



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

June 29, 2025 | Day 180

Defense Business and Industry

Telangana and Army sign MoU for elevated corridors in Hyderabad.



29-Jun-25

The Telangana government and the Indian Army signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate the construction of elevated corridors in Hyderabad, specifically from Paradise Junction to Shamirpet and Dairy Farm Road. Under this agreement, the Ministry of Defence will transfer 65.038 acres of defense land to the state, which will in return allocate 435 acres to the army. This initiative, approved by the MoD on March 1, 2024, aims to enhance infrastructure while strengthening civil-military cooperation, showcasing a collaborative approach to regional development that benefits both defense readiness and urban connectivity. Such projects underscore the Indian government's commitment to improving infrastructure while ensuring the needs of the defense sector are met.

Hindustan Shipyard Marks 85 Years with Key Naval Achievement



29-Jun-25

Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) recently celebrated its 85th anniversary, marked by the steel-cutting ceremony for the Indian Navy's fourth Fleet Support Ship (FSS). Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi emphasized the strategic importance of the FSS in enhancing naval endurance amid evolving maritime challenges, aligning with Prime Minister Modi's SAGAR vision for regional security. HSL's turnaround from financial distress to delivering sophisticated platforms underscores its growing capabilities in India's defense manufacturing landscape, supporting Aatmanirbhar Bharat and "Make for the World" initiatives. The upgraded facilities at HSL position it for ambitious future projects, reinforcing its integral role in bolstering India's maritime security.

Tejas Mk1A to Use Israeli Systems Amid DRDO Certification Delays



29-Jun-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has decided to equip all 73 Tejas Mk1A fighter jets with Israeli radar and electronic warfare systems due to certification hurdles faced by DRDO's indigenous technologies. This shift raises concerns about India's self-reliance goals under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. While opting for the ELM-2052 AESA radar and Scorpius-SP EW pod from ELTA Systems ensures operational readiness for the Indian Air Force amidst delays in domestic system integration, it highlights challenges in achieving indigenous defense capabilities. The decision reflects a pragmatic approach to enhance combat readiness while still fostering local assembly and technology transfer.

IIT Kanpur to Launch Sabal-50 Drone, Boosting Indian Army's Capabilities



29-Jun-25

IIT Kanpur is set to launch the Sabal-50 stealth military drone, enhancing the Indian Army's logistical and combat capabilities with a 50 kg payload capacity. This advanced UAV, developed in collaboration with EndureAir Systems, features VTOL capability, robust design for harsh environments, and autonomous flight systems for complex missions. Its radar-evasive characteristics and ability to operate in remote areas will reduce reliance on manned helicopters, supporting the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative with 90% indigenous components. The Sabal-50 is a vital step in modernizing India's defense technology and underlines the importance of unmanned systems in contemporary military operations.

DRDO's Zorawar Light Tank Completes High-Altitude Trials



29-Jun-25

DRDO's Light Tank Zorawar has successfully completed high-altitude trials in Ladakh, showcasing its firepower,

mobility, and amphibious capabilities, with the Indian Army planning to induct around 300 units by 2027. Concurrently, the extended-range Pinaka rocket artillery system is progressing towards offering enhanced operational flexibility, with tests expected in 2025, while the Future Infantry Combat Vehicle is also nearing trial phases. These advancements highlight India's commitment to self-reliance and the development of indigenous military capabilities, significantly enhancing the Indian Army's operational readiness against evolving regional threats and ensuring a robust defense posture along the northern borders.

LCH Prachand to Integrate DRDO's EWS, Reducing Foreign Dependence

29-Jun-25

The Indian government has approved the procurement of 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) Prachand, which will now feature an indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite (EWS) developed by DRDO, moving away from reliance on Saab's Integrated Defence Aids Suite. This decision aims to enhance the LCH's survivability, particularly in high-altitude warfare scenarios along the Line of Actual Control, and reduce dependency on foreign systems. The EWS is crucial for countering various threats, ensuring mission success, and aligning with India's goal of bolstering indigenous defense capabilities. The manufacturing will take place at HAL's Tumkur facility, with deliveries expected to begin in mid-2028.

India Considers Integrating R-37M Missile to Enhance IAF Capabilities

29-Jun-25

India is considering the integration of the Russian R-37M air-to-air missile, known for its extraordinary range and hypersonic capabilities, into its Su-30MKI and MiG-29 fleets. This move aligns with India's Make in India initiative, as Russia has proposed local production rights, potentially involving Indian private sector firms, thus enhancing domestic manufacturing and technology transfer. The R-37M's capability to engage targets beyond visual range complements India's existing missile arsenal, particularly during operations requiring air superiority. This strategic enhancement not only strengthens the Indian Air Force's long-range combat capabilities but also underscores the potential for cost-effective upgrades to current platforms, reducing reliance on new acquisitions like Rafale jets.

Astra MkII BVRAAM Nears Integration with Tejas Fighter Jets

29-Jun-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is advancing its aerial combat capabilities with the Astra MkII Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), currently in its final user trials and limited series production. This missile, with a range of 140-160 km, is set to be integrated into the Tejas Mk1 and Mk1A fighter jets, significantly enhancing their air-to-air combat prowess against threats like Pakistan's JF-17 and China's J-10C. Developed by DRDO, the Astra MkII promises superior performance with its advanced AESA seeker and dual-pulse motor, aligning with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative for defense self-reliance. The production phase initiated by Bharat Dynamics Limited aims to ensure the IAF's operational readiness by 2027.

