



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

March 29, 2025 | Day 088

## Defense Business and Industry

### Indian Army Tests Indigenous FPV Drones: A Step Toward Tactical Innovation

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29-Mar-25

The Indian Army has successfully trialed indigenous First-Person View (FPV) kamikaze drones, marking a significant leap in tactical warfare capabilities. Developed by Major Cephass Chetan and the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, these drones are designed for high-impact strikes with advanced safety mechanisms to prevent accidental detonation. Having produced over 100 drones by March 2025, the Army's self-reliant approach ensures quality control and adaptability for diverse operational environments. Each drone, costing approximately ₹1.4 lakh, offers a cost-effective alternative to foreign systems, aligning with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. While the current order of five drones with 95 more on procurement is promising, scaling production to 100,000 units could further enhance effectiveness and reduce costs, positioning India strategically in modern warfare amidst evolving threats. This initiative underscores India's commitment to innovation and self-sufficiency in defense technology.

### IIT Kanpur and Army Forge MoU for Advanced UAV Training Solutions

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29-Mar-25

IIT Kanpur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Army's Central Command to develop advanced training modules and simulators for drone operations. This partnership aims to enhance the Army's training efficiency while reducing costs and risks associated with real-time exercises. The initiative, led by IIT Kanpur's UAV Laboratory, will create a Remote Piloting Training Module and Software-in-the-Loop Simulator to simulate diverse operational scenarios. This collaboration not only showcases India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology but also positions IIT Kanpur as a pivotal

hub for aerospace innovation, ultimately bolstering the Indian Army's capabilities in modern warfare.

### Singhbhum Chamber Advocates for Defense Manufacturing in Kolhan

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29-Mar-25

A delegation from the Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry met with Union Minister Sanjay Seth to advocate for establishing defense manufacturing units in Jharkhand's Kolhan region, emphasizing local industrial growth. The minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to domestic defense production under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and announced a forthcoming Air Show and Defense Expo in Jharkhand to foster entrepreneurship in the sector. Furthermore, the Secretary of the Department of Defence Production pledged ongoing support through webinars to guide local industries in exploring the 38,000 defense-related products discussed. This initiative represents a significant step towards enhancing self-reliance and industrial development in the region.

### HAL's Contracts with Defence Ministry: A Boost for Stocks and Jobs

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29-Mar-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) gained attention after signing two significant contracts worth ₹62,700 crore with the Ministry of Defence for 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) Prachand, marking a strong boost for India's indigenous defense capabilities. The LCH, capable of operating at high altitudes, will have over 65% indigenous content and involve over 250 domestic companies, creating thousands of jobs. Additionally, HAL's stock surged, receiving an upgrade from analysts, reflecting confidence in its revenue growth. This development highlights India's commitment to bolstering its defense sector and reducing reliance on foreign equipment, while also fostering local industry and innovation.

## Govt Approves ₹62,000 Crore for 156 Indigenous Attack Helicopters



29-Mar-25

The Indian government has approved a landmark deal worth over Rs 62,000 crore for the procurement of 156 indigenous Light Combat Helicopters (LCH), named Prachand, from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. This order, the largest in HAL's history, will see 90 helicopters allocated to the Indian Army and 66 to the Indian Air Force, enhancing operational capabilities along the sensitive borders with China and Pakistan. The Prachand is specifically designed for high-altitude operations, with the unique ability to operate at 5,000 meters and equipped with advanced weaponry, including air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles. This initiative aligns with the government's focus on self-reliance in defense manufacturing under the "Make in India" initiative, fostering job creation and strengthening the indigenous aerospace ecosystem.

## Indian Army Unveils 'Kharga': Advanced Kamikaze Drone System



29-Mar-25

The Indian Army has introduced the 'Kharga' Kamikaze drone, capable of carrying 700 grams of explosives and operating undetected with a range of 1.5 kilometers. This initiative reflects a shift toward advanced unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in modern military tactics, influenced by global trends and recent conflicts. India's focus on both offensive drone technology and counter-drone systems, such as the 'Dronaam' used by the BSF, showcases a strategic dual approach to enhance its defense capabilities. The successful testing of these indigenous drones highlights India's commitment to bolstering its military prowess and adapting to evolving combat scenarios effectively.

