



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### Indian Navy's LCA-Navy Trainer Acquisition Delayed by Testing Standards



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26-Jul-25

The Indian Navy's plan to acquire eight Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Navy Trainer jets is facing delays due to stringent testing requirements, which are essential for ensuring the aircraft's operational capability from aircraft carriers. This acquisition is crucial for establishing a domestic training program for naval pilots, transitioning them from land-based trainers to frontline naval fighter jets, thus enhancing India's self-reliance in aviation. Additionally, the LCA-Naval Trainer is set to begin trials for the Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUMT) concept in 2026, which aims to integrate advanced unmanned systems with manned platforms, thereby bolstering the Navy's operational capabilities amid evolving maritime security challenges

posed by regional adversaries. The aircraft's advanced features, including enhanced avionics and communication systems, position it as a vital asset for carrying out complex missions such as reconnaissance and precision strikes. The commitment to indigenous development and the integration of cutting-edge technologies reflect India's strategic focus on enhancing its naval aviation capabilities and ensuring operational readiness in contested waters. Overall, while the procurement process faces hurdles, ongoing collaboration between the Navy and the Ministry of Defence indicates a strong determination to resolve these issues and advance India's defense capabilities.

### BEML and Hindustan Shipyard Collaborate on Advanced Marine Systems



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26-Jul-25

Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) have entered into a strategic Memorandum of Understanding, signed on July 25, 2025, at BEML's Delhi office. This partnership focuses on the joint development of next-generation marine and shipyard systems aimed at strengthening India's

maritime infrastructure and fostering innovation. Senior leaders from both organizations, including Shantanu Roy, CMD of BEML, and Cmde Hemant Khatri (Retd), CMD of HSL, attended the signing ceremony. The collaboration will drive the design and manufacturing of indigenous technologies such as low-bed transportation platforms, dredging machinery, high-capacity cranes, and heavy load transporters—key elements for shipyard logistics and advanced marine engineering. The alliance supports the Indian Navy and Coast Guard, aligning with the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative by emphasizing self-reliance in defense and marine sectors. By integrating BEML's engineering and manufacturing capabilities with HSL's shipbuilding expertise, the partnership aims to boost India's global competitiveness, generate employment, and pave the way for future joint ventures and increased exports in marine technology.

## MoD Invests ₹723 Crore in Kaveri Engine for IUCAV Development



26-Jul-25

In a significant advancement for India's defense capabilities, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has allocated over ₹723 crore for the development and flight testing of the Kaveri Derivative Dry Engine (KDE) as part of the Indigenous Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (IUCAV) program. This funding is critical for establishing self-reliance in propulsion systems, with the KDE being tailored for the upcoming Ghatak UCAV, a stealthy platform designed for strike missions and combat air patrol. The Ghatak UCAV program awaits MoD clearance and is expected to require ₹3,000-5,000 crore to begin prototype development, leveraging technologies from the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and aiming for certification of the KDE by 2026. The Ghatak UCAV's multi-role capabilities include precision strikes and air-to-air combat, enhancing the Indian Air Force's operational effectiveness and positioning India competitively in the global UCAV market. The focus on indigenous development not only fosters self-reliance but also minimizes dependency on foreign technologies, showcasing India's commitment to bolstering its defense sector under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

## Indian Army to Acquire 126 LUHs from HAL to Replace Aging Fleet



26-Jul-25

The Indian Army is set to acquire 126 Light Utility Helicopters (LUH) from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to replace its aging Cheetah and Chetak fleets,

enhancing capabilities in high-altitude regions like Eastern Ladakh and Siachen. The LUH, a modern 3-tonne rotorcraft, features advanced technology and is vital for reconnaissance and casualty evacuation, addressing safety concerns with the current fleet. This procurement, part of a broader plan for 225 LUHs, underscores India's commitment to enhancing indigenous defense manufacturing under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, while fortifying operational readiness along sensitive borders with China and Pakistan.

## L&T Delivers Tejas Mk1A Wings, Boosts Production with Automation



26-Jul-25

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has successfully delivered the first set of wings for the Tejas Mk1A Light Combat Aircraft, marking a significant milestone in India's indigenous military aviation sector. Utilizing advanced Carbon-Fibre Reinforced Polymer and automation techniques, L&T has enhanced production efficiency and quality, with robotics reducing drilling time significantly. This delivery supports Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's ongoing commitment to provide 83 Tejas Mk1A aircraft to the Indian Air Force, reinforcing the success of public-private partnerships in developing a self-reliant defense industry. The recent approval for an additional 97 Tejas Mk1A jets underscores the strategic importance of bolstering India's aerospace capabilities amid evolving global security dynamics.

## IAF and HAL to finalize 97 Tejas Mk1A order by 2025, deliveries from 2028.



26-Jul-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) plan to finalize a contract for 97 additional Tejas Mk1A light combat aircraft by the end of 2025, valued at approximately \$8 billion. This follows a previous order of 83 aircraft, bringing the total to 170 and enhancing IAF's modern fighter fleet significantly. Deliveries for the initial batch are set for completion by 2028, with a manufacturing ramp-up to 24 aircraft per year. The Tejas Mk1A will feature indigenous systems, including the Uttam AESA radar, bolstering India's self-reliance in defense and supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative while replacing older aircraft types.

## Anadrone Systems Launches Abhay Anti-Radar Swarm Drone



26-Jul-25

Anadrone Systems unveiled the Abhay anti-radar decoy swarm drone on July 26, 2025, marking a significant leap in India's indigenously developed defense technologies. The Abhay Drone is engineered for swarming missions, allowing coordinated drone units to breach and overwhelm advanced enemy air defense systems. It features active electronic warfare payloads for radar and communications jamming, chaff dispensers, a range of 500 km, and endurance exceeding one hour. The drone can adapt its radar profile and speed, simulating diverse threats to confuse tracking systems, while its modular construction supports multiple mission payloads. Abhay enhances survivability for high-value assets such as Rafale and AMCA jets, strengthens India's drive for self-reliance in defense under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, and highlights Anadrone's emergence as a credible exporter. The launch addresses growing aerial threats in the Indo-Pacific region and is expected to attract interest from international buyers seeking advanced, yet cost-effective electronic warfare solutions.