European Defense Firms Shift Manufacturing to India

29-Jun-25

European defense firms are increasingly offloading manufacturing to India, driven by cost advantages, a skilled workforce, and India's strategic positioning in the global defense ecosystem. This collaboration aligns with India's Make in India initiative, enhancing local production while allowing European companies to tap into the burgeoning Indian defense market, supported by a significant budget increase. Notable partnerships include Airbus with Tata for C295 aircraft, Dassault with Reliance Defense for Rafale components, and Saab's collaborations with Indian firms for Gripen jets. This trend, bolstered by India's stable political environment and commitment to indigenous production, transforms India into a pivotal manufacturer and partner in global defense challenges.

Air Marshal Dixit: Manned Fighter Jets Will Remain Relevant for 100 Years

29-Jun-25

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, reaffirmed the relevance of manned fighter jets for the next century, countering notions of their obsolescence amid advancements in unmanned systems. He emphasized the importance of human judgment in complex combat scenarios and touted Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUMT) as the future of air warfare, integrating manned and unmanned platforms for enhanced effectiveness. India's initiatives like the CATS Warrior drone aim to bolster this integration, ensuring the Indian Air Force maintains a versatile and robust aerial capability. Dixit's insights

reflect both a strategic vision and a commitment to maintaining a balanced air combat paradigm in the face of evolving technological threats.

Dassault Advocates for Thales RBE2 Radar for Indian Navy Rafales



29-Jun-25

The Indian Navy's plan to equip its Rafale Marine fighter jets with the indigenous Uttam AESA radar faces challenges from Dassault Aviation, which argues that integration would require extensive testing and increase costs, leading to the Navy opting for the proven Thales RBE2 radar. Despite the Uttam radar's advanced capabilities and compatibility with indigenous weapons, the Navy's urgent modernization needs and budget constraints influenced this decision. This situation highlights the complexities of balancing indigenous technology development with operational requirements, emphasizing the need for a cohesive strategy to enhance India's defense capabilities while ensuring timely upgrades of the Navy's aircraft.

Rolls-Royce Offers 120kN AMCA Engine and Turbofan for India



29-Jun-25

British engineering giant Rolls-Royce has enhanced its partnership proposal with India by offering to co-develop a 120kN thrust engine for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), and additionally creating a versatile turbofan variant for future military and civilian aircraft. This initiative aligns with India's 'Make in India' drive, aiming to establish a strong domestic defense industry while addressing the current gap in high-thrust engines. The collaboration promises significant technology transfer and IP rights for India, enabling local manufacturing and export potential, which is crucial for enhancing India's self-reliance in aerospace technology. A decision on the engine partner is expected by year-end, with implications for India's strategic defense capabilities.

Boeing Mulls C-17 Production Restart to Support India's Military Needs



29-Jun-25

Boeing is considering reviving its C-17 Globemaster III production to align with India's urgent need for modern military transport, particularly to replace aging IL-76 aircraft. India's recent policy reforms aim to expedite defense procurement processes, allowing for a potential new order of C-17s, which are essential for strategic airlift capabilities. However, challenges remain for both Boeing, including establishing a new

production facility, and India, which must navigate bureaucratic hurdles and budget constraints. Successfully restarting C-17 production could enhance India's military capabilities and reaffirm its role in humanitarian efforts, while Boeing would benefit by revitalizing a crucial product in its defense lineup.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Congress Critiques Government Over Defence Attache's Jet Loss Claims



29-Jun-25

The recent statements by Captain Shiv Kumar, India's Defence Attache to Indonesia, during seminars focused on the India-Pakistan air conflict have sparked political controversy and discussions regarding India's military strategies. Kumar claimed that India lost some fighter jets during Operation Sindoor due to initial government restrictions on targeting Pakistani military establishments, emphasizing that the Indian Armed Forces operate under civilian political leadership. He reiterated India's resolute stance on nuclear deterrence, asserting that any nuclear attack from Pakistan would lead to its annihilation, which aligns with India's no-first-use nuclear policy. These remarks follow similar comments made by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan regarding aircraft losses due to tactical errors. The Congress party has criticized the government for not convening a special session of Parliament to address these developments and for allegedly misleading the nation about the military engagements. Despite the losses, official statements from the Indian military assert that the operational goals of decimating terrorist camps were achieved, showcasing India's ability to maintain air superiority and adapt tactics effectively during the conflict. This discourse underscores the complex dynamics of Indian military operations, inter-party political implications, and the ongoing emphasis on strategic deterrence in the face of regional security challenges.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India Rejects Pakistan's Blame for Waziristan Attack Amid Rising Terrorism