## Aerolloy Technologies Becomes India's Sole Supplier for LEAP Engine Components



29-Mar-25

Aerolloy Technologies (ATL), a subsidiary of PTC Industries, has secured a significant order from Safran Aircraft Engines for seven cast aero-engine components for the LEAP-1A and LEAP-1B engines, making it the only Indian supplier of such components. This collaboration underscores India's growing capabilities in aerospace manufacturing and strengthens the domestic aviation sector amidst increasing demand, with over 2,000 LEAP engines ordered for Indian airlines. The strategic partnership aims to enhance the global aerospace supply chain

while supporting sustainable development goals in aviation. The commitment from Safran to source more from India highlights the country's potential as a key player in the global aerospace industry.

## IAF Enhances Refuelling Capabilities with KC-135 Wet Lease



29-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed a contract with Metrea Management for the wet leasing of a KC-135 aerial refuelling aircraft, marking a significant enhancement in India's military aviation capabilities. This is the first instance of the IAF opting for a wet lease, which will bolster air-to-air refuelling training for both the IAF and the Indian Navy. The decision to select the KC-135 over the anticipated Airbus A330 MRTT suggests a focus on cost-effectiveness and immediate operational needs, while leveraging private sector expertise to enhance training and operational readiness. This pragmatic approach underscores India's commitment to modernizing its defense capabilities efficiently.

## India Showcases Tejas Mk1A and MkII to Armenian Air Force



29-Mar-25

India recently briefed a delegation from the Armenian Air Force on the indigenous Tejas Mk1A and MkII fighter jets, aiming to enhance defense ties and expand its arms market presence amidst Armenia's modernization efforts against Azerbaijan's growing aerial capabilities. While the Mk1A received lukewarm interest due to production concerns, the MkII, with enhanced performance and alignment with Armenia's needs, garnered positive attention. This strategic engagement highlights India's commitment to boosting defense exports in a geopolitically sensitive region, potentially providing Armenia with a cost-effective and versatile alternative to bolster its air power amid regional tensions.

## DRDO's 1500 km Submarine-Launched Missile to Boost Navy's Strike Power



29-Mar-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is advancing a 1500 km submarine-launched Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LACM) that will enhance the Indian Navy's underwater strike capabilities by 2028. This missile, compatible with existing and future submarines, will utilize proven technology from the Indigenous

Technology Cruise Missile program and is designed for both conventional and nuclear submarines. Its adaptability addresses capability gaps against regional rivals, particularly China and Pakistan, while also providing a robust deterrence mechanism in the Indo-Pacific. By integrating advanced navigation systems and a range of warhead options, the LACM represents a significant leap forward for India's defense strategy.

## Gadchiroli's Anti-Naxal Operations Boosted by ideaForge SWITCH UAV

29-Mar-25

In Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, the introduction of the indigenous ideaForge SWITCH UAV is significantly enhancing anti-Naxal operations. This advanced unmanned aerial vehicle provides real-time intelligence and operational agility, crucial for tracking and monitoring movements of Maoist insurgents, especially along the porous Chhattisgarh border. Under Superintendent of Police Neelotpal's leadership, the UAV has been instrumental in operational successes, including neutralizing 80 hardcore Maoists since 2021 with zero police casualties. The SWITCH UAV's capabilities, including high-resolution surveillance and stealth, transform challenges posed by the dense terrain into strategic advantages, thus bolstering India's efforts to combat left-wing extremism effectively.