## Tejas MkII to Integrate Advanced SDR-2 for Tactical Communication



26-Jul-25

The HAL Tejas MkII fighter jet will enhance its operational capabilities with the integration of the advanced Software Defined Radio-2 (SDR-2), developed by DRDO and HAL. This state-of-the-art communication system provides multi-band, multi-mode capabilities for robust voice and data communication, crucial for network-centric warfare. The SDR-2's interoperability with various IAF systems, including AWACS and ground-based units, allows for real-time data exchange and collaborative tactics in contested environments. This development underscores India's commitment to indigenization and technological advancement in defense, significantly boosting the IAF's effectiveness in complex missions and enhancing national security.

## Astra Rafael Comsys Completes User Trials for Indian Army SDR



26-Jul-25

Astra Rafael Comsys Pvt. Ltd. has successfully completed user trials for the BNET-MANAS V/UHF Software Defined Radio (SDR) for the Indian Army, marking a significant advancement in India's defense modernization under the Make-II initiative. The trials included rigorous evaluations in lab, high-temperature,

and extreme cold conditions, demonstrating the SDR's adaptability and robustness. This achievement highlights India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing, fostering domestic innovation, and reducing dependency on imports. The BNET-MANAS SDR is poised for potential induction into the Indian Army, reinforcing the role of indigenous industry in enhancing India's defense capabilities and aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.

## Bharat Dynamics Wins ₹809 Crore Order for Anti-Tank Missiles



26-Jul-25

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has secured an order worth ₹809 crore from Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL) for the supply of Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs), likely the Konkurs-M, crucial for the Indian Army's BMP-II infantry combat vehicles. This contract, part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, underscores BDL's growing role in India's defense sector and its commitment to indigenization, as the Konkurs-M has been significantly developed domestically. With a robust order book of ₹22,700 crore, BDL's advancements not only enhance India's self-reliance in defense production but also position it as a competitive player in the global defense market.

## Armenian Army Delegation Visits India to Explore Defense Technologies



26-Jul-25

Armenian Army Delegation Visits India to Explore Defense Technologies. A high-level Armenian Army delegation, led by Colonel Mher Israyelyan, is visiting India to enhance defense ties and explore small arms and sensor technologies, signifying a shift away from traditional reliance on Russia. This visit is part of a broader strategic partnership, underscored by over \$2 billion in defense contracts since 2020, aimed at modernizing Armenia's military post-Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The collaboration includes discussions on Indian-manufactured systems like the Ak-203 rifle and various small arms- significant in light of fact that Armenia itself licence produces Ak-103 version, highlighting India's growing role as a reliable defense supplier and its Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, which promotes indigenous manufacturing, while Armenia seeks to bolster its military capabilities through technological cooperation

## India and Russia to Revive BrahMos-2K Hypersonic Missile Program SHARE

26-Jul-25

India and Russia are set to rejuvenate the BrahMos-2K hypersonic missile program during President Putin's upcoming visit, potentially finalizing co-development of this advanced weapon. The BrahMos-2K aims for speeds between Mach 7 and Mach 8 and incorporates cutting-edge technology, enhancing India's strategic deterrence amid rising geopolitical tensions, particularly with China. The revival follows India's entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime, easing technology transfer restrictions. The missile's dual-stage development plan seeks to balance ambition and costs, promising to significantly elevate India's offensive capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region, solidifying its strategic position as a key regional power.

## Indian Army to receive final three AH-64E Apaches by Dec 2025 SHARE

26-Jul-25

The Indian Army is set to enhance its combat capabilities with the delivery of the final three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters by December 2025, completing a crucial \$600 million deal with the U.S. The Apache helicopters, known for their advanced multi-role functionality, will significantly bolster India's operational readiness, particularly along the volatile western border with Pakistan. The delivery faced delays due to supply chain issues and technical challenges but is now on track, with the first batch already delivered. This acquisition not only complements the Indian Air Force's fleet but also addresses the Indian Army's specific needs for close-air support in desert warfare, thereby strengthening its defense posture against potential threats.

## DRDO Completes 138 Projects in Three Years, Boosts Self-Reliance SHARE

26-Jul-25

The Government of India reported that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully completed 138 projects over the last three years, including key advancements like the Dhruvastra missile and various other critical systems. With substantial funding of approximately ₹29,558.66 crore and a new ₹500 crore corpus for deep-tech initiatives, DRDO aims to enhance indigenous defense technologies and reduce import dependency. The Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme particularly emphasizes collaboration with MSMEs, start-ups, and academia to foster innovation and

develop defense products meeting tri-service operational needs. This strategic focus reflects India's commitment to strengthening its defense capabilities and advancing self-reliance in military technologies.

## DRDO successfully tests ULPGM-V3 missile launched from drone SHARE

26-Jul-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted flight trials of the advanced precision-guided missile ULPGM-V3, launched from an indigenously developed UAV. This missile, capable of operating in diverse terrains and equipped with a high-definition dual-channel seeker, enhances India's defense capabilities against modern threats with its modular warheads. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised this achievement as a testament to India's growing defense industry and technological self-reliance, highlighting collaboration among DRDO, MSMEs, and startups. The integration of ULPGM weapons with long-range UAVs further underscores India's commitment to advancing indigenous defense technologies.