29-Jun-25

India has strongly condemned Pakistan's attempt to attribute a suicide attack in Waziristan to its

involvement, which resulted in the deaths of at least 14 security personnel and injuries to 25 others. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) firmly rejected Pakistan Army's allegations, emphasizing that such claims only distract from the pressing issue of domestic terrorism that Pakistan faces. The attack was claimed by the militant group Fitna-al-Khawarij, affiliated with the Pakistan Taliban, highlighting the escalating violence in Pakistan's border regions, where terrorism-related deaths have surged by 45% over the past year. With 1,081 fatalities recorded, and 85 attacks in just one month, the security situation in Pakistan is deteriorating rapidly. The MEA's response serves as a reminder that blame-shifting will not resolve the internal challenges Pakistan faces but only exacerbate them. This underscores India's position that it maintains a strong defense strategy while encouraging Pakistan to confront its internal security issues more effectively. By highlighting the domestic sources of terrorism in Pakistan, India reinforces its stance that true security in the region requires addressing the root causes of extremism rather than deflecting blame.

Pak Army Chief Asim Munir Threatens India Amid Rising Tensions



29-Jun-25

The recent rhetoric from Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir has escalated tensions with India, as he accused New Delhi of initiating unprovoked military actions and threatened a swift response to any future aggression. In a speech at the Pakistan Naval Academy, he reiterated his claim of Kashmir being Pakistan's "jugular vein" and maintained that Islamabad has shown restraint despite grave provocations, positioning Pakistan as a stabilizer in the region. Munir's remarks follow a series of cross-border hostilities after the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, which India responded to forcefully through Operation Sindoor, targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan. Analysts suggest Munir's aggressive rhetoric may be aimed at consolidating domestic support amidst Pakistan's internal challenges, although such statements could heighten the risk of military miscalculations and further destabilize Indo-Pak relations. India's armed forces remain on high alert, demonstrating their readiness to counter any escalation while reinforcing their commitment to national security. Overall, Munir's inflammatory claims lack substantiation and highlight a persistent narrative in Pakistan's defense strategy that seeks to deflect from its own challenges by focusing on Kashmir and positioning India as the aggressor.

Army Seminar in Himachal Explores India-Tibet Ties for Stability



29-Jun-25

The Indian Army's Central Command hosted a seminar in Himachal Pradesh titled "Interwoven Roots: Shared Indo-Tibetan Heritage," emphasizing the cultural ties between India and Tibet as a foundation for national security and border management. The event featured discussions on historical and economic linkages, alongside strategic concerns related to China's grey-zone tactics. By promoting cultural awareness alongside military strategy, the seminar aimed to enhance regional stability and integrate academic insights into defense strategies. The Army's commitment to a holistic approach in safeguarding borders reflects a forward-thinking paradigm that values historical context as essential to contemporary security challenges.

India Rejects 'Illegal' Arbitration Ruling on J&K Projects, Slams Pakistan's Political Agenda



29-Jun-25

Pakistan welcomed a ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration regarding two hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir, expressing a desire for dialogue over the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). India, however, rejected the ruling, asserting that it does not recognize the court's authority and has halted the IWT due to Pakistan's support for terrorism. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs emphasized that the arbitral proceedings are illegal and a breach of the treaty. This situation underscores the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, highlighting India's firm stance on national sovereignty and its proactive measures against cross-border terrorism.

India Takes a Firm Stand Against Pakistan's Terrorism Tactics



29-Jun-25

India is adopting a more aggressive diplomatic stance against Pakistan, exemplified by Operation Sindoor, which addresses cross-border terrorism head-on. Following the deadly Pahalgam attack, India is emphasizing accountability from Pakistan and challenging its narratives in international forums such as the SCO. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's refusal to endorse a joint statement at the SCO highlights India's commitment to countering terrorism and its double standards. The need for India to leverage its diplomatic ties and strengthen coalitions against state-sponsored terrorism is clear, as it aims to establish a zero-

tolerance policy on Pakistani aggression and foster a global dialogue on this pressing issue.

India's ban on Pakistani cargo raises shipping costs and delays. SHARE

29-Jun-25

India's ban on ships carrying Pakistani goods, implemented after the Pahalgam terror attack, has significantly increased shipping costs and transit times, causing delays of 30 to 50 days for Pakistani importers. While the ban has raised freight charges and insurance costs, the overall impact on Pakistan's exports remains minimal, as their exports heavily depend on imported inputs which face tighter controls. Since the Pulwama attack, trade relations have deteriorated, with bilateral trade plummeting from USD 2.41 billion in 2018 to USD 1.2 billion in 2024. This situation underscores India's firm stance on national security while highlighting the economic repercussions for Pakistan.

NATO's Indo-Pacific Focus: India as a Key Strategic Partner SHARE

29-Jun-25

The NATO summit in The Hague highlighted a strategic pivot towards the Indo-Pacific, recognizing the region's importance for global security. India, while maintaining its commitment to strategic autonomy and non-alignment, is positioned as a vital partner for NATO, contributing to regional stability through initiatives like the Mahasagar doctrine. This relationship emphasizes flexible cooperation rather than formal alliances, focusing on shared interests in maritime security and technological integration. As NATO seeks to enhance its relevance in the region, India's proactive approach to security and growth aligns with the alliance's goals, presenting a unique opportunity for both entities to navigate emerging geopolitical challenges collaboratively.