## HAL Faces Parliamentary Scrutiny Over Production Delays and Safety Issues

29-Mar-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) faced renewed parliamentary criticism over delays in the Tejas fighter jet production and the grounding of over 330 Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs) for safety checks. The parliamentary committee's report highlighted systemic inefficiencies, poor planning, and missed strategic opportunities, jeopardizing India's defense preparedness amid rising regional tensions. Calls for comprehensive reforms urge HAL to enhance project management and risk assessment to bolster its competitiveness in the global defense market. While challenges persist, HAL's commitment to self-reliance in defense under the Make in India initiative remains crucial for India's aspirations as a defense manufacturing powerhouse.

## IAF: Upgraded Su-30MKI Can Outperform Chinese J-35A in Combat

29-Mar-25

An Indian Air Force (IAF) official expressed confidence that the upgraded Su-30MKI, featuring the advanced Virupaksha radar and Astra MkIII missile, will outmatch the Chinese J-35A aircraft, particularly in engagements with the Pakistan Air Force. The Virupaksha radar's GaN technology allows for superior detection ranges, potentially nullifying the J-35A's stealth advantages. Additionally, the Astra MkIII missile offers a longer range and advanced targeting capabilities, enhancing India's air superiority. The IAF's planned upgrade of 84 Su-30MKIs will significantly bolster its combat effectiveness, ensuring a robust deterrent against Pakistani and Chinese aerial threats, and solidifying India's position in regional air power dynamics.

## Russia Proposes Co-Development of Stealth Nozzle for India's AMCA

29-Mar-25

Russia has proposed a joint effort to co-develop an advanced flat nozzle for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), contingent on India selecting the Izdeliye 177S engine to power the aircraft. This collaboration aligns with India's 'Make in India' initiative, enhancing the AMCA's stealth capabilities against regional adversaries like China's J-20. However, the proposal carries risks, including reliance on unproven technology and potential delays due to integration challenges and geopolitical uncertainties. Ultimately, while this partnership could bolster India's defense capabilities, careful evaluation against alternative options, such as collaborations with France and the US, remains crucial for strategic diversification.

## India Considers GCAP Partnership for AMCA Amid China's 6th Gen Threats

29-Mar-25

India is contemplating participation in the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP) led by the UK, Italy, and Japan to enhance its Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project amid China's advancements in sixth-generation fighters. This collaboration could streamline engine development, potentially enabling India to align its indigenous 5.5-generation AMCA with cutting-edge capabilities by 2035. However, concerns about compromising self-reliance in defense manufacturing and the balance between international cooperation and indigenous development remain. Ultimately, India must weigh the benefits of

technological parity and access to advanced systems against its strategic autonomy and the long-term objective of bolstering its air power in response to regional threats.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### Indian Army Chief and High Commissioner Verma Tackle Geostrategy

📱 SHARE

29-Mar-25

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma met with Indian Chief of Army Staff General Uendra Dwivedi in New Delhi on March 28, where they discussed various geostrategic issues. The meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral defense cooperation and enhance military collaboration, focusing on joint initiatives to bolster regional security. This dialogue underscores India's commitment to nurturing strong defense ties with its neighbors, particularly Bangladesh, in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape. By fostering military partnerships, India aims to enhance stability and security in the region, which is crucial for maintaining peace and addressing emerging threats.

### Protests in Jammu after policemen killed, parties condemn Pakistan

📱 SHARE

29-Mar-25

Protests erupted across Jammu following the killing of four policemen in an encounter with terrorists in Kathua, with political parties including the BJP and Congress blaming Pakistan for escalating terrorism. Demonstrators called for extensive combing operations to root out militants, expressing outrage at the government's perceived failure to maintain security. Former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand criticized the BJP for its inability to provide stability, while activists from various groups burned effigies and Pakistani flags to express their anger. The tragic incident underscores ongoing security challenges in the region, highlighting the need for decisive action against terrorism to ensure the safety of both security forces and civilians.

