



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### ALH Chopper Fleet Grounded for 84 Days; LCH Purchase Approved

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30-Mar-25

India's Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) fleet remains grounded for over 84 days following a crash that highlighted potential design flaws, particularly in the swashplate assembly. The Indian government has approved the purchase of 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) for \$7.3 billion, which may bolster aerial capabilities while concerns about ALH safety could hinder its international market appeal. HAL maintains that the design is sound despite recent accidents, but the ALHs have faced scrutiny due to recurring technical issues and a history of crashes, raising doubts about their reliability. This situation underscores the need for continuous improvement in indigenous defense technologies to ensure operational readiness and international confidence.

### US Engine Arrival Boosts India's Military Aviation and Tejas LCA

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30-Mar-25

The delivery of the GE F404 engine has sparked optimism in New Delhi, addressing previous delays that had raised concerns within the Indian Air Force (IAF) due to a dwindling fighter fleet, now at just 30 squadrons against a target of 42. This engine is crucial for the rollout of India's indigenously developed Tejas LCA, marking a significant step in bolstering the country's military aviation capabilities. The arrival of advanced technology from the U.S. not only aids the IAF in enhancing its operational readiness but also underscores India's commitment to strengthening its defense autonomy and capabilities amidst evolving regional security dynamics.

### LCA Mk-1A Advances with New Trials Ahead of IAF Handover in 2025

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30-Mar-25

India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk-1A is progressing towards operational readiness with additional firing and electronic warfare trials ahead of its expected handover to the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Q1 FY2025-26. Following its maiden flight in March 2024 using interim F-404 engines, HAL is set to receive the first of 99 advanced F-404-IN20 engines, which will enhance the aircraft's performance and maneuverability. This development is critical as HAL aims to deliver 16-24 jets annually, bolstering India's defense capabilities and self-reliance in military aviation. The successful integration of these engines is crucial for realizing the full potential of the Tejas Mk-1A.

### India targets ₹3 lakh crore in defense production by 2029, aiming for ₹50,000 crore in exports and a major reduction in import reliance.

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30-Mar-25

India is set to achieve Rs 3 lakh crore in defense production by 2029, significantly reducing its historical import dependency, with 65% of defense equipment now manufactured domestically. The government aims for Rs 50,000 crore in defense exports, which have surged 32.5% year-on-year, reflecting India's growing role as a global defense manufacturing hub. The indigenous production focus, evidenced by 177 out of 193 contracts awarded to domestic industries in 2024-25, is fostering economic growth and job creation. This ambitious strategy reinforces India's commitment to self-reliance and innovation in defense, enhancing its strategic position internationally while bolstering local industries.

## Indian Army and Air Force to Acquire 800 Km Range BrahMos Missiles



30-Mar-25

The Indian Army and Air Force are set to enhance their capabilities with the acquisition of around 250 BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, boasting a striking range of over 800 km. This move, recently cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council, aims to bolster military readiness in diverse terrains. While the BrahMos missile system is primarily produced in collaboration with Russia, India is making strides towards indigenisation, supported by private sector contributions. The successful export of BrahMos to countries like the Philippines underscores its global appeal, as BrahMos Aerospace develops next-generation variants in India, thereby reinforcing India's position in the defense manufacturing landscape.

## Dynatomic Technologies Marks 30 Years of Advancing Indian Military Aviation



30-Mar-25

Dynatomic Technologies has celebrated its three-decade partnership with the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), emphasizing its critical role in advancing India's military aviation capabilities. The collaboration has significantly contributed to projects like the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, fostering over 50% indigenous content, aligning with the Make in India initiative. CEO Udayant Malhoutra highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance production timelines and explore future projects such as the Tejas Mk2 and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). This partnership underscores India's transition from reliance on imports to a robust domestic defense industry, showcasing the synergy between innovative design and manufacturing expertise in bolstering national defense readiness.

## Indian Army Teams with NSIL/ADRIN to Create LAKSHYA-PT Software



30-Mar-25

The Indian Army has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NewSpace India Limited and ADRIN to develop the LAKSHYA-PT precision targeting software, an advanced solution aimed at enhancing target acquisition capabilities. This indigenous software leverages high-resolution satellite imagery to achieve sub-decameter accuracy, thereby revolutionizing precision strikes in modern warfare while promoting self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. By integrating advanced 3D mapping and real-time intelligence, LAKSHYA-PT strengthens the

sensor-to-shooter link, ensuring rapid responses on the battlefield. This development not only reduces dependency on foreign systems but also embodies India's growing capabilities in defense technology, particularly crucial along contested borders with Pakistan and China.