India's maritime doctrine emphasizes deterrence and strategic partnerships. SHARE

29-Jun-25

India's maritime doctrine, first articulated in the Indian Maritime Doctrine of 2004 and updated in 2009 and again in 2015, emphasizes deterrence through credible naval presence rather than aggression, underscoring the goal of preventing conflict by securing sea lines of communication and vital trade routes. The doctrine is complemented by the 2015 Indian Maritime Security Strategy ("Ensuring Secure Seas"), focusing on sea control, non-traditional threats, and indigenous

development to achieve strategic autonomy. Over the past decade, India has strengthened coast-to-coast partnerships—launching the SAGAR initiative in 2015, bilateral naval exercises such as Varuna with France, SIMBEX with Singapore, IBSAMAR with Brazil and South Africa, and the inaugural Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement in April 2025—to build interoperability and address piracy, climate disasters, and humanitarian assistance. Strategic business moves—like Mazagon Dock's recent acquisition of Colombo Dockyard (2025)—and the upcoming commissioning of the INS Tamal on July 1, 2025, reinforce indigenisation and regional shipbuilding prowess. India's participation in multilateral operations such as Operation Sankalp in the Red Sea and maritime exercises with Quad partners, alongside enhanced naval diplomacy in Africa and the South China Sea, reflects its transition toward a transparent, cooperative maritime security policy rooted in national interests, regional stability, and countering strategic competition.

Pakistan Closes Ghulam Khan Border with Afghanistan Due to Security Threats SHARE

29-Jun-25

Pakistan has temporarily closed the Ghulam Khan border crossing with Afghanistan due to security threats following a suicide attack in North Waziristan that killed 13 security personnel. The closure, which has occurred without a specified timeline for reopening, affects a vital trade route, prompting Afghan authorities to advise citizens and traders to seek alternative crossings. This situation underscores ongoing security challenges in the region, exacerbated by escalating violence and instability, highlighting the need for both countries to address border security collaboratively to maintain stability and facilitate trade. The closure reflects Pakistan's proactive measures to safeguard its territory amidst growing threats.

Zelensky signs decree to withdraw Ukraine from landmine treaty SHARE

29-Jun-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has signed a decree to withdraw Ukraine from the anti-landmine treaty, a move that underscores the ongoing challenges faced by Ukraine amid the conflict with Russia. This decision reflects a strategic shift aimed at enhancing Ukraine's military capabilities as it seeks to defend its sovereignty. By stepping away from such treaties, Ukraine may prioritize immediate defense needs over international norms, raising concerns about

humanitarian impacts. Overall, this development signifies a critical moment in Ukraine's approach to its security policy, aligning with its necessity to bolster defenses in the face of external aggression.

NATO's 5% GDP Defense Investment: Strengthening Alliance Resilience



29-Jun-25

NATO's recent commitment to invest 5% of GDP in defense by 2035 represents a significant shift in military strategy amidst evolving global threats, particularly from Russia. This pledge focuses on both traditional defense and modern warfare capabilities, emphasizing cyber defense and innovation. While the move aims to enhance unity and deterrence within the alliance, it faces challenges due to economic constraints in member states. The declaration also seeks to foster transatlantic industrial cooperation, addressing Europe's reliance on American defense systems. Ultimately, NATO's strategy underscores the need for a comprehensive approach to security, incorporating not just military might but also technological resilience and economic stability.

BrahMos Creator's Witty Response to Pakistan Army General



29-Jun-25

At an arms expo in Abu Dhabi, Dr. A Sivathanu Pillai, the creator of BrahMos, recounted a poignant exchange with a Pakistani general who inquired about India selling the missile to Pakistan, to which Pillai quipped it would be free for them, referencing its recent successful deployment against Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. This operation showcased BrahMos's impressive capabilities, achieving high accuracy and overwhelming Pakistani defenses, which ultimately led to a ceasefire. The incident highlights BrahMos as a significant strategic deterrent for India, elevating its export value and reinforcing India's status in missile technology while demonstrating its combat efficacy over adversarial air defenses.

India Will Respond to Provocations: Shashi Tharoor



29-Jun-25

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor emphasized India's commitment to self-defense following Operation Sindoor, indicating that the country has clearly communicated to foreign nations its intention to respond decisively to any future provocations from Pakistan. He highlighted that India's posturing was one of restraint and responsibility, with international

delegations acknowledging its right to defend itself against terrorism. Tharoor underscored that India is not interested in prolonged conflict but will retaliate if attacked, reinforcing the position that India will cease hostilities if Pakistan does the same. This strategic approach aims to maintain India's sovereignty while seeking global support against terrorism.

Pakistan Think Tank Claims India's ICBMs Threaten U.S. Stability



29-Jun-25

A Karachi-based think tank, allegedly linked to Pakistan's ISI, has claimed that India's expanding nuclear arsenal, particularly the Agni-V and Agni-VI ICBMs and K-5 SLBMs, threatens global stability, including the United States. This assertion coincides with concerns over Pakistan's own missile developments. The report characterizes India's advancements as an aggressive pursuit of global power, while emphasizing Pakistan's defensive posture. However, India's strategic developments enhance deterrence capabilities against regional adversaries, reinforcing its status as a responsible nuclear power committed to maintaining stability in South Asia amid escalating tensions. This narrative underscores India's determination to secure its national interests in a complex geopolitical landscape.