## Government Approves ₹29,558 Crore for Indigenous Defense Projects SHARE

26-Jul-25

The Indian government has approved projects worth Rs 29,558 crore for the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) over three years to enhance indigenous defense capabilities. In 2023, 40 projects were sanctioned, followed by 43 in 2024 and 20 so far in 2025, with significant investments in the Kaveri Derivative Engine for unmanned combat aircraft. The government is fostering partnerships between civil and military sectors, encouraging innovation through MoUs, zero transfer fees, and accessible patents. This strategic shift not only aims to bolster self-reliance but also positions India as a growing hub for defense technology development, crucial for national security and industrial advancement.

## India to Acquire 56 Indigenous C-295 Aircraft for Navy and Coast Guard SHARE

26-Jul-25

India is set to enhance its maritime capabilities with the acquisition of 56 C-295MW aircraft, a multi-role tactical transport plane developed collaboratively by Airbus and the Tata group. These aircraft, capable of operating from short and unprepared runways, will serve crucial roles in transporting troops, medical patients, and heavy equipment, proving vital in inaccessible regions.

While 16 aircraft will be sourced from Spain, 40 will be manufactured domestically in Vadodara, reinforcing India's commitment to indigenous defense production. This move not only strengthens the Navy and Coast Guard's operational readiness but also bolsters India's defense industrial base, promoting self-reliance in military capabilities.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### PM Modi's 11-Year Defense Modernization: Reforms and Self-Reliance



26-Jul-25

Over the past eleven years, the Indian government's emphasis on defense modernization has driven significant reforms, propelling the country toward military self-reliance and export growth. Strategic prioritization of self-sufficiency, especially through initiatives such as Aatmanirbhar Bharat, has pushed defense exports to a record ₹23,622 crore in 2024–25. Support for private sector participation and domestic innovation has enabled the development of indigenous platforms like the Tejas fighter jet, Arjun tank, and advanced missile systems. India now exports defense equipment to nearly 80 countries, with the private sector playing a key role. Recent operations, such as May 2025's Operation Sindoor, showcase a more assertive military posture. In July, defense capital acquisitions exceeding ₹1.05 lakh crore were approved, highlighting continued commitment to modernization and securing India's place as a global defense exporter.

### Formation of Rudra Brigades and Bhairav Battalions Enhances Army's Border Capabilities



26-Jul-25

On July 26, 2025, at the Kargil Vijay Diwas commemoration in Dras, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi unveiled major enhancements to the Indian Army's operational structure, announcing the "Rudra" all-arms brigades and the "Bhairav" Light Commando Battalions as part of a sweeping modernization drive. The Rudra brigades mark a shift from the traditional, single-arm brigade model to integrated combat formations—merging infantry, mechanized and armored units, artillery, special forces, and unmanned aerial systems under unified command. Each Rudra brigade is equipped with tailored logistics, drone platoons, and advanced artillery batteries, allowing for rapid and coordinated response to evolving threats. Already, two such brigades have been operationalized along

sensitive border sectors, each capable of conducting multidomain, high-intensity operations. Complementing Rudra, the newly raised Bhairav Light Commando Battalions are elite, agile strike forces designed for swift, targeted cross-border actions and shock operations. These battalions are structured for maximum mobility and stealth in both high-altitude and urban terrains, employing the latest surveillance tech and loiter munitions to maximize operational impact. The Army Chief described these changes as essential to ensuring readiness against complex geopolitical challenges. While these reforms followed India's firm response to the Pahalgam terror attack during Operation Sindoor in May—an operation marked by calibrated, precision strikes—current Army strategy is increasingly focused on synergizing combat arms for decisive, proactive border defense.

### India's Decade+ of Defense Transformation: Government-Led Reforms Boost Self-Reliance



26-Jul-25

Over the past eleven years, the Indian government's determined focus on defense modernization has led to sweeping reforms, positioning the nation as a rising force in the global security landscape. Under consistent leadership at the highest level, policies promoting self-reliance—especially those under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative—have fueled remarkable growth in defense exports, reaching a record ₹23,622 crore in 2024–25. Strategic decisions empowered private industry participation and domestic innovation, facilitating achievements such as the indigenous Tejas fighter jets, Arjun tanks, advanced missile systems, and state-of-the-art warships. India now supplies defense technology and equipment to nearly 80 countries, with the private sector accounting for ₹15,233 crore of export earnings in the last financial year alone. High-profile procurements, such as Rafale jets and S-400 missile systems, along with targeted investments in defense corridors across Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, have significantly boosted local manufacturing and research capabilities. Recent precision operations—including Operation Sindoor in May 2025—reflect a more proactive military posture, marked by swift, technology-driven responses. In July, the Ministry of Defence approved capital acquisitions exceeding ₹1.05 lakh crore, underscoring an ongoing commitment to innovation and preparedness. These efforts collectively reinforce India's trajectory toward military self-sufficiency, enhanced export competitiveness, and a prominent role in the international defense sector.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### India and Vietnam Strengthen Maritime Security Ties SHARE

26-Jul-25

India is strengthening its maritime ties with Vietnam, as demonstrated by the recent port call of Indian Naval Ships Delhi, Shakti, and Kiltan in Da Nang. This visit, led by Rear Admiral Susheel Menon, highlights India's commitment to enhancing regional security and defense collaboration in the Indo-Pacific. Ambassador Sandeep Arya praised the Indian Navy's operational readiness and advanced indigenous systems, while bilateral engagements will foster deeper cooperation on maritime issues. This collaboration aligns with India's MAHASAGAR vision and represents a significant step in fortifying the strategic partnership between India and Vietnam, reflecting a mutual commitment to a rules-based maritime order in the region.