## Morocco's Army Eyes India's Akash-NG Air Defense System



30-Mar-25

The Royal Moroccan Army is interested in India's Akash-NG air defense system, following a visit by an Indian delegation showcasing military technologies. The Akash-NG, developed by DRDO, offers enhanced capabilities against aerial threats and includes a technology transfer agreement, fostering Morocco's domestic defense industry and job creation. This system's range of over 70 kilometers complements Morocco's existing arsenal, which includes systems from China and Israel, and underscores the strategic advantage of affordability and technological collaboration. The partnership reflects India's growing influence in global defense markets and Morocco's commitment to modernizing its air defense capabilities.

## IAF's Tejas Mk1A Program to Focus on Indigenous Weapons Integration



30-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to procure 97 additional Tejas Mk1A fighter jets from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to address its diminishing squadron strength. Key upgrades will include a GaN-based AESA Fire Control Radar and the Astra MkIII missile, enhancing air combat capabilities while avoiding extensive hardware modifications. This pragmatic approach allows for timely integration and supports India's AatmaNirbhar Bharat initiative for self-reliance in defense. With production facing delays, the IAF's strategy emphasizes rapid induction of capable fighters, ensuring it remains competitive against adversaries and maintains production efficiency while boosting indigenous defense capabilities.

## DRDO Launches RudraM-III: Su-30 MKI Boosts Strike Power



30-Mar-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has unveiled the RudraM-III air-to-surface missile, enhancing the capabilities of the Su-30 MKI fighter jet, which can now carry four of these missiles in a Heavy Strike Mode configuration. The RudraM-III, with a range of 550-600 km and a 200 kg

warhead, is designed for Suppression of Enemy Air Defences and ground attacks. Its advanced guidance systems and hypersonic speed make it effective against fortified military installations while maintaining standoff capabilities. This development signifies India's strategic shift toward overwhelming enemy defenses through saturation strikes, bolstering its deterrence posture in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

## IAF Backs Kaveri Engine for Tejas Mk1A, Eyes Self-Reliance

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30-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to support the revival of the Kaveri engine program to power the Tejas Mk1A, aiming to replace the GE F404 engines. This strategic move reflects India's push for self-reliance in aerospace, with plans for over 700 engines needed for a fleet of 220 Tejas jets over 40 years. The immediate focus is on the Kaveri Engine Derivative (KDE), targeting a thrust of 73-74 kN, while the ambitious Kaveri 2.0 is envisioned to achieve 90 kN to meet future requirements. This initiative highlights the significance of indigenous capabilities amid geopolitical risks and the IAF's commitment to modernizing its fleet.

## Ashok Leyland Bags Rs 700 Crore Defence Orders, Boosts Military Mobility

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30-Mar-25

Ashok Leyland has secured over Rs 700 crore in defense orders from the Indian Army, reinforcing its status as a leader in military mobility solutions. The contracts include specialized vehicles like the Stallion 44 and 66 trucks, enhancing the Army's operational capabilities across diverse terrains. With a legacy spanning over fifty years and proven performance in conflicts like the Kargil War, Ashok Leyland emphasizes its commitment to delivering advanced and reliable solutions for modern military needs. This development highlights the growing collaboration between the defense industry and armed forces in strengthening India's operational readiness and adaptability in challenging environments.

## Indian Army Enhances Protection for Canine Warriors with Smart Gear

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30-Mar-25

The Indian Army is enhancing the protection and care of its canine warriors by developing advanced protective gear, including lightweight bulletproof vests and smart collars. These innovations aim to mitigate risks faced by military dogs during high-stakes

operations, ensuring their safety and operational effectiveness. The smart collars will monitor vital health parameters in real-time, while the modular vests are designed to balance protection and agility, crucial for missions along the Line of Control. As strategic assets, these dogs have proven integral in counter-terrorism and rescue operations, and equipping them with improved gear is essential for preserving their invaluable contributions to national security.

