



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### Rossell Techsys Boosts India's Aerospace, Eyes New Sectors with Expansion and Global Partnerships



26-Oct-25

Bengaluru-based Rossell Techsys, a leading aerospace and defence engineering and manufacturing firm, is strategically diversifying beyond its core sectors into adjacent high-reliability industries such as energy, space, industrial applications, and autonomous mobility. Managing Director Rishab Mohan Gupta outlined this diversification as essential for building resilience and long-term growth. The company remains optimistic about the expanding Indian aerospace and defence market, buoyed by government initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat and rising defense budgets. Rossell Techsys aims to more than double its contribution to aircraft production value, targeting 15% in the next three to five years, up from the current 7%. Key projects such as the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) represent significant opportunities for the company's indigenisation efforts. To support this growth, Rossell Techsys is expanding its workforce, manufacturing capacities, and maintaining high global standards in quality and delivery. The firm also emphasizes building local talent through its Rossell School of Learning and is increasing collaboration with global OEMs and strategic partnerships, including in the US and Israel. With robust export revenues and rising domestic engagements, Rossell Techsys is positioned as a crucial partner in India's aerospace and defence future.

### Lockheed CEO discusses boosting C-130J supply for Indian Air Force.



26-Oct-25

On October 24, 2025, Indian Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, met with Lockheed Martin CEO Jim Taiclet to discuss strengthening India-US defence industrial cooperation. The discussions centred on

Lockheed Martin's C-130J Super Hercules, a key contender for the Indian Air Force's Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) program, which aims to acquire up to 80 aircraft. Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems have an ongoing partnership including a joint venture manufacturing C-130J empennages in India and plans to establish Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities in India to support the existing Indian fleet of 12 C-130Js. Lockheed aims to expand C-130J manufacturing and assembly within India if awarded the MTA contract, subject to approvals from both governments. The C-130J remains competitive against contenders like Embraer's C-390 and Airbus A400M, with Lockheed highlighting the aircraft's proven operational capabilities in high-altitude and austere environments suitable to India's strategic needs. This collaboration reinforces India's strategic self-reliance goals and deepens bilateral defence ties with the United States. The Ministry of Defence is expected to issue a Request for Proposal for the MTA by late 2025.

### India's GSAT-7R satellite launch enhances maritime security and naval communications.



26-Oct-25

India is scheduled to launch the GSAT-7R satellite, also known as CMS-03, on November 2, 2025, using the heavy-lift LVM3-M5 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Weighing 2,650 kilograms and designed exclusively for the Indian Navy, GSAT-7R will replace the GSAT-7 "Rukmini" satellite launched in 2013. Funded by the Ministry of Defence at a cost of approximately ₹1,589 crore, the satellite will operate in geostationary orbit, providing continuous secure communication coverage across the Indian Ocean Region up to 2,000 kilometers from India's coastline. Equipped to utilize UHF, S, C, and Ku frequency bands, GSAT-7R will enable enhanced network-centric operations linking ships, submarines, aircraft, and command centers. Its mission life is seven years, and it will strengthen maritime surveillance, reconnaissance, navigation, and meteorological capabilities, reducing India's dependence on foreign satellites and advancing

defense autonomy. The launch underscores India's growing prowess in space technology and its commitment to enhancing strategic naval communication and maritime security in a critical regional domain. This mission is part of ISRO's ongoing efforts to bolster national security through indigenous space assets.

## **PTC Industries achieves milestone in India's single-crystal turbine blade manufacturing for defense indigenization.**



26-Oct-25

PTC Industries recently achieved a major milestone in India's defense indigenization by becoming the first Indian company authorized by DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) to conduct complete post-cast operations on single crystal ready-to-fit turbine blades. Announced on October 23, 2025, at the inauguration of PTC's Titanium & Superalloy Materials Plant in Lucknow, this development marks a critical step for India's indigenous aero-engine program. The authorization includes complex processes like machining, grinding, brazing, vacuum heat treatment, and thermal barrier coating, strengthening India's capability in advanced jet engine components. This advancement supports indigenous engines for platforms such as the AMCA and Tejas Mk2, aligns with the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative to reduce reliance on foreign propulsion technology, and places PTC Industries at the forefront of India's high-performance materials manufacturing for defense and export potential. The inauguration was attended by India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The Titanium & Superalloys Plant is part of the U.P. Defence Industrial Corridor, emphasizing self-reliance in strategic materials