### Modi's Maldives visit strengthens ties and boosts cooperation. SHARE

26-Jul-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the Maldives marks a significant step in strengthening bilateral relations, as it is his third trip to the island nation and the first by any head of government since President Mohamed Muizzu took office. The visit featured high-level discussions resulting in a new Line of Credit worth approximately \$565 million aimed at financing essential infrastructure projects, along with amendments to ease the Maldives' debt burden by 40%. Modi and Muizzu reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation in various sectors, including fisheries, digital governance, and health, while also addressing climate resilience and disaster risk reduction. The shift in Maldives' geopolitical stance, moving from a pro-China position to acknowledging India as a "trusted friend," underlines India's strategic importance in the region amid the Maldives' economic challenges and the need for stability. Modi's visit has been perceived as a timely reinforcement of India's influence in the Indian Ocean, demonstrating a commitment to mutual prosperity and security, which is reflected in the new Joint Vision for a Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership adopted during the discussions. This partnership seeks to promote long-term stability and development in the Indian Ocean region, showcasing India's dedication to being a reliable partner for the Maldives, particularly in

light of the latter's financial struggles and historical ties with India.

### India Acknowledges China's Maritime Ambitions and Secures Interests SHARE

26-Jul-25

India has reaffirmed its vigilant approach to China's expanding maritime ambitions, as officials highlighted New Delhi's proactive measures to safeguard its security and economic interests in the Indian Ocean Region. On July 25, 2025, the Ministry of External Affairs reiterated India's strong bilateral relations and developmental partnerships with neighbors such as Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Mauritius under the Neighbourhood First Policy. With China continuing to modernize its navy, invest in dual-use ports, and deploy research vessels across the region, India has heightened military readiness, including the commissioning of the indigenously built INS Vagsheer submarine in January 2025 and advancing coastal surveillance capabilities. India also hosted key security dialogues and regional naval symposiums in June, reinforcing multilateral coordination on maritime domain awareness and operational guidelines. Sri Lanka recently assured that its territory would not be allowed for actions detrimental to India's security. India's latest budget allocations further prioritize infrastructure and defense cooperation with neighboring states, reflecting a commitment to regional stability and a multi-dimensional strategy to assert its leadership in the Indian Ocean.

### Andhra Pradesh Aims for Strategic Defense Hub After UAV Test SHARE

26-Jul-25

Andhra Pradesh is positioning itself as a strategic defense production hub following a successful UAV missile test, supported by state and national leaders. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's proposal outlines the establishment of major defense manufacturing hubs across the state, including missile clusters and drone facilities. This initiative aims to align with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat mission, enhancing indigenous defense capabilities and attracting investments. The state's robust infrastructure and skilled workforce, coupled with a focus on advanced technologies, will significantly contribute to India's self-sufficiency in defense production, reinforcing the overall defense ecosystem and fostering regional economic growth.

## Pakistan Army Chief Munir Visits China to Strengthen Ties Amid Tensions with India



26-Jul-25

Recent developments highlight Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir's visit to Beijing, which occurred against a backdrop of heightened tensions between India and Pakistan following India's Operation Sindoor. This visit coincided with Pakistan's deputy prime minister engaging with U.S. officials, showcasing Islamabad's attempt to balance its relationships with major global powers while countering India's influence. Munir's talks with Chinese leaders focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation, especially regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the security of Chinese investments in Pakistan, amid rising concerns over attacks targeting Chinese nationals. China reaffirmed its strategic partnership with Pakistan, emphasizing military support during recent clashes with India. Indian authorities are closely monitoring these developments, expressing concerns over U.S. military support to Pakistan and asserting their vigilance regarding security-related activities in the region. The key argument centers around Pakistan's reliance on its alliance with China for security and diplomatic leverage, particularly in light of renewed tensions with India, as both nations seek to deepen their cooperation to address geopolitical challenges. Ultimately, this dynamic illustrates the complex interplay of regional power relations, with India remaining watchful of the evolving military landscape.

## Cambodia urges ceasefire with Thailand amid escalating border clashes.



26-Jul-25

Cambodia has called for an "immediate ceasefire" with Thailand following deadly clashes linked to a long-standing border dispute, with both countries trading artillery and air strikes. The fighting has resulted in multiple casualties, prompting emergency discussions at the UN Security Council, where Cambodia's envoy urged for diplomatic solutions. Thailand's Foreign Ministry expressed openness to negotiations, possibly facilitated by Malaysia, as tensions remain high, with fears that the situation could escalate further. This resurgence of conflict highlights the complexity of South East Asia's territorial disputes and underscores the need for regional cooperation to maintain stability and peace.

## Trump blames Hamas for ceasefire failure, urges Israel to act.



26-Jul-25

US President Donald Trump has blamed Hamas for the collapse of Gaza ceasefire talks, advocating for Israel to escalate its military efforts. His comments signal a shift in his administration's approach, previously leaning towards negotiation. Trump criticized Hamas for lacking incentive to negotiate, particularly as the number of hostages diminishes, while indicating that further US aid is contingent upon accountability. His remarks come amid a backdrop of complex negotiations involving regional players like Egypt and Qatar. The situation remains tense, with international reactions varying from support for Israel to calls for Palestinian state recognition, highlighting the intricacies of the ongoing conflict.

## Kargil War: Pakistan's DGMO laments being sent alone to negotiate



26-Jul-25

A fresh spotlight has returned to the pivotal July 11, 1999 meeting at Attari during the Kargil War, as India commemorates the 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26, 2025. Recent reflections by retired Indian military officials recount how Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations, Lt Gen Tauqir Zia, arrived alone for talks with his Indian counterpart, a move seen as breaking protocol and revealing Pakistan's internal chaos. This unusual episode has surfaced again as dignitaries and veterans gather to mark the end of the conflict. The meeting, initiated after U.S. intervention pressed Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to withdraw troops, resulted in clear Indian directives for Pakistani retreat. Despite this, Pakistan violated conditions by laying landmines and launching attacks during their withdrawal, leading to intensified Indian shelling from July 15 to 24, 1999. The conflict officially concluded on July 26, 1999. Current remembrances highlight this meeting's significance as a turning point that underscored India's diplomatic and military resolve, drawing attention to the delicate and at times fraught process that ended the Kargil conflict.