## PM Modi to Launch Advanced UAV Airstrip and Testing Facility in Nagpur

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30-Mar-25

Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited is set to inaugurate a cutting-edge UAV airstrip and munition testing facility in Nagpur, presided over by Prime Minister Modi on March 30, 2025. This 1,250-meter airstrip will enhance India's indigenous UAV capabilities, supporting the testing of advanced munitions such as the Nagastra-1 Loitering Munition. The investment of Rs 10,000 crore over the next decade aims to position Nagpur as a hub for drone technology, reflecting India's commitment to bolstering its defense infrastructure. This initiative underscores the nation's strategic focus on enhancing UAV and munitions reliability, crucial in modern warfare contexts.

## Indian Army Teams Up with Private Sector to Upgrade T-90s for Anti-Drone Defense

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30-Mar-25

The Indian Army is collaborating with the private sector to enhance the anti-drone capabilities of its T-90 Bhishma tanks by integrating an autonomous anti-aircraft gun (AAG). This upgrade aims to address vulnerabilities highlighted in modern warfare, allowing for 360-degree detection and engagement of low-speed aerial threats without constant human input. Key innovations include AI algorithms for target recognition and specially designed fragmentation rounds for effective drone neutralization. This development reflects India's proactive measures in defense modernization, ensuring that the T-90 remains a formidable asset against evolving aerial threats, thereby enhancing operational effectiveness and crew safety.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### India's Strategic Advantage Over China's Air Force in the Himalayas SHARE

30-Mar-25

India's geographical advantages, coupled with lower altitude airbases, provide a significant edge over China's air force in potential conflicts along their shared border. While China's PLAAF operates from high-altitude bases that limit aircraft performance, India's IAF benefits from better payload capacities and quicker response times. The logistical challenges faced by China, due to distance from its industrial hubs and sparse forward airfields, require it to field more aircraft to maintain operational effectiveness. Ultimately, India's smaller yet experienced air fleet, along with its strategic infrastructure, positions it favorably against China's larger force in the challenging Himalayan theater.

### Hamis accepts ceasefire proposal; Israel counters with new terms. SHARE

30-Mar-25

Israel and Hamas are engaged in a tense back-and-forth regarding ceasefire negotiations, with Hamas accepting a proposal mediated by Egypt and Qatar, while Israel has made a counter-offer coordinated with the U.S. Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu emphasized the effectiveness of military pressure on Hamas, suggesting that their demands are beginning to waver. The ongoing conflict, which escalated after Hamas' attack on October 7, 2023, has resulted in significant casualties and destruction in Gaza, with Israel's military operations intensifying. The situation remains volatile as families of hostages rally for their safe return, highlighting the profound human stakes involved in these negotiations amidst the broader geopolitical implications of the conflict.

### Ukraine Denounces Russia for 'War Crime' in Hospital Attack SHARE

30-Mar-25

Ukraine has accused Russia of committing a "war crime" following a strike on a military hospital in Kharkiv, which resulted in casualties among military personnel and civilians. As ceasefire efforts backed by the US falter, President Zelensky criticized Russia for delaying negotiations, emphasizing the need for international pressure to achieve a halt to hostilities. Meanwhile, Russia claims to have captured two Ukrainian villages and continues to assert its influence

over the conflict, seeking to undermine Zelensky's administration. The situation underscores the complexities and challenges in reaching a ceasefire amidst ongoing military actions and geopolitical maneuvering.

### India and Morocco Strengthen Defense Collaboration Through Talks SHARE

30-Mar-25

India and Morocco are strengthening their defense ties, highlighted by a recent meeting between Moroccan Ambassador Mohammed Al Malki and Indian Secretary of Defence Production Sanjeev Kumar in New Delhi. The discussions focused on enhancing military-industrial collaboration, reflecting Morocco's interest in India's defense sector, particularly its indigenous technologies like the Akash-NG air defense system. This partnership aims to diversify Morocco's defense acquisitions beyond traditional suppliers while benefiting from India's cost-effective solutions. The meeting builds on a long-standing relationship, further solidified by numerous previous engagements and an anticipated formal memorandum of understanding on defense cooperation.