## **India weighs Russian Su-57 purchase against AMCA program delays for operational readiness.**



26-Oct-25

India is reconsidering the purchase of up to 84 Russian Su-57 stealth fighters amid urgent operational needs, mainly due to the phasing out of its aging MiG-21 fleet and delays in the indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program. Reports indicate that India is exploring acquiring two squadrons directly from Russia, with plans to assemble an additional three to five squadrons locally at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Nashik facility, leveraging existing infrastructure used for the Su-30MKI. The deal includes

potential technology transfers and integration of Indian weapons systems like Astra and Rudram. Despite these prospects, concerns exist over heavy investment in the Su-57 possibly affecting the AMCA program's progress, which aims for a first flight around 2028 and induction by 2035 but has faced delays due to complexity and development challenges. The Indian Air Force views the Su-57 as a pragmatic stopgap solution to fill fighter gaps while pursuing long-term self-reliance through AMCA. This shift highlights India's balancing act between immediate defense readiness and strategic autonomy with domestic aerospace development. Meanwhile, geopolitical risks such as Western sanctions on Russia complicate procurement and supply sustainability. HAL's readiness to co-produce the Su-57 reflects India's push to build advanced fighter production capabilities domestically.

## **TEJAS Fighter Achieves Major MUM-T Maritime Strike Success in Konkan**



26-Oct-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted a significant Maritime Unmanned Aircraft Systems (MUM-T) trial involving the TEJAS fighter jet along the Konkan Coast on October 25, 2025. This pioneering exercise demonstrated the advanced integration of manned fighter aircraft with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), showcasing seamless sensor-to-shooter handoffs and precision maritime strike capabilities. During the trial, the TEJAS was networked with two UAVs, allowing autonomous control systems to direct precision strikes without direct human input for mid-mission manoeuvres. This operation was carried out amid strict navigational protocols, including a NOTMAR no-sail zone near Goa and Karwar, and coincided with larger tri-service exercises such as Konkan and Trishul. The successful MUM-T trial not only highlights India's growing expertise in networked and asymmetric warfare but also enhances the survivability and operational effectiveness of its air power in maritime and multi-domain scenarios. This milestone firmly establishes India's leadership in indigenous manned-unmanned combat capabilities, emphasizing strategic preparedness in a complex geopolitical environment. The exercise concluded with a coordinated recovery at Goa, underscoring the reliability of autonomous operations in contested zones.

## Tejas Mk2 set to rival Gripen E in global light combat market. SHARE

26-Oct-25

India's HAL Tejas Mk2 is emerging as a strong contender in the global light combat aircraft market, challenging Sweden's Gripen E with its competitive pricing, higher payload capacity, and lower operational costs. With a projected unit cost of \$70–75 million, the Tejas Mk2 is significantly cheaper than the Gripen E, which is priced between \$80–100 million. The Indian jet also boasts a maximum takeoff weight of 17.5 tons and can carry up to 6.5 tons of weapons across 13 hardpoints, offering greater flexibility for export buyers. Powered by the GE F414 engine and equipped with advanced indigenous avionics like the Uttam AESA radar, the Tejas Mk2 is designed to appeal to nations seeking affordable, high-performance fighters. The prototype rollout is scheduled for late 2025, with the first flight expected in early 2026, and initial operational induction anticipated by 2029. Positioned as a “China-alternative” and backed by India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the Tejas Mk2 could attract buyers from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, especially those interested in local manufacturing and technology transfer. However, India must overcome development delays and build a robust export support ecosystem to compete with the Gripen E's proven track record and global logistics network.

## Shield AI unveils X-BAT, an autonomous VTOL jet for contested missions. SHARE

26-Oct-25

On October 22, 2025, Shield AI unveiled the X-BAT, an autonomous VTOL fighter jet designed for expeditionary and maritime missions in contested environments. Equipped with advanced Hivemind software, the X-BAT can operate in GPS-denied scenarios, autonomously penetrating hostile airspace and collaborating with manned aircraft. With a range exceeding 2,000 nautical miles and stealth features, it offers strategic flexibility and survivability against modern threats, particularly for operations without traditional runways. This development is critical for India, as it underscores the importance of enhancing air power and operational capabilities in increasingly contested environments, reflecting a shift towards advanced drone warfare that could influence regional security dynamics and military strategies.