## Taiwan Reports Increased Chinese Military Activity Near Its Borders



26-Jul-25

Taiwan's Ministry of Defence reported increased Chinese military activity, detecting 17 PLA aircraft sorties and 7 PLAN vessels near its territory, with 8 sorties crossing into Taiwan's southwestern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). This follows a

record surge on Thursday, reflecting heightened tensions stemming from China's longstanding claim over Taiwan under the "One China" principle. Taiwan, since the Chinese Civil War, has operated independently, maintaining a strong public sentiment for sovereignty despite ongoing pressure from Beijing. The situation underscores the critical need for vigilance and preparedness in the face of increasing military assertiveness from China, which poses significant regional security challenges.

## **Maldives' Ex-Defense Minister Advocates 'India First' Policy**



26-Jul-25

Maldives' former Defence Minister Mariya Ahmed Didi emphasized the necessity of an "India First" policy during an interview, asserting that India's historical support has been crucial for the Maldives. Didi criticized the Muizzu government for jeopardizing the strong bilateral ties for political gains but expressed optimism about a renewed focus on mutual interests. She highlighted the importance of India's role as a development partner, particularly in defense cooperation, and called for the Maldivian government to educate citizens on this relationship. Didi's comments underscore the strategic significance of India in regional stability and security, particularly within the Indian Ocean context.

## **USNS Bowditch's Port Blair visit enhances US-India maritime ties**



26-Jul-25

The USNS Bowditch, a Pathfinder class oceanographic survey ship, recently completed a scheduled port visit to Sri Vijaya Puram, India, marking the first such visit by a US Navy vessel in two decades. This visit underscored the deepening maritime partnership between the US and India, focusing on shared democratic values and security in the Indo-Pacific. During its stay, Bowditch engaged with Indian Navy and Coast Guard personnel, fostering collaboration through cultural exchanges and operational discussions. This event reflects the US commitment to maintaining a strong presence in the region and enhancing cooperative defense strategies, contributing to regional stability and economic prosperity.

## **India's ASW Superiority Outmatches Pakistan's Hangor Submarines**



26-Jul-25

The Indian Navy is solidifying its anti-submarine warfare (ASW) superiority against Pakistan's Chinese-

built Hangor-class submarines, which are considered outdated given India's advanced capabilities. The Indian fleet, featuring cutting-edge assets like the P-8I Poseidon and Kamorta-class corvettes, is bolstered by specialized ASW Shallow Water Crafts and MH-60R helicopters, ensuring comprehensive maritime domain awareness. Pakistan's investment in the Hangor project, estimated at \$5 billion, may yield limited operational effectiveness due to delays and the submarines' lack of advanced integration, ultimately undermining their strategic deterrent role. As India enhances its underwater dominance, Pakistan's reliance on these submarines risks becoming a strategic liability.

## **US Secretary of State Rubio and Pakistan's Ishaq Dar Discuss Cooperation**



26-Jul-25

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with Pakistani Deputy PM Ishaq Dar, highlighting Pakistan's role in mediating talks with Iran and emphasizing enhanced counterterrorism cooperation, particularly against ISIS-K. They also discussed expanding bilateral trade and economic ties, signaling a move towards a broader partnership beyond security concerns. This meeting follows recent high-level engagements, including a luncheon between Pakistan's Army Chief and US President Trump, amid rising tensions in the region, notably between Israel and Iran. The evolving US-Pakistan relationship underscores its significance in addressing both regional stability and counterterrorism challenges, while also indicating a shift towards economic collaboration.

## **India Seeks Preferential Treatment in US Trade Talks Amid Agri Issues**



26-Jul-25

India and the US are striving to finalize a mini trade agreement before an August tariff deadline, but challenges arise from India's protective stance on its agriculture and dairy sectors, crucial for its economy and over 700 million livelihoods. India seeks preferential treatment compared to competitors, while the US demands greater access to Indian markets, raising tensions over tariff disparities. With India imposing high tariffs on US agricultural imports and seeking relief on US steel and aluminum duties, the likelihood of an interim deal remains low despite optimistic US signals. The complexities of digital market access and data localization further complicate negotiations, highlighting India's strategic focus on safeguarding its domestic interests.

## INS Sandhayak Showcases Advanced Survey Equipment in Jakarta



26-Jul-25

INS Sandhayak's recent visit to Jakarta showcased its advanced hydrographic survey capabilities, enhancing India-Indonesia maritime cooperation. This engagement aligned with India's MAHASAGAR policy, fostering strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific. The Indian Defence Minister's commissioning of the vessel in February 2024 marks a significant advancement in naval capabilities, reflecting India's commitment to regional security and maritime safety. Both nations emphasized the importance of collaboration and dialogue to ensure secure sea lanes, underscoring their dedication to joint initiatives in defense and maritime security, thereby reinforcing India's position as a rising maritime power in a critical geopolitical landscape.

## PM Modi concludes Maldives visit, strengthens India-Maldives ties



26-Jul-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently concluded a two-day visit to the Maldives, where he attended the island nation's 60th Independence Day celebrations as the guest of honour, reinforcing India's commitment to its neighbor. During his visit, he engaged with the Indian community and emphasized the significance of the Indian diaspora in strengthening ties between the two nations. Modi's discussions with President Mohamed Muizzu centered on enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade, defense, and maritime security, culminating in India's announcement of a ₹4,850 crore line of credit and a forthcoming free trade agreement. This visit underscores India's strategic interests in the Indian Ocean region and its dedication to fostering regional stability and cooperation.