Military Operations

Ukrainian pilot killed, F-16 lost in major Russian aerial assault



29-Jun-25

Ukraine recently faced its most extensive aerial assault since the onset of the war, with Russia launching a staggering 537 aerial weapons, including 477 drones and 60 missiles. This attack resulted in significant casualties and damage, including the death of a Ukrainian F-16 pilot, as Ukraine's air defenses struggled to repel the strikes. President Zelenskyy emphasized the pressing need for enhanced air defense support from Western allies, particularly in light of ongoing Russian aggression, which has involved extensive drone warfare and missile attacks targeting critical infrastructure across multiple regions. The Ukrainian military reported that while many drones were intercepted, the sheer volume of the assault showcases the overwhelming challenges faced amid the conflict. Additionally, Ukraine's withdrawal from the Ottawa Convention, which prohibits anti-personnel mines, reflects the harsh realities of the ongoing war and the

need to adopt measures that enable its military to respond effectively to Russian tactics. This situation underscores the pivotal role of international support in bolstering Ukraine's defense capabilities and highlights the broader implications of the conflict for regional stability, especially as Russia continues to advance its military objectives in eastern Ukraine.

Rajouri Honours Civilians for Role in Operation Sindoor



29-Jun-25

A commemorative gathering in Rajouri honoured the vital civilian-military cooperation during Operation Sindoor, launched on the night of May 6–7, 2025, in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. The event, led by Major General Kaushik Mukherji of the Ace of Spades Division, recognised 25 individuals from Rajouri, Poonch, Mendhar, Krishna Ghati, Manjakote, and Naushera for their courageous roles in building bunkers, evacuating casualties, and providing humanitarian aid during the operation. A video tribute and two minutes of silence paid homage to those who lost their lives, including Rajouri's Additional Deputy Commissioner Raj Kumar Thapa. Major General Mukherji emphasised that Operation Sindoor was more than a military strike; it was a strong message of India's resolve to protect its citizens and counter terror threats. The ceremony highlighted the enduring bond between the Army and border communities and showcased how unity and resilience helped restore normalcy.

Thai Air Force Commends India's Precision Strikes and Air Defense



29-Jun-25

The Royal Thai Air Force recently praised India's Operation Sindoor during a conference, highlighting its precision-strike capabilities and multi-layered air defense systems following the May 2025 India-Pakistan conflict. The IAF successfully targeted key PAF bases and assets using advanced weaponry, including BrahMos and SCALP missiles, while the S-400 air defense systems thwarted numerous PAF intrusions. The analysis pointed to significant vulnerabilities in Pakistan's air defense, questioning the reliability of Chinese military technology. Overall, Operation Sindoor is recognized as a benchmark for modern air combat, showcasing India's operational superiority without suffering any losses.

Indian Army apprehends Pakistani national near LoC in J&K.



29-Jun-25

A Pakistani national, Mohammad Arib Ahmed, was apprehended by the Indian Army while attempting to cross the Line of Control (LoC) in the Tarkundi sector of Jammu and Kashmir. During the incident, items were recovered from his possession, and he is currently being interrogated before being handed over to local police for further investigation. This arrest underscores the vigilance of the Indian Army in safeguarding national security against infiltration attempts, reflecting a proactive stance in maintaining peace and security along the LoC. Such operations are critical in curbing cross-border terrorism and ensuring the safety of the region.

Pakistan's Drone Strategy Fails to Target India's S-400 Systems



29-Jun-25

Recent reports indicate that Pakistan's strategy to locate India's S-400 air defense systems using unarmed Turkish drones as bait proved ineffective. The drones were intended to provoke Indian radar systems, but subsequent missile strikes aimed at neutralizing the S-400's capabilities failed, with India's advanced defenses thwarting the attack. Despite Pakistan's claims of damaging the S-400, evidence suggests these assertions are unfounded. Prime Minister Modi's visit to the Adampur airbase, showcasing the intact S-400, served as a robust rebuttal to Pakistan's narrative. This incident highlights the resilience of India's air defense systems and the ineffectiveness of Pakistan's military tactics.

Air Marshal Dixit Denies IAF Strike on Pakistan's Kirana Hills



29-Jun-25

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit has refuted claims of an Indian Air Force (IAF) strike on Pakistan's Kirana Hills, a site of nuclear significance, amidst rising India-Pakistan tensions following Operation Sindoor. Speculation arose from unverified sources in Pakistan suggesting the IAF targeted the hills to undermine Pakistan's nuclear capabilities, a claim lacking credible evidence. Dixit emphasized India's strategy of restraint, underscoring its no-first-use policy and focus on conventional military targets. The statements highlight India's commitment to strategic stability while countering misinformation that seeks to frame India as an aggressor in the region.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Amit Shah urges Maoists to abandon arms and join society. SHARE

29-Jun-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah firmly ruled out negotiations with Maoists, urging them to abandon arms and reintegrate into society, during a rally in Telangana. He emphasized the government's approach of "no talk" with armed groups, citing the successful surrender of over 2,000 Maoists in recent years and the reintegration of around 10,000 individuals from the Northeast, who have since participated in elections. Shah articulated a decisive timeline, promising the eradication of Naxalism in India by March 31, 2026, reflecting a strong stance against insurgency. This strategy underscores the government's commitment to national security and social stability, aiming for a peaceful integration of former insurgents into mainstream society.