## Denmark prioritizes rapid air defense development, rejecting Israeli Barak MX system. SHARE

26-Oct-25

Denmark's Ministry of Defence has decided against acquiring the Israeli Barak MX Integrated Air and Missile Defense system, prioritizing faster deployment of air defense solutions amid escalating security threats, particularly from Russia. The Defence Command recommended reallocating resources to explore alternatives like Norway's NASAMS, Germany's IRIS-T, and France's SAMP/T to enhance immediate combat readiness. This decision reflects Denmark's commitment to a robust defense posture, investing €7.8 billion in multi-layered air defense infrastructure, and underscores the importance of interoperability within NATO frameworks. The move illustrates Denmark's strategic pivot towards European defense solutions, aiming to address urgent aerial threats in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.

## Castelion Wins US Military Contracts for Blackbeard Hypersonic Missile Integration SHARE

26-Oct-25

On October 24, 2025, US startup Castelion announced contracts to integrate its Blackbeard hypersonic missile onto US Army and Navy platforms, including the HIMARS and future Common Autonomous Multi-Domain Launcher, supported by a \$25 million budget allocation for fiscal 2026. This initiative aims to develop affordable long-range hypersonic capabilities amid rising competition with China and Russia, reflecting the Pentagon's strategy to enhance rapid-response strike options. The emergence of cost-effective US hypersonic technologies could significantly alter the strategic landscape in the Indo-Pacific, necessitating a reevaluation of defense planning in India as it responds to shifting regional balances and technological advancements in missile systems. This development underscores the urgency for India to bolster its own hypersonic capabilities to maintain regional deterrence and security.

## Russia successfully tests Burevestnik cruise missile with unlimited range, raising global defense concerns. SHARE

26-Oct-25

Russia has successfully completed decisive tests of its nuclear-powered Burevestnik cruise missile, which reportedly flew for around 15 hours covering 14,000

kilometers on October 21, 2025. President Vladimir Putin described the missile as “unique” with an almost unlimited range and an erratic flight path able to evade current and future missile defense systems. General Valery Gerasimov confirmed the missile’s vertical and horizontal maneuvering capabilities met required standards during the extended flight. Putin has directed preparations for deploying the weapon within Russia’s armed forces infrastructure, emphasizing its role in maintaining the country’s strategic nuclear deterrence amid ongoing conflict in Ukraine and stalled peace negotiations. From an Indian strategic perspective, the development underscores Russia’s continued focus on advanced nuclear weapons technology, which could influence global power dynamics and potentially intensify the arms race, compelling India to monitor its defense posture against evolving missile threats in the region. The test reflects broader geopolitical tensions involving the US, NATO, and Russia in a complex security environment.

## South Korea’s KSS-III Batch-II Submarine Boosts Regional Deterrence

26-Oct-25

On October 22, 2025, South Korea launched the ROKS Jang Yeong-sil, the first of its advanced KSS-III Batch-II submarines, at the Hanwha Ocean shipyard. This 3,600-ton diesel-electric submarine features cutting-edge lithium-ion batteries, a ten-cell vertical launch system, and improved sonar, enhancing its operational capabilities against regional threats, particularly from North Korea. Scheduled for commissioning in 2027, the Jang Yeong-sil signifies a major advancement in South Korea’s naval technology and its aim to maintain maritime superiority. This development underscores the ongoing efforts of nations in the region to bolster their defense capabilities in response to evolving security challenges, reinforcing the importance of strategic deterrence and maritime security in the Korean Peninsula.

## Czech Republic plans advanced air and missile defense by 2030.

26-Oct-25

The Czech Republic has unveiled a strategic plan to develop an advanced integrated air and missile defense system by 2030, aligning with NATO’s Integrated Air and Missile Defence framework. This initiative aims to address diverse aerial threats, including hypersonic missiles and drones, as the Czech Army prepares detailed recommendations for a multi-layered defense architecture. The plan is bolstered by a commitment to

increase defense spending to at least 3% of GDP, amidst growing security concerns in Europe. Recent acquisitions, including the Israeli SPYDER system and fifth-generation F-35 fighters, underscore the Czech Republic’s dedication to modernizing its military capabilities, enhancing both national resilience and its role as a dependable NATO ally in Central Europe.

## Lithuania tests Swedish missiles and firearms for drone defense near Belarus.

26-Oct-25

On October 23, 2025, the Lithuanian Army conducted live-fire tests involving heavy machine guns and Swedish-made RBS 70 NG surface-to-air missiles at the General Silvestras Žukauskas training ground, near the Belarus border. These exercises, part of Lithuania’s air defense strategy, aim to counter escalating drone threats in a tense regional context, particularly following a recent airspace violation by Russian military aircraft. Officials underscored the importance of these drills for operational readiness against unmanned aerial threats. This initiative reflects a broader European trend of enhancing low-altitude defense capabilities, contributing to NATO’s security posture in response to evolving hybrid threats in Eastern Europe and reinforcing Lithuania’s commitment to national defense amidst growing geopolitical tensions.