## Pakistan Nears US Trade Deal, But No Timetable Given



26-Jul-25

Pakistan and the United States are on the brink of concluding a landmark trade agreement, with both nations' officials engaging in intensive negotiations in Washington over the past week. While Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar expressed hope on July 25, 2025, that a deal could be finalized within days, US counterparts have refrained from committing to a specific timeline. The discussions center on eliminating steep US tariffs—currently at 29%—on Pakistani textile and agricultural exports, and increasing US market access in return for broader investment opportunities in Pakistan. The dialogue also covers collaboration in

critical minerals, mining, and technology. The US remains Pakistan's top export destination, and this prospective agreement is widely seen as pivotal for Pakistan's economic recovery and future bilateral cooperation.

## Military Operations

### India's Operation Sindoor: PAF Evades Engagement Amid Conflict



26-Jul-25

In May 2025, India executed Operation Sindoor, a decisive military response to the Pahalgam terror attack, showcasing its growing self-reliance in defense technology and operational capability. Lieutenant General Sumer Ivan DCunha in a recent interview highlighted that during the four-day conflict, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) adopted a defensive posture, often avoiding engagement and using commercial flights to mask their movements, which underscored India's effective neutralization of Pakistani air defenses. Indian forces successfully targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir using advanced indigenous technologies, destroying key installations and demonstrating their ability to project power deep into adversary territory. Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari also recently noted that fewer than 50 precision weapons used in Operation Sindoor were sufficient to compel Pakistan to the negotiation table, emphasizing the strategic effectiveness of air power. This operation not only decimated about 20% of Pakistan's air force infrastructure but also marked a strategic shift in India's defense posture from restraint to decisive action, reinforcing a commitment to respond firmly to provocations while maintaining a focus on minimizing civilian casualties. The operation concluded with both nations reaching a ceasefire, highlighting India's tactical excellence and integrated military capabilities.

### Arunachal Guv calls for multifaceted study of Operation Sindoor



26-Jul-25

Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt. General (Retd.) K.T. Parnaik urged the Indian Army to conduct an in-depth study of Operation Sindoor, focusing on its operational, strategic, and humanitarian dimensions, to enhance their capabilities and awareness of potential threats. He highlighted the Army's vital role in securing borders and supporting community development through initiatives like Operation Sadbhavana, which fosters trust between

the Army and local populations. Parnaik also paid tribute to the valor exhibited during the Kargil War, emphasizing the importance of patriotism and national pride, which are essential for inspiring future generations to uphold India's values of resilience and unity in defense.

## CDS Anil Chauhan: Operation Sindoor Reflects India's Military Evolution SHARE

26-Jul-25

The recent addresses by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan highlight India's commitment to evolving military strategies amid the ongoing Operation Sindoor, which is a response to proxy threats from Pakistan. General Chauhan emphasized that modern warfare demands an exceptional state of readiness and the need for a new breed of soldiers—info warriors, tech warriors, and scholar warriors—who can navigate the complexities of the current security landscape. He underscored that the world is entering a third military revolution characterized by the convergence of kinetic and non-kinetic operations. The CDS called for a democratization of military genius, stating that in future conflicts, India will require hundreds of strategic leaders, likening this necessity to historical figures like Napoleon and Manekshaw. His remarks indicate a significant shift in India's defense doctrine, prioritizing a blend of traditional combat strength with intellectual and technological capabilities, which is essential for addressing the multifaceted threats faced by the nation. This strategic evolution reflects India's proactive stance in forging a resilient defense framework that integrates operational readiness with innovative military thought.

## Indian Army Demonstrates Advanced Drone Warfare in Exercise Prahaar SHARE

26-Jul-25

The Indian Army recently conducted Exercise Drone Prahaar, showcasing its advanced warfare capabilities through the integration of unmanned aerial systems in real-time tactical operations. This exercise, overseen by Lieutenant General Abhijeet S Pendharkar, emphasized the operational utility of drones for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) while enhancing situational awareness and decision-making for commanders. It also tested essential enablers for drone warfare, such as airspace deconfliction and secure communications, aligning with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative for self-reliance in defense. The drill underscores the Indian Army's commitment to technological innovation and

adaptation in modern warfare, reflecting the growing significance of drones on contemporary battlefields.

## Ukrainian drones strike key Russian electronic warfare facility. SHARE

26-Jul-25

Ukrainian drones reportedly struck a key electronic warfare plant in Russia's Stavropol region, damaging facilities critical to the production of military equipment. The attack, claimed by Ukraine's SBU security service, aims to diminish Russia's military capabilities by disrupting production processes. This incident highlights Ukraine's evolving drone capabilities, developed in response to its conflict with a larger Russian force, as it seeks to enhance its long-range strike capacity. While the effectiveness of the attacks is yet to be fully verified, they signify a strategic shift, showcasing Ukraine's innovation in asymmetric warfare and its focus on undermining Russia's technological edge.

## Adityanath: India avenged Pulwama in under 22 minutes SHARE

26-Jul-25

In a recent statement at the Vijay Diwas event, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted that India took less than 22 minutes to respond to the Pulwama terror attack, showcasing the swift action and courage of the Indian Army. He emphasized that in the face of India's military strength, Pakistan sought support from the United States, indicating the global dynamics at play in regional security. This reflects India's strong defense posture and its capability to retaliate decisively against terrorism, reinforcing its commitment to national security and deterrence against hostile neighbors. Such assertions bolster India's image as a formidable force in South Asia.