### India and Sri Lanka to sign landmark defense pact next week

📱 SHARE

29-Mar-25

India and Sri Lanka are poised to sign a significant defense cooperation pact during Prime Minister Modi's upcoming visit to Colombo, marking a major step in bilateral relations nearly four decades after the Indian Peace Keeping Force's withdrawal. This agreement

aims to enhance defense engagements amid growing Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean, demonstrated by recent Chinese naval activities in Sri Lanka's ports. Modi's visit will also focus on economic collaboration, including a currency swap framework and development projects like the Sampur solar energy initiative. This strengthening of ties underscores India's commitment as a reliable neighbor, particularly following its substantial financial assistance during Sri Lanka's economic crisis.

### India-Russia Naval Exercise Indra Set for Chennai, March 2025

📱 SHARE

29-Mar-25

The 14th edition of the India-Russia bilateral naval exercise Indra is set to occur off Chennai from March 28 to April 2, 2025, marking a significant milestone in the strategic maritime partnership between the two nations since its inception in 2003. The exercise, conducted in two phases—Harbour and Sea—will feature advanced naval drills involving several naval ships and maritime patrol aircraft, aimed at enhancing interoperability and operational synergy. This collaboration not only strengthens naval capabilities but also reinforces diplomatic ties and the exchange of best practices between the Indian Navy and the Russian Federation, showcasing both nations' commitment to maritime security in the region.

### Putin seeks to oust Zelensky and escalate military action in Ukraine.

📱 SHARE

29-Mar-25

Russian President Vladimir Putin has called for a "transitional administration" in Ukraine and vowed to "finish off" Ukrainian troops, highlighting his desire to replace President Zelensky with a Moscow-friendly regime. As tensions escalate, Putin's remarks come at a time when the U.S. is attempting to mediate a ceasefire, amidst accusations from both sides of violating agreements. Ukraine fears losing U.S. support could lead to unfavorable peace terms. The ongoing conflict underscores Russia's aggressive stance and Ukraine's struggle for sovereignty, prompting urgent discussions among European allies to support Kyiv against Russian aggression while navigating the complexities of international diplomacy.

### Pakistani Navy Considers J-10CE to Compete with India's Rafale M

📱 SHARE

29-Mar-25

The Pakistani Navy is considering the Chengdu J-10CE fighter jet from China as it seeks to counter India's



acquisition of the advanced Dassault Rafale M for carrier operations. This potential procurement aims to replace the aging Mirage-III fighters assigned to maritime roles. The J-10CE, with modern avionics and compatibility with advanced munitions, could enhance Pakistan's aerial capabilities in the Arabian Sea. However, questions remain about whether the Pakistani Navy will operate these jets independently or will continue to rely on the Pakistan Air Force for maritime defense, which reflects Pakistan's broader strategy of bolstering its military posture amid India's modernization efforts.

## Tharoor backs Jaishankar on Pakistan's minority rights abuses



29-Mar-25

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has supported External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's remarks regarding the alarming treatment of minorities in Pakistan, highlighting India's concerns on the matter amid a lack of dialogue with Pakistan. Jaishankar detailed specific cases of atrocities against various minority communities in Pakistan, emphasizing India's commitment to raising these issues at international platforms, including the UN. He criticized Pakistan's human rights record and its failure to provide justice to its citizens. The ongoing persecution of minorities in Pakistan underscores the need for India to continue advocating for their rights on global stages, reflecting India's commitment to human rights and regional stability.

## Army Chief Reviews Security in Udhampur Amid Counter-Terror Ops



29-Mar-25

Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, the General Officer Commanding of the White Knight Corps, visited Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir to review the security situation amid ongoing counter-terrorism operations against infiltrating terrorists from Pakistan. Accompanied by Major General APS Bal, GOC Counter Insurgency Force-Delta, the visit focused on the Basantgarh area, a strategic route previously used by terrorists. The assessment follows a fierce gunfight in nearby Kathua district, resulting in the deaths of four policemen and two terrorists, highlighting the Indian Army's proactive stance in maintaining regional security and its commitment to counter-terrorism efforts in challenging terrain.