## KNDS optimistic about winning U.S. Army’s artillery system bid.

26-Oct-25

On October 24, 2025, KNDS, the Franco-German defense company, expressed confidence in its Caesar self-propelled howitzer’s prospects in the U.S. Army’s competition to replace the aging M777 artillery system. The Caesar, recognized for its combat reliability and extended firing range of up to 40 kilometers, has been designed to align with U.S. Army requirements emphasizing domestic production and compatibility with U.S. ammunition. As the Army seeks to procure approximately 400 new howitzers, the competition includes major defense players like Rheinmetall and General Dynamics, all striving to meet stringent production and performance criteria. This development underscores the U.S. commitment to enhancing artillery capabilities, reflecting a strategic shift towards advanced, mobile solutions for future combat scenarios.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### Indian Army Commanders Conference 2025 Focuses on Strategy and Modernization SHARE

26-Oct-25

The Indian Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) 2025 concluded in Jaisalmer, where senior military leaders, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, discussed critical operational strategies and modernization priorities essential for the Army's future readiness. The conference emphasized enhancing operational capabilities through advanced technologies and digitization, fostering integrated command structures among the Indian Armed Forces, and reinforcing the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative to boost indigenous defense production. Additionally, Project NAMAN Phase II was launched to improve welfare and services for veterans and their families, demonstrating the Army's commitment to their dignity and support. This conference underscores the Indian Army's proactive approach to adapting to emerging security challenges while reinforcing national defense preparedness.

## Politics

### PM Modi praises Operation Sindoor, igniting pride and hope in Maoist-affected regions. SHARE

26-Oct-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Operation Sindoor in his 127th Mann Ki Baat episode, highlighting it as a source of immense national pride and a decisive step in India's fight against terrorism and Maoist insurgency. Launched in May 2025 following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in April, the operation involved precision strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, significantly damaging terrorist infrastructure and key Pakistani air bases. Modi emphasized how the operation symbolized the government's resolve to eliminate Maoist terror that had long endangered the future of children in affected areas. Complementing these security efforts, over 100 districts in India are now free from Maoist influence, a dramatic reduction from the 125 districts affected before 2014, owing to a decade-long integrated approach combining security, development, and rehabilitation. Modi also acknowledged progress in

previously Maoist-affected regions, now witnessing peace and development, reflecting the people's desire for lasting unity and prosperity. His remarks underscored the government's commitment to both national security and community welfare, encouraging a Swadeshi spirit and innovative initiatives in cleanliness and environmental stewardship. This narrative highlights India's growing strength and the hope for a safer, more prosperous future.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### Pakistan, Afghanistan discuss peace in Turkiye; warns of war if talks fail. SHARE

26-Oct-25

Pakistan and Afghanistan are engaged in their second round of peace talks in Istanbul, Turkey, following a truce agreed upon on October 19, 2025, in Doha, Qatar, where both sides committed to an immediate ceasefire after violent border clashes earlier that month. The discussions, which began on October 25 and continued into October 26, focus on establishing a joint monitoring mechanism to curb cross-border militant movement, ensuring respect for sovereignty, and addressing issues like trade and refugee repatriation. Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif issued a stern warning that failure to reach a lasting peace agreement could lead to "open war" between the two countries. He expressed hope, however, that Afghanistan desires peace. The recent clashes have resulted in numerous casualties and the closure of key border crossings, severely impacting trade. The peace talks are mediated by Qatar and Turkey, aiming to consolidate the ceasefire and prevent further escalation of hostilities, which is critical given the regional security implications and long-standing tensions fueled by militant sanctuaries across the border. India views these efforts cautiously, given the broader security environment in South Asia.

### Saudi intervention protected A.Q. Khan from U.S. actions, says ex-CIA officer. SHARE

26-Oct-25

Former CIA officer John Kiriakou has made significant remarks regarding Pakistan's military posture and its nuclear ambitions while reflecting on U.S. foreign policy. He asserted that Pakistan would face inevitable defeat in any conventional war with India, urging Islamabad to refrain from provoking its neighbor, as an actual conflict would yield no benefits. Kiriakou's

comments follow revelations about the U.S. choosing not to act against A.Q. Khan, the Pakistani nuclear scientist, due to Saudi Arabia's intervention. He highlighted that Khan's protection may have been tied to Saudi Arabia's own nuclear aspirations, while also discussing the longstanding military collaboration between the two nations. Furthermore, Kiriakou pointed to India's resolute stance against nuclear coercion, referencing its surgical strikes and Balakot airstrikes as examples of decisive responses to terrorism. The broader implications of Kiriakou's statements underline a critical perspective on regional security dynamics, emphasizing the need for India to maintain vigilance in light of Pakistan's unresolved nuclear issues and the potential for destabilizing provocations from Islamabad. This analysis reinforces India's strategic posture, showcasing its readiness to respond effectively to threats while navigating complex geopolitical relationships in South Asia.