## Nadda: India's forces now proactively respond to threats. SHARE

26-Jul-25

BJP president J P Nadda emphasized the transformation in India's defense policy under Prime Minister Modi, highlighting that the armed forces no longer wait for orders from Delhi but are empowered to respond decisively to threats, particularly from Pakistan. He cited Operation Sindoor as an example of this proactive approach and stated that India's defense production and exports have significantly increased, contrasting it with prior deficiencies in military supplies. Nadda criticized previous governments for neglecting border infrastructure, arguing that Modi's administration

has built extensive all-weather roads and bridges to enhance operational readiness. This shift reflects a robust commitment to national security and a strategic stance against terrorism.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### IDF mandates Arabic and Islamic studies for military intelligence SHARE

26-Jul-25

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) have mandated Arabic language and Islamic cultural studies for all intelligence personnel in response to recent intelligence failures linked to the October 7, 2023, Hamas attacks. Led by Major General Shlomi Binder, this reform aims to ensure that future commanders are fluent in Arabic and well-versed in Islamic culture, with all AMAN soldiers set to receive training by the end of next year. This initiative includes a focus on regional dialects, particularly those of the Houthis in Yemen, to enhance the understanding of communications that have been problematic due to cultural nuances, such as the impact of qat-chewing on speech clarity. Additionally, the IDF plans to reopen the TELEM program, which previously supported Arabic education in schools but was closed due to budget cuts. A senior AMAN official acknowledged the need for improvement in cultural and language comprehension within the intelligence community, emphasizing that while the training will enhance observational skills, it will not transform intelligence officers into native speakers. These sweeping reforms represent a significant cultural shift within Israeli intelligence, aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of regional dynamics and improving operational effectiveness.

### Three Naxalites killed in security forces operation in Jharkhand SHARE

26-Jul-25

Three Naxalites were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Gumla district, Jharkhand, as police acted on intelligence regarding a planned attack by the Jharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad, a splinter group of CPI-Maoist. The operation involved the Jharkhand Jaguar and local police, leading to a significant exchange of gunfire, resulting in the recovery of an AK-47 and two INSAS rifles. This successful operation underscores the effectiveness of intelligence-driven strategies by Indian security forces in combating Naxalite insurgency, demonstrating a firm commitment to maintaining security and stability in affected regions. Such proactive measures contribute to the larger goal of

restoring peace and enhancing the safety of local populations.

### BSF Shoots Two Bangladeshi Smugglers at Tripura Border SHARE

26-Jul-25

Two suspected Bangladeshi smugglers were shot dead by the Border Security Force (BSF) at the International Border in Tripura during a violent smuggling attempt. The incident, which resulted in the death of one smuggler on the spot and another later in a Bangladeshi health center, underscores the ongoing challenges India faces regarding border security and smuggling activities. The BSF emphasized that their actions were in self-defense, highlighting their commitment to maintaining integrity along the India-Bangladesh border. Furthermore, two Indian smugglers were arrested, demonstrating the cooperative efforts needed to tackle cross-border crime effectively.

### UK MP Bob Blackman Denounces Pakistan-Sponsored Terrorism in J&K SHARE

26-Jul-25

UK MP Bob Blackman condemned the resurgence of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, labeling a recent attack as "barbaric" and calling for stronger international cooperation to combat such threats. He urged the UK government to support India in its fight against terrorism and highlighted the urgent need to dismantle terrorist camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Blackman described Pakistan as a "failed state" that misuses international aid for military purposes rather than the welfare of its people. His statements reflect a growing consensus among UK parliamentarians to enhance security cooperation with India, showcasing international solidarity in safeguarding India's sovereignty against persistent terrorist threats.

### Amit Shah urges security forces to capture fugitives linked to terror and smuggling. SHARE

26-Jul-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has emphasized the need for dedicated efforts to apprehend fugitives involved in terrorism and smuggling during the National Security Strategies conference. He called for enhanced inter-agency coordination and a focus on disrupting the terror-criminal nexus, alongside measures to counter terror financing. The conference also addressed the challenges posed by technology in law enforcement, including encrypted communication used by terror

networks. This initiative reflects India's commitment to bolstering national security by leveraging insights from law enforcement officials and domain experts, aiming for more effective strategies against evolving threats.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Indian Army Honors Kargil Heroes and Emphasizes Modernization SHARE

26-Jul-25

The Indian Army commemorated the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, marking the historic victory in the 1999 Kargil War with solemn tributes and a series of events in Dras and New Delhi. Key dignitaries, including Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, laid wreaths at memorials, honoring the supreme sacrifices made by soldiers. The celebrations featured a Battle Briefing, cultural performances, and the launch of innovative legacy projects such as an e-Shradhanjali portal and a QR code-based audio gateway that allows citizens to connect with the stories of the Kargil battles and pay homage digitally. General Dwivedi emphasized the Army's transformation into a future-ready force and affirmed India's commitment to responding decisively to provocations, citing Operation Sindoor as an example of India's renewed resolve against terrorism. The event not only served to remember the valor of the past but also highlighted the Indian Army's focus on modernization and community engagement through outreach initiatives, reflecting the nation's respect and gratitude towards its armed forces, while reaffirming the enduring spirit of patriotism among younger generations.

### India Marks 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas with Nationwide Tributes and Patriotic Fervor SHARE

26-Jul-25

Kargil Vijay Diwas was commemorated on July 26, 2025, across India with solemn tributes and patriotic fervor, marking the 26th anniversary of India's decisive victory in the Kargil War. The main ceremony unfolded at the Kargil War Memorial in Dras, Ladakh, where the Chief of Army Staff laid a wreath, and the event featured battle remembrances, cultural performances, and the lighting of 545 lamps symbolizing each fallen soldier. The Southern Command marked the day at its Pune headquarters, while tributes and celebrations took place at the Golden Katar Division War Memorial in Gujarat, and other major military stations including

those in Delhi, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad. Additionally, motivational tours involving students from local educational institutions were organized to the Lamochan View Point in Dras, reinforcing the legacy of sacrifice and valor. In New Delhi, top leaders including the President, Prime Minister, and Defence Minister honored the martyrs, reiterating the nation's indebtedness to the armed forces. The day also saw the launch of digital initiatives such as an e-shradhanjali portal for martyrs and an audio guide recounting Kargil stories. Throughout India, many schools, colleges, and civil institutions also observed the day with patriotic programs, reaffirming the unity and resilience that Kargil Vijay Diwas symbolizes.

