, industrial cooperation, and a planned railway link to improve connectivity through Afghanistan. They highlighted the importance of joint ventures in various sectors like mining and pharmaceuticals, aiming to create favorable conditions for entrepreneurs. This collaboration not only strengthens regional ties but also reflects Uzbekistan's strategic role in facilitating economic development, which could influence India's interests in the region by enhancing stability and connectivity.

### **US Air Base in Italy Locked Down Due to Security Incident**



26-Feb-25

A U.S. air base in Italy, Naval Air Station Sigonella, was placed on lockdown for several hours due to an



unspecified incident, although no injuries were reported. The lockdown, which affected traffic on highway SP105, raised concerns about security at the base, which hosts critical U.S. Navy reconnaissance assets like P-8 Poseidon aircraft and MQ-4C Triton drones. After a thorough response from Navy Security Forces, the situation was resolved, and normal operations resumed. This incident underscores the ongoing vigilance required in defense installations, particularly those hosting advanced military capabilities, reflecting the global security landscape's volatility and the importance of readiness.

## Indian Passengers Rebooked After Bomb Threat on American Airlines Flight

🔒 SHARE

26-Feb-25

American Airlines Flight AA292, traveling from New York to New Delhi, was diverted to Rome due to a suspected bomb threat, leading to an escort by Italian Air Force Eurofighter Typhoon jets for a safe landing. After thorough security checks, the threat was deemed non-credible, and passengers, many of whom were Indian nationals, were rebooked on alternative flights. Priority was given to those without Italian visas, who stayed in airport lounges overnight. Delhi Police have registered an FIR to investigate the source of the bomb threat, emphasizing the seriousness of aviation security and the swift, coordinated response by international forces.

## EAM Jaishankar Champions Global Unity and Human Rights at UNHRC

🔒 SHARE

26-Feb-25

In his address at the UNHRC, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized India's commitment to global unity and human rights, advocating for a reformed multilateral system responsive to contemporary challenges. He reaffirmed India's zero-tolerance stance on terrorism and highlighted the importance of capacity building and infrastructure enhancement in partnership with other nations. Jaishankar's remarks reflected India's pluralistic ethos, encapsulated in the philosophy

of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," and underscored its readiness to lead global reform efforts. This highlights India's proactive diplomatic strategy in promoting peace and cooperation while addressing pressing global issues.

## Meitei group urges Manipur Governor to address 9 key demands for peace.

🔒 SHARE

26-Feb-25

A delegation from the radical Meitei outfit, Arambai Tenggol, met Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla to present a 9-point demand aimed at resolving the ongoing ethnic conflict that has lasted 21 months. Their demands include the introduction of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) based on 1951, deportation of illegal immigrants, and amending the Manipur Land Reforms Act for equitable implementation. Meanwhile, the Revolutionary Peoples Front (RPF) and Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) commemorated their foundation day, reaffirming their commitment to seeking an independent Manipur. The situation highlights the urgent need for dialogue and effective governance to restore peace and stability in the region.

## Omar Abdullah's Security Remarks Spark Political Controversy

🔒 SHARE

26-Feb-25

A political controversy has emerged in Jammu and Kashmir over Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's comments linking increased security for separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to a decline in separatist activities since 2019. Opposition parties, notably the PDP, accuse Abdullah of abandoning his election promises and endorsing repressive measures against Kashmiris, including UAPA and PSA, which they argue have created a climate of fear. Supporters of the National Conference counter that the remarks were misconstrued and emphasize the relative calm in the region, attributing it to effective law enforcement. This discourse reflects ongoing tensions regarding governance and security in Jammu and Kashmir post-Article 370 abrogation.

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