## **Pak-Afghan clashes signal collapse of Pakistan's strategic depth against India.**



SHARE

26-Oct-25

Recent clashes between Pakistani and Afghan Taliban forces along the Durand Line signify a critical shift in regional dynamics, marking the collapse of Pakistan's strategic depth doctrine regarding India. Multiple airstrikes and ground confrontations have revealed Islamabad's inability to manage its former proxies, with the Taliban now seeking independent foreign relations, including a budding connection with India. This development not only exposes Pakistan's vulnerabilities but also strengthens New Delhi's position by illustrating the self-destructive nature of Islamabad's reliance on militant groups. As Afghanistan asserts its sovereignty, India's measured diplomatic approach appears increasingly advantageous, enabling it to regain influence in the region while Pakistan's credibility continues to diminish amidst internal unrest and international skepticism.

## **Trump's false claim on India-Pakistan ceasefire complicates geopolitical tensions.**



SHARE

26-Oct-25

Recent developments indicate a complex geopolitical landscape involving the United States, Russia, and India. President Trump reiterated his claims of brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, although the veracity of these assertions remains questionable. Amidst ongoing tensions, Trump has

imposed sanctions on Russian oil companies, intensifying the dilemma for India, a significant importer of Russian energy, which risks facing secondary sanctions from the U.S. for continuing its purchases. This situation complicates India's energy security and economic stability, as any reduction in Russian oil could lead to a substantial increase in its import bill. In the broader context, the dynamics highlight the delicate balancing act India must perform between maintaining its longstanding ties with Moscow, which include defense cooperation, and navigating the increasingly stringent expectations of the U.S., particularly in light of rising geopolitical tensions in the region. The forthcoming visit of Russian President Putin to India in December adds another layer to the intricate relationship as both nations seek to reaffirm their historical alliance amidst shifting global power dynamics.

## **47th ASEAN Summit: Modi's virtual participation and peace deal highlights.**



SHARE

26-Oct-25

The 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur marked a historic moment as East Timor was formally inducted as ASEAN's 11th member. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated virtually, emphasizing ASEAN's pivotal role in India's Act East Policy, which aims for strategic and economic integration in the Indo-Pacific region. During his address, Modi highlighted the importance of collaboration in areas such as digital inclusion, food security, and maritime security, declaring 2026 as the Year of ASEAN-India Maritime Cooperation. This summit also saw the signing of a peace deal between Cambodia and Thailand, showcasing ASEAN's capacity for conflict resolution amid rising geopolitical tensions involving major powers like the United States and China. Furthermore, US President Donald Trump's attendance underscored the strategic interest in Southeast Asia, particularly as the region navigates challenges related to trade and security. This summit signifies not only ASEAN's growing importance but also underscores India's commitment to strengthening ties within the bloc, reflecting a shared vision for stability and prosperity in a highly interconnected global landscape.

## **Rubio: Strengthened U.S.-Pakistan ties won't weaken India relations.**



SHARE

26-Oct-25

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized that expanding U.S.-Pakistan relations will not undermine

ties with India, highlighting the importance of a mature foreign policy. Despite concerns in New Delhi regarding increased U.S. engagement with Islamabad, Rubio asserted that the U.S.-India partnership remains historic and crucial. He acknowledged India's significant imports of Russian oil, which the U.S. views as detrimental to its geopolitical goals, while affirming that India is actively seeking to diversify its energy sources. The dialogue between U.S. and Indian officials, particularly in light of trade negotiations and energy purchases, underscores the complexities of international diplomacy in a multi-polar world. This situation reflects the ongoing balancing act India must navigate amid evolving U.S. foreign policy dynamics.