### Film Industry's Tribute to the Indian Armed Forces on Kargil Vijay Diwas SHARE

26-Jul-25

On July 26, 2026, Hindi Film Industry paid heartfelt tributes to Kargil Vijay Diwas, reflecting on the courage and sacrifices of India's armed forces during the 1999 Kargil War. Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, Sidharth Malhotra, Suniel Shetty, and Anupam Kher each posted fresh messages of pride and gratitude, emphasizing unwavering support for the military. Sidharth Malhotra, drawing on his role as Captain Vikram Batra in "Shershaah," stated that the legacy of Kargil's heroes continues to inspire the nation. Suniel Shetty honored the bravery of Indian soldiers, while Ajay Devgn emphasized their courage and dedication. Anushka Sharma highlighted her personal perspective as the daughter of an army officer, reminiscing about her early experiences during the conflict and voicing pride in her father's service. Nana Patekar, known for his patriotic roles, also reminisced about his time as a volunteer during Kargil and later with the Territorial Army, and acknowledged the efforts of the Indian forces during the Kargil War. Malayalam actors Mohanlal, Prithviraj and Unni Mukundan added their voices to the tributes, saluting the spirit and legacy of the Kargil bravehearts. These contemporary messages from the Indian film industry, all expressed on July 26, 2026, created a collective moment of remembrance and national pride, uniting audiences in gratitude.

### Tributes Paid to Agniveer Killed by Landmine Near LoC SHARE

26-Jul-25

In a tragic incident near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, Jammu and Kashmir, Army Agniveer Lalit Kumar of the 7 Jat Regiment lost his life due to a landmine explosion during routine patrolling, while two

other soldiers were injured. The explosion, attributed to an Anti-Infiltration Obstacle System (AIOS), occurred in an area that had recently experienced heavy rain, leading to unpredictable conditions with some mines being displaced. The Army's Northern Command and Jammu-based White Knight Corps have paid heartfelt tributes to the martyred Agniveer, emphasizing the nation's solidarity with his grieving family. In the backdrop of heightened tensions following recent terror attacks by Pakistan-backed groups, the Indian armed forces have intensified anti-terror operations and maintained extraordinary vigilance along the 740 km-long LoC. They have conducted targeted strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan, showcasing their commitment to national security. This incident highlights the ongoing risks faced by Indian soldiers in combating infiltration and terrorism, and reinforces the need for continued operational readiness and strategic vigilance in the region to safeguard national interests.

## Rajnath Singh Honors Kargil Heroes on 26th Vijay Diwas



26-Jul-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh paid tribute to the bravehearts of Kargil on the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, a day that commemorates India's significant victory over Pakistan during the Kargil War. The observance of this day reinforces the valor and sacrifice of Indian soldiers, highlighting the nation's resilience and commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty. Singh's tribute serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the armed forces and the importance of honoring their legacy in bolstering national pride and unity. The event underscores India's dedication to maintaining peace and security in the region while honoring those who defended the nation.

## Indian Army launches skill development centre in Baramulla for women.



26-Jul-25

The Indian Army has inaugurated a Skill Development Training Centre in Baramulla to empower local women and uplift the youth in border areas. This initiative, aligned with the Army's commitment to peacebuilding, aims to equip over 1,200 youths with skills in computer education, fashion designing, and vocational training through production units tailored for local employment and sustainability. By collaborating with local Self-Help Groups, the project seeks to generate income opportunities while addressing local demand and tourism's organic market trend. This initiative reflects the Indian Army's broader strategy to foster self-

reliance and stability in the Kashmir Valley, while strengthening community ties.

## IAF Honors Kargil War Heroes with Rare Photos and Stories



26-Jul-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) commemorated the 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas by sharing a poignant tribute featuring rare photographs from the 1999 Kargil War, honoring the bravery and sacrifice of soldiers who defended India's honor. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu expressed their admiration for the soldiers' dedication. The war, marked by Operation Vijay, showcased India's military restraint and strategic use of air power under Operation Safed Sagar, highlighting the effectiveness of air forces in a limited conflict. This remembrance fosters national unity and gratitude, reinforcing the importance of honoring past sacrifices as a source of inspiration for future generations.

## Miscellaneous

## NISAR satellite: A milestone in ISRO-NASA collaboration



26-Jul-25

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, set for launch next week from India, represents a significant milestone in international collaboration, being the first joint mission between ISRO and NASA. This dual-band radar satellite will operate in a Sun-synchronous orbit and aims to monitor critical Earth changes, such as land deformation and ice sheet movement, while providing all-weather data. Weighing 2,392 kg, NISAR utilizes advanced SweepSAR technology to achieve high spatial resolution and will support various applications, including disaster response and environmental monitoring. This partnership underscores India's growing capabilities in space technology and its commitment to addressing global challenges through innovative solutions.

## India must increase satellite count to 150 by 2026, says ISRO chief.



26-Jul-25

ISRO Chairman V Narayanan emphasized the need for India to nearly triple its satellite count from 55 to around 150 by 2026 to meet rising demands for space technology and infrastructure. He announced plans for 12 upcoming launch vehicle missions, including the

NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) scheduled for July 30. By 2035, India aims to establish a full space station, with the first module expected to be launched in 2028. This ambitious trajectory underscores India's commitment to enhancing its capabilities in space technology, positioning the nation to compete globally by 2040.

## IAF Chief launches car rally to celebrate Operation Sindoor success



26-Jul-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, inaugurated a car rally at an Air Force station, set

to conclude on July 27 at the IAF base in Adampur, near Jalandhar. The rally, featuring 112 participants from various branches including the Indian Coast Guard, DRDO, and NCC, will cover approximately 800 km using 40 sponsored Tata Electric Vehicles. This event commemorates the success of Operation Sindoor and honors the bravery of the armed forces, showcasing India's commitment to innovation and sustainability in defense logistics while fostering camaraderie among the services.

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