## Military Operations

### India Launches Operation Brahma to Assist Earthquake-Hit Myanmar SHARE

30-Mar-25

India has launched Operation Brahma, a comprehensive humanitarian mission to assist Myanmar following a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that has reportedly left over 1,600 dead and thousands injured. The operation includes the deployment of two Indian Navy ships, INS Satpura and INS Savitri, along with two additional vessels, carrying a total of 137 tonnes of relief material, medical support, and rescue teams, including 80 personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) equipped with rescue tools and trained dogs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed India's commitment to being the 'First Responder' in the region, reflecting India's proactive approach to disaster relief and its strategic ties with Myanmar. This operation underscores India's commitment to regional stability and support, enhancing its role as a key player in humanitarian assistance in Southeast Asia.



## IAF to Join Multi-National Air Exercise INIOCHOS-25 in Greece [SHARE](#)

30-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in the multi-national Exercise INIOCHOS-25, hosted by the Hellenic Air Force in Greece from 31 March to 11 April 2025. The IAF contingent will feature Su-30 MKI fighters, along with IL-78 and C-17 aircraft, enhancing international cooperation and interoperability among fifteen participating nations. This biennial exercise aims to refine tactics in complex air warfare scenarios and strengthen military ties, reflecting India's commitment to global defense cooperation and operational excellence. Overall, IAF's involvement underscores India's strategic partnerships and bolsters its capabilities for joint operations, fostering mutual learning and effective coordination with allied air forces.

## Indian Navy Trains 44 Foreign Personnel in Maritime Security [SHARE](#)

30-Mar-25

The Indian Navy's IOS Sagar mission has trained 44 personnel from nine friendly foreign countries, enhancing maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. Hosted in Kochi, this initiative facilitates high-level training and operational familiarization for participants from nations such as Kenya and Mauritius, with a focus on tackling maritime security threats. Navy officials emphasize that these efforts, including the upcoming AIKEYME exercise in Tanzania, underscore India's commitment as a preferred security partner in the region. The training not only strengthens bilateral relations but also aims to enhance interoperability among regional navies, highlighting India's proactive stance in promoting maritime security and collaboration.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

## 50 Naxalites Surrender in Bijapur Ahead of PM's Visit to Chhattisgarh [SHARE](#)

30-Mar-25

Recently, significant developments have occurred in Chhattisgarh regarding the surrender of Naxalites as part of ongoing government efforts to reintegrate them into society. In Bijapur, 50 Naxalites surrendered, motivated by disillusionment with Maoist ideology and impressed by security forces' initiatives like the Niya Nellanar scheme. Similarly, in Dantewada, 15 Maoists

surrendered under the Lon Varratu campaign, which promotes abandoning violence and offers rehabilitative support. These initiatives, backed by effective security operations, have resulted in 927 surrenders this year, reflecting a concerted effort to dismantle Maoist influence and restore peace in the region. The Chhattisgarh government's progressive rehabilitation policies and community engagement are pivotal in addressing the root causes of Naxalism and fostering stability in affected areas.

## 12 Terrorists Killed in Pakistan Drone Strikes Amid Civilian Losses [SHARE](#)

30-Mar-25

In a recent counter-terrorism operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, 12 terrorists were killed, but the operation also resulted in civilian casualties, including women and children. The provincial government expressed regret over these unintended losses and emphasized its commitment to minimizing collateral damage while targeting militants. Officials stated that the operation was based on credible intelligence and acknowledged the complexities of conducting such missions in populated areas. The provincial administration has vowed to support the affected families and conduct an inquiry into the civilian deaths, reaffirming its dedication to eradicating terrorism while prioritizing civilian safety.

## Goa Police Enhance Security After IED Threat Email Received [SHARE](#)

30-Mar-25

Goa Police have heightened security measures following an email threatening an IED attack on the Director General of Police's office. The threat was received early on Saturday, prompting the immediate activation of standard operating procedures by the police's security unit and District Police, who are conducting thorough checks. Additionally, the cybercrime unit is investigating the email's origins to ascertain its credibility. This incident highlights ongoing security concerns in India, emphasizing the need for vigilance and proactive measures by law enforcement to counter potential threats. The swift response from Goa Police reflects their preparedness to deal with such challenges effectively.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Colonel Bath's Family Urges CBI Probe in Assault Case to Rajnath SHARE

30-Mar-25

The family of Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath, who was brutally assaulted alongside his son, met with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to demand a CBI investigation, expressing distrust in the Punjab Police. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has also questioned the state government's delay in filing an FIR related to the incident. Col Bath's wife, Jaswinder Kaur, emphasized the need for justice, drawing a parallel between their plight and the responsibilities of leaders to protect their citizens. The family's ongoing efforts highlight the importance of accountability in law enforcement and the need for swift justice in protecting military personnel and their families.