IDF Eliminates Key Hamas Leader Behind October 2023 Attack SHARE

29-Jun-25

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) recently killed Hakham Muhammad Issa Al-Issa, a prominent Hamas leader linked to the October 7 attack and responsible for enhancing Hamas' military capabilities. This operation underscores Israel's intensified military response amid a severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where over 56,000 Palestinians have reportedly died, and widespread displacement continues. U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed hope for a ceasefire, contingent on negotiations involving Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, while Hamas demands an end to Israeli military actions. The situation remains precarious, reflecting the complexities of achieving peace amidst ongoing violence and international scrutiny of Israel's operations.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Experts Urge Action Against Digital Terrorism on Social Media SHARE

29-Jun-25

A recent discussion at the Constitution Club in Jaipur highlighted the pressing issue of digital terrorism, with experts like Major General Sudhakar warning that social

media has evolved into a tool for cognitive warfare, misleading youth and necessitating a national strategy against digital brainwashing. Former diplomat Gauri Shankar Gupta advocated for a unified education system and the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) to foster social cohesion, while thinker Ashutosh Pant emphasized the need for a value-driven society to combat radical ideologies effectively. The forum aimed to address these societal challenges and develop a cohesive action plan against terrorism, underscoring the critical role of informed citizenry in this fight.

Cyberattacks escalate amid Iran-Israel tensions, revealing vulnerabilities. SHARE

29-Jun-25

The intensifying Iran-Israel tensions have now spilled into cyberspace, marked by increasingly aggressive hacktivist campaigns from both sides. In mid-June 2025, the pro-Israeli group "Predatory Sparrow" (also known as Gonjeshke Darande) struck Iran's state-owned Bank Sepah on June 17, disrupting online banking and ATM services nationwide, and launched a coordinated assault on Nobitex, Iran's largest crypto exchange on June 18, burning over \$90 million by transferring it to inaccessible "vanity" wallets. These operations targeted entities affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and were widely viewed as covert Israeli-backed efforts to destabilize Iran's financial network. Iran immediately responded with nationwide internet throttling, tightened online controls, and public advisories against use of foreign tech. In retaliation, pro-Iranian hackers—including Iranian state-linked APT groups—mounted over 1,300 attacks on Israeli systems year-to-date in 2025. These retaliatory strikes involved phishing campaigns, DDoS assaults, camera hijacks, and targeted disinformation aimed at critical infrastructure such as energy, water, telecommunications, and media outlets. Experts caution that while the volume of these incidents is high, the strategic damage remains relatively contained. Nevertheless, analysts warn that both nations are holding back more potent cyber weapons, raising concern over potential escalations. As airstrike campaigns and sanctions continue to shape the geopolitical landscape, this digital proxy war highlights a pivotal shift: cyber operations have become central to modern warfare and international diplomacy, underscoring the urgent need for cooperative, resilient cybersecurity frameworks to safeguard critical national infrastructure.

'Scattered Spider' Cyberattacks Target US and Canadian Airlines



29-Jun-25

In late June 2025, the FBI and leading cybersecurity firms, including Google's Mandiant and Palo Alto's Unit42, warned that the cybercriminal collective known as Scattered Spider (a.k.a. UNC3944 or Muddled Libra) has pivoted to targeting the aviation sector across the US and Canada. Using sophisticated social engineering—impersonating employees or contractors to manipulate IT help desks into granting unauthorized access and bypassing multi-factor authentication—the group infiltrated internal systems of Hawaiian Airlines and WestJet in mid-June. Although both carriers confirmed their operations and flight safety remained unaffected, disruptions occurred in IT systems and services like WestJet's mobile app. The FBI issued an alert on June 27, stating they are actively collaborating with aviation partners to contain the threat, sharing intelligence, and urging the industry to strengthen identity verification, harden help desk protocols, and deploy phishing-resistant MFA. Scattered Spider, notorious since its 2023 high-profile extortion campaigns against MGM Resorts and Caesars Entertainment, now appears to be strategically advancing through critical infrastructure by capitalizing on the summer travel rush—underscoring an urgent need for airlines to bolster cybersecurity, especially in human-centered workflows, to guard sensitive data and maintain operational resilience throughout this high-pressure season.

Germany partners with Israel to develop 'cyber dome' defense.