## India's Operation Brahma Delivers Urgent Aid to Myanmar Quake Victims



29-Mar-25

India has launched Operation Brahma to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to Myanmar following a devastating earthquake that occurred on March 28, 2025, resulting in significant casualties and damage. The operation includes the deployment of two naval ships carrying 40 tonnes of relief supplies and a 118-member medical team from the Shatrueet Brigade, which will establish a 60-bed field hospital. Assistance has also been coordinated through air transport with 15 tonnes of supplies already delivered, including essential medical items and food. This operation exemplifies India's commitment to its Neighbourhood First policy and reinforces its role as a first responder in regional crises, showcasing the ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, or "the world is one family," as India stands in solidarity with Myanmar during this humanitarian crisis.

## Fourth Policeman Found in Ongoing Anti-Terror Operation in Kathua



29-Mar-25

In an ongoing anti-terror operation in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, four policemen lost their lives while confronting a group of infiltrators, with additional injuries reported among armed forces personnel. The operation, which began with contact with the terrorists in Jakhole village, has been challenging due to the rugged terrain and the terrorists' advantage on higher ground. Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat confirmed that the same group had previously crossed from Pakistan, leading to the encounter where

## Military Operations

## INS Sunayna Launches Six-Week Mission with Nine Navies in IOR



29-Mar-25

The Indian Navy's INS Sunayna is set to embark on a six-week mission in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) with personnel from nine friendly navies, including those from Comoros, Kenya, and Sri Lanka, highlighting India's commitment to maritime security amid rising Chinese influence and piracy threats. Under initiatives like IOS Sagar and AIKEYME, the Indian Navy aims to strengthen partnerships and enhance cooperation through joint exercises and surveillance of Exclusive Economic Zones. This deployment not only reinforces India's stature as a preferred security partner but also fosters regional collaboration, showcasing its proactive approach to ensuring stability in the IOR.

ammunition and explosives were recovered. The operation aims to eliminate any remaining terrorists and recover the bodies of the fallen police personnel, highlighting the ongoing challenges posed by cross-border terrorism in the region. This incident underscores the bravery of the Indian forces and the significant sacrifices made to safeguard national security.

## Manipur Security Forces Nab 7 Militants, Seize Major Arms Cache SHARE

29-Mar-25

Security forces in Manipur have made significant strides in countering militant activities, apprehending seven more militants and recovering a substantial cache of arms and ammunition across various districts. This operation dismantled threats posed by groups like PREPAK and Kangleipak Communist Party, involved in extortion and violence. Notably, a large 11 kg IED and various firearms, including rifles and grenades, were seized. Additionally, the Assam Rifles and police also destroyed illegal poppy cultivation, tackling the narcotics-terrorism nexus. These actions underscore the Indian government's commitment to maintaining security and a drug-free society in the region, particularly along the porous border with Myanmar.

## India Schedules Missile Test from April 9-12, 2025 SHARE

29-Mar-25

India has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for a missile test scheduled from April 9 to April 12, 2025, in a 475-kilometer range, signaling a significant enhancement of its missile capabilities amidst a complex geopolitical context. This test may involve either the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, renowned for its speed and versatility, or the Astra Mk-III Gandiva air-to-air missile, which is being developed to extend its range and improve guidance systems. The evaluation could represent a major step in India's defense strategies, potentially integrating advanced missiles with new platforms, thereby reinforcing its deterrence posture in the region.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### 16 Maoists Neutralized in Chhattisgarh: A Major Anti-Naxal Victory SHARE

29-Mar-25

In a significant anti-Naxal operation in Sukma, Chhattisgarh, security forces neutralized 16 Maoists and recovered a large cache of arms, including AK-47s and rocket launchers. Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised this operation as a decisive blow to Naxalism, reiterating the government's commitment to eradicating the insurgency by March 31, 2026. The operation, involving the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), reflects a broader strategy to combat Left-wing extremism, which has claimed over 10,000 lives since 1967. The government aims to foster peace and development in the region, emphasizing that violence will not lead to change. With over 100 Maoists reportedly killed this year alone, the sustained efforts exemplify the Indian government's determination to restore order and security in affected areas.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### Urgent: Update Google Chrome by April 17 to avoid critical threat SHARE

29-Mar-25

A critical zero-day exploit affecting Google Chrome has prompted urgent warnings from cybersecurity experts and agencies, including the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and India's CERT-In, urging users to update their browsers immediately or discontinue use by April 17. This vulnerability allows attackers to bypass Chrome's sandbox protection with minimal user interaction. Google has released an emergency update to address this issue, while Kaspersky highlighted the sophistication of the malware involved. This incident underscores the growing threats in cybersecurity, necessitating robust defenses and timely updates to protect users across various platforms.