### **ASEAN summit in Malaysia to address regional issues and challenges.**



26-Oct-25

World leaders, including US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are convening in Kuala Lumpur for the 47th ASEAN summit, focusing on pressing issues such as the Cambodian-Thai border conflict and US trade tariffs. The summit also marks East Timor's induction as ASEAN's 11th member, while Myanmar's absence highlights its ongoing civil war and regional instability. Key discussions will revolve around the impact of US tariffs on ASEAN economies and China's export restrictions on rare earths, crucial for high-tech industries. Critics question the effectiveness of ASEAN's diplomatic mechanisms, suggesting that the summit may primarily serve as a platform for high-profile photo opportunities rather than substantive policy resolutions, reflecting the challenges of multilateral cooperation in addressing regional security concerns.

### **India Enhances Maritime Cooperation for Indo-Pacific Stability: Navy VP**



26-Oct-25

India is actively enhancing maritime security and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region through the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2025, led by Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan. The dialogue emphasizes capacity building and capability enhancement, aligning with Prime Minister Modi's MAHASAGAR vision, and promotes lasting partnerships among nations by providing training, resources, and operational support. Key initiatives include the deployment of the Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR and collaborative exercises, which aim to bolster regional navies' preparedness. The IPRD's focus on the Blue Economy underscores India's commitment to a holistic maritime strategy that

intertwines security, sustainable development, and economic growth, reflecting its pivotal role in fostering stability across the Indo-Pacific. This approach not only strengthens regional alliances but also addresses interconnected challenges such as climate change and trade resilience.

### **India-US Strengthen QUAD Military Ties Despite Bilateral Challenges**



26-Oct-25

In a significant development amidst challenging bilateral relations, India and the United States will conduct the COPE-INDIA-25 air exercise, marking its return after a four-year hiatus. This year's event will also see the participation of Australia and Japan as observers, effectively transforming it into a four-nation exercise that reflects the strengthened strategic alignment of the Quad nations. This initiative underscores the commitment of these countries to enhance military cooperation and interoperability in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly in light of evolving geopolitical dynamics. The inclusion of Australia and Japan is particularly noteworthy as it reinforces a collective approach to address regional security challenges, enhancing deterrence against potential threats in a rapidly changing international landscape.

### **Croatia's ex-president warns Europe must enhance defense autonomy from the U.S.**



26-Oct-25

Former Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, speaking at the Fortune Global Forum in Riyadh, emphasized the critical choices facing Europe amid its ongoing geopolitical tensions with Russia and the need for strategic autonomy from the United States. She argued that Europe has relied too heavily on U.S. defense support, citing former President Trump's 2018 NATO threat as a pivotal moment that prompted necessary discussions on European defense spending. Despite commitments to increase defense expenditures to 5% of GDP by 2035, she expressed concern over Europe's potential to achieve true independence, pointing out bureaucratic inefficiencies and a lack of vision. This debate underscores Europe's struggle to define its role on the global stage and the urgency for cohesive defense strategies in an increasingly complex international landscape.

## Japanese naval officers visit INS Hansa to enhance Indo-Pacific collaboration. SHARE

26-Oct-25

Japanese naval officers recently visited INS Hansa in Goa to enhance Indo-Pacific maritime collaboration between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF). The visit focused on understanding INS Hansa's operational environment and technological capabilities, with tours of key facilities including the Air Traffic Control tower and MiG Simulator complex. The discussions fostered exchanges on operational insights, aiming to improve interoperability and operational readiness in modern maritime warfare. This engagement reinforces the longstanding cooperation between the two navies, exemplified by joint exercises like JIMEX and multilateral operations under the Quad framework, ultimately supporting a shared vision for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Such collaborations are crucial for strengthening regional security and ensuring a rules-based maritime order.

## Maduro blames U.S. for war fabrication as tensions rise in Venezuela. SHARE

26-Oct-25

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has accused the United States of fabricating a war against Venezuela amid heightened tensions as the U.S. deployed the USS Gerald R. Ford, the world's largest aircraft carrier, near Venezuelan waters. Since early September 2025, U.S. forces have targeted vessels in the Caribbean alleged to be involved in drug trafficking, resulting in at least 43 deaths. Maduro condemned these actions as a false narrative aimed at destabilizing his government, denying allegations that Venezuela produces cocaine leaves or that he leads the organized crime gang Tren de Aragua. Venezuela's Defense Minister, Vladimir Padrino López, announced ongoing military exercises along the coastline to guard against perceived covert operations, including those by the CIA. The U.S. justifies its military buildup as an anti-drug trafficking effort, targeting cartels and narco-terrorism. However, experts suggest that the actions serve broader U.S. geopolitical aims in the region. The Trump administration has intensified its pressure campaign on Maduro, labeling him and groups like Tren de Aragua as terrorists and offering a \$50 million bounty for information leading to his arrest, raising fears of potential regime change or military intervention in Venezuela.