29-Jun-25

Germany is seeking to enhance its cyberdefense capabilities through a partnership with Israel, with plans to develop a 'cyber dome' for greater protection against cyber threats. This initiative underscores the growing importance of cyber security in geopolitical strategies and reflects Germany's proactive approach to safeguarding its national interests. By collaborating with Israel, a leader in cyber technology, Germany aims to strengthen its defenses amid increasing cyber threats from various state and non-state actors. This development also highlights the global trend of nations prioritizing cyber resilience as part of their overall defense strategies, which could influence similar initiatives in other countries, including India, as it continues to bolster its own cyber defenses.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Indian Army Honors First GOC of Jammu Division, Maj Gen Atma Singh



29-Jun-25

In a solemn ceremony held on June 28, the Indian Army paid tribute to late Maj Gen Atma Singh, the first Indian General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Jammu Division, by laying a wreath at his memorial along the Jammu-Udhampur Highway. Maj Gen Singh, a distinguished officer who died in service, is remembered for his exemplary leadership and commitment to his troops. The revamped memorial honors not only his legacy but also serves as a tribute to all fallen soldiers, coinciding with the Diamond Jubilee of the 1965 Indo-Pak war, showcasing the enduring spirit of the Indian Army and its respect for its history and heroes.

Assam Rifles Honors 26th Memorial Day of Captain Kenguruse



29-Jun-25

The 45 Assam Rifles commemorated the 26th Memorial Day of Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse, MVC, honoring his supreme sacrifice during the Kargil War. Major General Manish Kumar highlighted Capt. Kenguruse's bravery, recounting his heroic actions on June 28, 1999, when he engaged the enemy despite his injuries. The event included tributes, a wreath-laying ceremony, and the inauguration of a medical camp in his memory. Maj Gen Kumar urged the youth to draw inspiration from Capt. Kenguruse's legacy, emphasizing that true valor is never forgotten, reinforcing the importance of remembering sacrifices made for the nation. This event underscores the deep respect and recognition for military heroes in India.

India's Jaipur Foot camp in Kabul provides prosthetics to 75 Afghans.



29-Jun-25

India's humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan were highlighted by a five-day Jaipur Foot camp in Kabul, where 75 prosthetic limbs were fitted for those in need. This initiative, organized by the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, demonstrates India's commitment to assist the Afghan people despite challenging circumstances. Concurrently, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh inaugurated a similar camp in Maputo, Mozambique, supported by the Government of India, set to aid around

1,200 beneficiaries. These initiatives underscore India's proactive role in regional humanitarian outreach, fostering goodwill and improving lives through critical health interventions.

Miscellaneous

PM Modi Engages with India's First Astronaut at ISS

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29-Jun-25

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has made history as the first Indian astronaut aboard the International Space Station (ISS), marking a significant milestone for India's space ambitions. During a video interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shukla described the breathtaking view of Earth from space, emphasizing its borderless nature and the grandness of India, which appears much larger than on maps. He reflected on the challenges of adapting to life in zero gravity and shared traditional Indian sweets with his fellow astronauts, showcasing India's rich culture in outer space. The Axiom-4 mission, which involves over 60 scientific experiments, highlights India's growing role in international space exploration, underscoring the importance of collaboration and innovation. Modi praised Shukla's achievement as a source of inspiration for India's youth and emphasized the need to advance space initiatives like the Gaganyaan mission and plans for an indigenous space station. Shukla conveyed a motivational message to the youth, asserting that "the sky is never the limit," reinforcing the notion that each individual's perseverance contributes to a collective success. His historic journey not only contributes to scientific research but also inspires a new generation of Indians to dream beyond earthly limits, symbolizing a Shubh Aarambh, or auspicious beginning, for India's future in space exploration. Overall, Shukla's mission signifies a transformative chapter in India's space endeavors and its commitment to becoming a major player in the global space arena.

UK Halts Morocco-UK Solar Project, Shifts to Domestic Energy Focus

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29-Jun-25

The UK government has decided to halt the Morocco-UK Power Project, a significant initiative aimed at transmitting solar and wind energy to the UK, citing a preference for prioritizing domestic energy capacity. This move reflects a broader debate in geopolitics about whether to leverage cheaper energy from nations with favorable generation conditions or to enhance

national self-sufficiency. Similarly, Australia's Sun Cable project aims to supply a substantial portion of Singapore's energy needs through solar power. This shift highlights the growing significance of ultra-cheap solar energy, with countries rich in sunlight positioning themselves as potential leaders in this new "Sun-PEC" landscape, reminiscent of OPEC's influence in oil.

Nearly 47% of J&K bunker funds remain unspent, raising safety concerns.

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29-Jun-25

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has reportedly underutilized nearly 47% of the centralized funds allocated for constructing underground bunkers for border residents over the past five years, despite ongoing threats from cross-border shelling. From a sanctioned Rs 415.73 crore, only Rs 129.68 crore has been spent, leading to calls for increased civilian safety measures, especially following recent casualties from Pakistani shelling. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has emphasized the need for more individual bunkers, asserting their importance during crises. This situation highlights the critical need for efficient fund management and the urgency of addressing civilian safety in border areas, ensuring that residents are better protected against persistent threats.

Parag Jain Appointed New Chief of India's RAW Amid Rising Threats

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29-Jun-25

Parag Jain has been appointed as the new chief of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), a move that reflects the government's intent to strengthen its intelligence capabilities amid escalating geopolitical challenges. With over two decades of experience, including significant roles overseeing the Pakistan desk and operating in counter-terrorism, Jain brings crucial operational insight. His leadership at the Aviation Research Centre emphasizes aerial reconnaissance, key for India's intelligence. Given the complex security environment characterized by cross-border terrorism and threats from China, Jain's extensive background and international experience position him to enhance RAW's effectiveness in safeguarding India's national interests.