### AI Apps: Stay Alert to Security Threats, Warns CERT-In SHARE

29-Mar-25

India's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has issued an advisory highlighting the vulnerabilities in

Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications, warning users to be cautious when engaging with them. The advisory outlines risks like data poisoning, adversarial attacks, and prompt injection, which could compromise the security and reliability of AI tools. Users are advised to employ anonymous accounts for AI services and refrain from sharing sensitive information. The growing use of AI in various sectors underscores the need for heightened vigilance, as malicious actors may exploit these technologies to conduct attacks, making it essential for users to prioritize safety and due diligence in their interactions with AI applications.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Nearly 31 lakh defence pensioners onboarded to SPARSH portal.



29-Mar-25

Approximately 31 lakh out of 32 lakh defence pensioners have successfully onboarded onto the System for Pension Administration - Raksha (SPARSH), a Digital India initiative launched in October 2020, which streamlines the management of defence pensions. This platform enhances transparency and efficiency, enabling direct bank transfers for pensions and providing real-time access to pensioners' data. To assist those less tech-savvy, SPARSH Service Centers have been established, alongside outreach programs to resolve issues. The transition from multiple agencies to a unified system significantly reduces errors and delays in pension disbursement, ensuring veterans receive timely support and enabling them to address grievances effectively.

### Veteran Achievers Award: Honoring Extraordinary Contributions



29-Mar-25

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff, honored three distinguished veterans during his visit to Chandimandir on 29 March 2025 with the Veteran Achievers Award. Colonel Harjit Singh Ahuja has inspired youth through blood donation and social service, while Colonel Vijay Kumar Seth has dedicated years to training veterans' children and ensuring dignified last rites for the underprivileged. Sepoy Harjinder Singh, a Kargil war veteran, showcased remarkable bravery by rescuing individuals in peril despite his injuries. These awards reflect the Indian Army's commitment to recognizing contributions beyond military service, fostering a culture of community service and valor among its members.

## Coast Guard Trainee Officer Dies During Routine Training in Kerala



29-Mar-25

A tragic incident occurred at the Indian Naval Academy in Ezhimala, Kannur district, where a 24-year-old Coast Guard trainee officer, Assistant Commandant Rabijith R, collapsed during a routine training exercise and could not be revived despite medical efforts. He was a promising student who began his training in December 2024 as part of the 41st Naval Orientation Course. The Indian Navy has initiated an inquiry to understand the circumstances of the incident and is providing comprehensive support to his family during this difficult time. This unfortunate event highlights the rigorous training environment of the Indian defense forces and their commitment to supporting personnel and their families.

## Miscellaneous

### Indian Air Force engineer murdered in Prayagraj residence.



29-Mar-25

An Indian Air Force engineer, 51-year-old SN Mishra, was tragically shot dead at his official residence in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, by an unknown assailant while he slept. He sustained a serious chest injury and succumbed to his wounds at a nearby Army hospital. Mishra leaves behind a wife, son, and daughter, and authorities are investigating the incident, with a case to be registered following a family complaint. This incident underscores the vulnerability faced by defense personnel in domestic settings, highlighting the need for enhanced security measures for those serving the nation. Such acts of violence against defense workers threaten morale and stability, necessitating a robust response from law enforcement.