## Trump imposes 10% tariff on Canada over controversial Reagan ad. SHARE

26-Oct-25

President Trump has escalated trade tensions with Canada by authorizing a 10% tariff increase, citing a "fraudulent" advertisement that misrepresents former President Reagan's stance on tariffs as the catalyst. The ad, which reportedly cost the Ontario government around \$75 million, is seen by Trump as a hostile act aimed at influencing U.S. legal proceedings. This move comes amid a backdrop of already high tariffs on various Canadian goods, straining the U.S.-Canada trade relationship, characterized by both cooperation and competition. The escalation signals a troubling phase in bilateral ties, likely prompting a strong response from Ottawa as the two nations navigate complex economic interdependencies.

### Military Operations

## Naval Commanders' Conference emphasizes operational readiness amid evolving geostrategic challenges. SHARE

26-Oct-25

The Naval Commanders' Conference 2025 was held from October 22 to 24 at Nausena Bhawan, New Delhi, bringing together the senior leadership of the Indian Navy to discuss operational readiness amid evolving regional security challenges. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, emphasized the Navy's critical role in safeguarding national maritime interests and stressed progress toward a fully self-reliant Navy by 2047 through indigenous innovation and the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the Navy's deterrent posture, referencing its success in operations like 'Sindoor' and highlighting its stabilizing presence in the Indian Ocean Region, describing it as a comfort to friendly nations and a challenge to destabilizers. The conference also launched the NIPUN portal, aimed at enhancing knowledge sharing within the naval community. Discussions included enhancing interoperability with the Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard, integrating disruptive technologies such as AI and big data, and reinforcing India's position as a preferred security partner in the Indo-Pacific. The event underscored India's commitment to building a robust, future-ready maritime force aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

## Taiwan reports PLA aircraft and PLAN vessels near its territory, prompting security law amendments. SHARE

26-Oct-25

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence reported the detection of 8 sorties by PLA aircraft and 7 PLAN vessels around its territory, with 5 sorties crossing the median line into Taiwan's Air Defence Identification Zone. The incursions have prompted Taiwanese lawmakers to propose amendments to the National Security Act, aimed at enhancing military accountability and preventive measures against Chinese influence. This legislative response reflects ongoing tensions between Taiwan and China, as Beijing continues its military pressure campaign claiming Taiwan as its territory. The situation underscores the importance of reinforcing Taiwan's defenses and the broader implications for regional stability amid increasing geopolitical strains in the Asia-Pacific.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### 21 Naxals surrender in Kanker, handing over 18 weapons, including AK-47s. SHARE

26-Oct-25

In a significant move towards peace and stability in Chhattisgarh, 21 Maoist cadres surrendered in Kanker district, handing over 18 weapons, including AK-47s, to authorities. This act is part of the 'Poona Margem: Rehabilitation through Reintegration' initiative, underscoring the proactive measures taken by the Bastar Range police. Notably, the group included high-ranking members such as Division Committee Secretary Mukesh and thirteen women ultras. Earlier in October, 210 Naxalites had also surrendered in Jagdalpur along with a substantial cache of weapons, indicating a weakening of Maoist resolve in the region. These developments highlight the effectiveness of the Indian government's strategy in countering insurgency and promoting rehabilitation, fostering hope for long-term peace in affected areas.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### LockBit 5.0 Ransomware Targets Windows, Linux, and ESXi Systems SHARE

26-Oct-25

The LockBit ransomware operation has re-emerged with its new variant, LockBit 5.0, following disruptions from law enforcement efforts. This enhanced ransomware targets multiple platforms, including Windows, Linux, and ESXi environments, with a significant focus on Windows systems, which accounted for 80% of infections. LockBit 5.0 features optimized encryption routines and anti-analysis capabilities, complicating detection and forensic investigations. This resurgence underscores the adaptability of cybercriminal enterprises in the face of countermeasures, raising concerns about the resilience of such threats to global cybersecurity, particularly for organizations across Western Europe, the Americas, and Asia. As ransomware tactics evolve, the implications for information security and strategic defense measures become increasingly critical for nations worldwide.

### M&S ends contract with TCS amid £300 million cyber attack fallout. SHARE

26-Oct-25

Marks & Spencer (M&S) has terminated its contract with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a major Indian IT outsourcing firm, following a cyber attack that resulted in an estimated £300 million loss for the retailer. The decision comes shortly after M&S experienced a significant breach attributed to hackers from the group Scattered Spider, who exploited social engineering tactics to gain access to sensitive systems. Despite TCS's denial of responsibility, the swift cancellation of the deal raises concerns about the adequacy of third-party security measures. This incident underscores the growing importance of cybersecurity in multinational operations and reflects on the need for robust defense strategies in the digital landscape, particularly as Indian firms continue to play a vital role in global IT services.