India Celebrates Seychelles' National Day, Strengthens Ties

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29-Jun-25

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar extended warm greetings to Seychelles and Djibouti on their national days, reinforcing India's commitment to

enhancing maritime cooperation under the "MAHASAGAR" vision. Amid rising tensions in West Asia, he engaged with Iran's Foreign Minister to discuss regional stability, welcoming a ceasefire between Iran and Israel. Furthermore, India successfully executed Operation Sindhu, evacuating over 4,400 nationals from conflict zones in Iran and Israel, demonstrating its dedication to citizen safety and regional partnerships. This proactive diplomatic outreach highlights India's strategic focus on strengthening ties with Indian Ocean nations and ensuring the security of its diaspora amidst evolving geopolitical challenges.

India Seeks Revisions to Ganga Water Sharing with Bangladesh



29-Jun-25

India is pursuing changes to the Ganga water-sharing agreement with Bangladesh, seeking an additional 30,000-35,000 cusecs of water to meet rising needs amid urbanization and climate change. The current treaty, deemed insufficient, has led to disputes over water delivery, with Bangladesh accusing India of failing to provide fair shares during critical periods. India's growing domestic water demands and geopolitical considerations, particularly in light of closer Bangladesh-China ties, further motivate this shift. As the upper riparian state, India holds significant leverage, and the upcoming negotiations will be pivotal in ensuring a sustainable and equitable water-sharing framework that accommodates both ecological and developmental needs.

India's Strategy to Strengthen Rare Earth Supply Chain



29-Jun-25

India is poised to transform its rare earth supply chain strategy amid China's export restrictions impacting critical industries, particularly electric vehicles (EVs). With 6.9 million metric tons of rare earth reserves, India aims to reduce its import dependence through the Rare Earth Policy 2025, which seeks to liberalize mining, establish strategic reserves, and promote value-added industries. Strategic partnerships with countries like Australia and Vietnam aim to create a non-Chinese supply corridor. By advancing refining and magnet-making capabilities, India could not only bolster its domestic industry but also enhance its geopolitical influence and national resilience in global technology and defense sectors.

India's IISc Aims for Leadership in Post-Silicon Chip Technology



29-Jun-25

India's Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is advancing in the angstrom-scale chip sector, aiming for a leap in semiconductor technology beyond traditional silicon. With a budget of 500 crore, the initiative seeks to position India as a leader in 2D material usage, enhancing applications in AI, defense, healthcare, and climate monitoring. This aligns with India's goal for technological self-reliance and global competitiveness amidst strong investments from countries like the U.S. and South Korea. However, challenges in funding, talent, and fabrication expertise remain, necessitating strategic partnerships to realize the full potential of this ambitious project.

Ex-SIMI leader Saquib Nachan dies in Delhi hospital at 67



29-Jun-25

Saquib Nachan, a former office-bearer of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and an accused in the Pune ISIS module case, passed away in a Delhi hospital following a brain haemorrhage. At 67, Nachan was previously convicted for his involvement in 2002-03 Mumbai bomb blasts and had been imprisoned for a decade before his release. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had arrested him in 2023 for promoting ISIS activities, including the fabrication of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). His death underscores ongoing concerns regarding terrorism and radicalization in India, highlighting the need for continued vigilance and robust counter-terrorism strategies.

MK Stalin urges Centre to take action on arrest of fishermen



29-Jun-25

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has expressed grave concern over the arrest of eight fishermen by Sri Lankan authorities, urging the Indian government to intervene for their safe return. He highlighted the adverse impact on the fishermen's livelihoods and the psychological toll on their families due to such incidents, particularly as the fishing season has just resumed. Stalin called for proactive diplomatic engagement with Sri Lanka to address fishing-related issues and ensure mutual understanding. This situation emphasizes the need for effective diplomatic channels to mitigate tensions and protect the interests of Indian fishermen in the region, reinforcing India's commitment to safeguarding its maritime communities.

Manipur sees violence drop and drug seizures rise under President's rule. SHARE

29-Jun-25

Manipur has experienced a notable decline in violence and a surge in drug seizures since the imposition of President's rule in February. Reports indicate only one protest-related death during this period, a stark contrast to the 260 fatalities recorded earlier. Security forces, including the Assam Rifles and Manipur Police, have made significant strides in recovering looted firearms and dismantling illegal bunkers, although challenges remain with the resurgence of banned terrorist groups engaging in extortion. The successful crackdown on violent outfits, particularly the Arambai Tenggol, has contributed to stabilizing the situation, showcasing the effectiveness of central governance in addressing regional unrest and enhancing security.

AAIB Investigating Sabotage in Air India Flight AI 171 Crash SHARE

29-Jun-25

The Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Murlidhar Mohol, announced that the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is exploring all possibilities, including sabotage, in the investigation of the Air India Flight AI 171 crash that killed over 270 people. The investigation, led by a multi-disciplinary team including international representatives, is focused on the unusual dual engine failure. The black boxes have been recovered, and data analysis is ongoing in compliance with both domestic and international protocols, underscoring India's commitment to thorough aviation safety investigations. This tragic incident has prompted a wider review of aviation safety measures across the nation.

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