### Sonapur Residents Plan Legal Action Against IAF Station Dispute



29-Mar-25

Residents of Sonapur are escalating their opposition to the Indian Air Force (IAF) Station in Digaru by planning to file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) against the district administration's enforcement of construction restrictions under the Works of Defence Act, 1903. The Brihattar Sonapur Gaon Suraksha Samiti demands the station's relocation, citing unfair encroachments on their rights and threatening protests if their demands are not met. They have also called for IAF personnel to

vacate local accommodations. This situation reflects growing tensions between civilian life and defense operations in the region, emphasizing the need for a balanced approach to both security and community rights.

## Indian Army's Mendher Battalion Hosts Iftar for Poonch Unity

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29-Mar-25

The Mendher Battalion of the Indian Army hosted an Iftar for local Hindu and Muslim communities in Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir, fostering communal harmony. Participants, including representatives from both communities, expressed gratitude towards the Army for their efforts in maintaining peace and supporting civilians. Ramesh Chandra Bali highlighted the importance of Hindu-Muslim brotherhood, while Mohammad Shariq appreciated the Army's role in providing assistance to locals, such as addressing water issues. This initiative showcases the Indian Army's commitment to community engagement and reinforces its dual role in safeguarding borders and supporting civilian welfare in sensitive regions.

## Trump Calls Modi a 'Smart Man' Amid Trade Negotiations

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29-Mar-25

US President Donald Trump praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "smart man" and a "great friend," expressing optimism about ongoing India-US tariff negotiations following Modi's visit in February. Trump announced a 25% tariff on imported vehicles, emphasizing the need for reciprocal tariffs, particularly targeting India for its high auto tariffs. This move is intended to encourage domestic manufacturing in the US. Trump's comments highlight the complexities of trade relations, where the focus is on fair reciprocity, reflecting the broader geopolitical dynamics between India and the US while potentially benefiting India's manufacturing sector through increased attention to trade negotiations.

## Kashmir Police Act Against Pro-Palestine Rally Over Law Issues

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29-Mar-25

A pro-Palestine rally in Budgam, Kashmir, during the Youm-e-Quds procession led to law and order concerns as participants allegedly raised objectionable slogans and blocked a major road. The police have booked the rally's organizers under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, emphasizing the necessity for public peace and order. This incident highlights the

delicate balance the Indian authorities must maintain in regions with diverse sentiments, reinforcing the need for vigilance against activities that could potentially escalate tensions. Legal actions are ongoing, showcasing the government's commitment to upholding law and order while navigating complex geopolitical expressions like solidarity with international causes.

## Bharat Forge Boosts U.S. Car Component Output Amid Trade Shifts

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29-Mar-25

Bharat Forge is increasing its production of passenger car components in the U.S. amidst impending tariffs on imported automobiles, which may impact global trade dynamics. The company, which exports around 20% of its auto components to the U.S., is also making significant strides in the defense sector, having secured a ₹6,900 crore artillery contract, with ₹4,100 crore designated for Bharat Forge. This aligns with India's larger ₹70,000 crore artillery modernization program, positioning Bharat Forge favorably for future defense projects. With a market capitalization of ₹55,348.32 crore, the company is well-placed to navigate current trade uncertainties and bolster its defense capabilities.

## ISRO Achieves 1,000-Hour Test of Advanced Plasma Thruster

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29-Mar-25

ISRO has successfully completed a 1,000-hour life test of its Stationary Plasma Thruster, designed for future spacecraft electric propulsion systems, potentially replacing traditional chemical propulsion. This advancement will significantly enhance satellite transponder capacity by utilizing Xenon as a propellant, achieving a Specific Impulse at least six times greater than conventional systems. The thruster's reliability was tested under space-simulated vacuum conditions, with monitored erosion data critical for predicting thruster lifespan. The system will be integrated into ISRO's upcoming Technology Demonstration Satellite (TDS-01), marking a significant milestone in India's pursuit of advanced space technology and bolstering its capabilities in satellite orbit management.