### PIB Uncovers Deepfake Attack on Indian Army's DGMO by Pro-Pakistan Account SHARE

26-Oct-25

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) has exposed a pro-Pakistan social media account for disseminating a

deepfake video of Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Director General of Military Operations, in an attempt to damage the reputation of the Indian Army. The PIB confirmed that the altered video falsely attributed statements regarding the politicization of the Armed Forces to General Ghai, who did not make such claims. This incident underscores a persistent trend of misinformation aimed at undermining trust in India's military establishment, highlighting the need for vigilance against such deceptive practices. The government's swift fact-checking response reflects its commitment to countering disinformation and protecting the integrity of the Indian Armed Forces amidst ongoing geopolitical challenges.

leading to his identification and arrest by the FBI in California in June this year. Upon arrival at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, Kumar was immediately taken into custody by Haryana Police. He faces multiple serious charges, including extortion, intimidation, illegal possession and use of firearms, and attempted murder in Haryana. This operation highlights India's robust international cooperation to combat organized crime, with the CBI serving as the National Central Bureau for INTERPOL, working closely with global agencies through the BHARATPOL platform. Kumar's deportation adds to over 130 criminals recently repatriated to India, reinforcing the country's commitment to bringing fugitives to justice.

## Miscellaneous

### Salman Khan branded 'terrorist' by Pakistan over Balochistan comments.



26-Oct-25

Bollywood actor Salman Khan has been labeled a 'terrorist' by the Pakistani government following his comments on Balochistan during a recent event in Saudi Arabia. He mentioned that Balochistan is distinct from Pakistan, leading to his inclusion on the 4th Schedule of Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997, which lists individuals suspected of terrorism. This remark has drawn praise from Baloch separatist leaders who view it as a recognition of their struggle for identity. The broader significance lies in highlighting Pakistan's internal issues, particularly regarding Balochistan, a resource-rich region plagued by economic neglect and political repression, thus shedding light on the ongoing demand for autonomy within the province.

### Key Lawrence Bishnoi gang member deported from US, arrested in Delhi.



26-Oct-25

On October 25, 2025, Indian law enforcement scored a significant victory with the deportation and arrest of Lakhvinder Kumar, a key associate of the notorious Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Kumar, who had been a fugitive in the United States, was deported following coordinated efforts by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The CBI had facilitated an INTERPOL Red Notice against him on October 26, 2024,

### IISc-Bangalore and C-MET Hyderabad named Centres of Excellence for critical minerals.



26-Oct-25

IISc-Bangalore and C-MET Hyderabad have been recognized as Centres of Excellence under India's National Critical Mineral Mission, enhancing the country's indigenous research capabilities in critical minerals crucial for clean energy, defense, and advanced electronics. This initiative aims to establish a self-reliant high-technology supply chain by developing advanced processing methods and promoting sustainable recycling of materials like lithium and rare earth elements. With a collaborative hub-and-spoke model involving various academic and industrial partners, the mission seeks to strengthen India's position in the global market for critical materials. This strategic move underlines India's commitment to technological sovereignty and sustainable development, ensuring resource security for defense platforms and renewable energy systems.

### India Accelerates Indigenous Chipset Development for Electronics Self-Reliance



26-Oct-25

India is rapidly advancing its indigenous chipset development with strong government support under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) launched in 2021. With nearly ₹65,000 crore already allocated to semiconductor projects and an overall mission outlay of ₹76,000 crore, the country has committed investments exceeding ₹1.60 lakh crore across 10 approved projects in six states. India aims to launch its first domestically manufactured semiconductor chips by the end of 2025, showcasing significant progress like the unveiling of the Vikram 32-bit microprocessor

developed by ISRO's Semiconductor Lab. The government is investing over ₹200 crore to develop energy-efficient microprocessors for high-performance computing, including applications in servers and CCTV systems. The initiative is complemented by new fabrication facilities, including partnerships with global players and government-backed plants. SEMICON 2.0, the next phase, is under preparation to expand the

ecosystem further by supporting chip design, manufacturing, and allied supply chains. This growth aligns with India's ambition to become a global electronics manufacturing hub, with a particular focus on smartphones, where 98% are domestically produced, significantly reducing dependence on foreign suppliers and enhancing technological sovereignty.

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