## Indian Firms Collaborate with China for ₹25,000 Crore Incentive Scheme

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29-Mar-25

Indian firms are actively seeking partnerships with Chinese suppliers as the government prepares to roll out a ₹25,000 crore electronics component incentive scheme aimed at boosting domestic production. Major



players like Dixon Technologies and Micromax are forming joint ventures to enhance their competitiveness and navigate global supply chains. This shift towards collaboration with Chinese firms reflects a pragmatic approach by the Indian government to integrate domestic companies while maintaining oversight. The initiative aims to significantly increase India's electronics manufacturing value addition, aligning with the broader goal of achieving \$500 billion in production by 2030, ultimately strengthening the country's position in the global electronics market.

## Cabinet Greenlights ₹22,919 Crore Scheme to Boost Electronics

**Manufacturing**  **SHARE**

29-Mar-25

The Indian Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 22,919 crore production-linked incentive scheme aimed at boosting the manufacturing of passive electronic components, projected to create 91,600 jobs and attract Rs 59,350 crore in investments. This initiative is critical as it addresses an anticipated deficit of USD 248 billion in non-semiconductor components by 2030, with the current production at USD 13 billion expected to rise to USD 20.7 billion by 2026. The scheme not only aims to reduce reliance on imports but will also serve various sectors such as telecom, consumer electronics, and automobiles, significantly enhancing India's self-reliance in electronics manufacturing.

## India Develops Three Small Modular Reactors to Boost Nuclear Power

 **SHARE**

29-Mar-25

India is advancing its nuclear capabilities by developing three types of small modular reactors (SMRs), as reported by Union Minister Jitendra Singh. The government aims to establish a fleet of Bharat Small Reactors, targeting 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047, with significant contributions from the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited. The proposed reactors include the 200 MW and 55 MW Pressurised Water Reactors, as well as a 5 MW Indian Gas Cooled Reactor aimed at hydrogen production for decarbonization. With a budget allocation of Rs 20,000 crore, these indigenous technologies will support energy-intensive industries and remote locations, ultimately enhancing India's green energy strategy.

## ISRO's Semi-Cryogenic Engine Breakthrough Boosts Launch Capacity

 **SHARE**

29-Mar-25

ISRO has made significant progress in developing a semi-cryogenic engine (SE2000) that will enhance the LVM3 launch vehicle's payload capacity from 4 to 5 tonnes in GTO. The successful hot test of the Power Head Test Article (PHTA) marks a crucial milestone in realizing this high-thrust engine, which utilizes non-toxic propellants—Liquid Oxygen and Kerosene. This advanced propulsion technology is only mastered by a few nations and showcases India's growing capabilities in the space sector, bolstered by indigenous industry partnerships. The establishment of a state-of-the-art testing facility further emphasizes India's commitment to advancing its space program and enhancing its strategic defense capabilities.

## Maharashtra to Build Rs 13.46 Crore Memorial for 26/11 Hero Omble

 **SHARE**

29-Mar-25

The Maharashtra government has allocated Rs 13.46 crore for a memorial honoring Tukaram Omble, the Mumbai police officer who heroically captured terrorist Ajmal Kasab during the 26/11 attacks. Omble, who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting his team, was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra for his bravery. The memorial will be built in his native village, reflecting the state's commitment to recognizing valor and sacrifice in the face of terrorism. Additionally, efforts are underway to extradite Tahawwur Hussain Rana from the US, who is implicated in the 26/11 conspiracy, further underscoring India's determination to seek justice for the victims of this tragic event.

## NSIL Sees 43% Revenue Surge in FY25, Profit Jumps 54%

 **SHARE**

29-Mar-25

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm, has reported a remarkable 43% revenue growth in FY25, reaching Rs 3,026.09 crore, with a 54% increase in profit before tax to Rs 1,242.12 crore. NSIL is focusing on enhancing India's space capabilities, including a contract with HAL for manufacturing five Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV). The government's commitment is evident, with the space budget nearly tripling since 2013-14, and plans for expanding the commercial space sector through public-private partnerships. This strategic direction aims to boost India's space economy significantly, projecting

growth from \$8 billion to \$44 billion, aligning with the vision of a developed India by 2047.

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