## Miscellaneous

### Myanmar shaken by 5.1 aftershock amid deepening humanitarian crisis SHARE

30-Mar-25

A 5.1 magnitude aftershock struck near Mandalay, Myanmar, following a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that caused over 1,600 fatalities and left more than 3,400 people missing. The disaster, exacerbated by an ongoing humanitarian crisis post-2021 military coup, has severely strained the country's infrastructure, with nearly 20 million people facing food and shelter shortages. The military's inadequate response to the crisis has led to public frustration, as citizens criticize their failure to assist in rescue operations while continuing airstrikes on rebel-held areas. The situation highlights Myanmar's dire need for effective governance and humanitarian support to recover from this catastrophic event.

### Rajnath Singh Celebrates Cultural Festivals, Promotes Unity & Progress SHARE

30-Mar-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and President Droupadi Murmu, extended heartfelt greetings on various festivals like Gudi Padwa, Ugadi, and Chaitra Navratri, celebrating India's cultural diversity and unity. Singh emphasized that these festivals symbolize joy, harmony, and shared

progress, while Shah highlighted the importance of brotherhood and mutual respect. President Murmu called for renewed energy and unity to elevate the nation, reminding citizens of the significance of these festivals in marking the Indian New Year and expressing gratitude to nature. Collectively, their messages promote societal cohesion and reflect a strong commitment to national values amidst cultural celebrations.

### Tech Firms Seek Specialized AI Talent Amid Job Market Shifts SHARE

30-Mar-25

The tech industry is witnessing a surge in demand for specialized AI roles such as prompt engineers and AI ethicists, amidst layoffs and a competitive job market. These positions, along with others in AI/ML cybersecurity and cloud technology, command 15-25% higher salaries than traditional IT roles. Organizations are seeking professionals with diverse skill sets, emphasizing the importance of both broad knowledge and deep expertise. Despite a subdued IT environment, leadership roles with technical acumen remain highly sought after, reflecting a dynamic landscape where niche talents are increasingly valuable. This trend underscores the evolving nature of the tech job market driven by advancements in artificial intelligence.

### India and US Set for Targeted Talks on Bilateral Trade Agreement SHARE

30-Mar-25

India and the US are poised to hold sector-specific talks to establish a proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) aimed at doubling bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030. These discussions, prompted by the threat of reciprocal tariffs, will focus on reducing barriers and enhancing supply chain integration while protecting sensitive sectors like agriculture. Key US demands include concessions in automobiles and industrial goods, while India seeks to safeguard its labor-intensive sectors. This ongoing dialogue reinforces the strategic partnership between India and the US, reflecting India's commitment to fostering resilient trade relations amidst global economic pressures.

### Chhattisgarh sees 267 LWE incidents in 2024, a notable decline. SHARE

30-Mar-25

In 2024, Chhattisgarh witnessed a significant decrease in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) violence, recording 267 incidents, down from 305 in 2023; deaths related to LWE violence also fell by 85% from 1,005 in 2010 to 150

in 2024. The proactive counter-LWE operations by security forces led to the elimination of 16 Maoists in Sukma, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah emphasizing the government's commitment to eradicating Naxalism by March 31, 2026. The reduction in LWE-affected districts from 126 to 38 since 2018 reflects the effectiveness of ongoing security measures, highlighting progress in restoring peace and stability in the region.

## 636 Indian Nationals Deported from US Since 2025 Amid Legal Reforms



30-Mar-25

Since January 2025, 636 Indian nationals have been deported from the US, with the government verifying an additional 295 individuals detained by US authorities. The Minister of State for External Affairs emphasized the obligation of countries to repatriate nationals living illegally abroad, a principle acknowledged in international relations. The Indian government is negotiating frameworks to streamline legal mobility while combating illegal immigration and human trafficking. Assistance and reintegration support for returnees are being provided as per existing rules, showcasing India's commitment to addressing immigration challenges proactively while ensuring the welfare of its nationals.

## Mumbai Police Enforces 60-Day Ban on Balloons, Paragliding Near Airport



30-Mar-25

Mumbai police have implemented a 60-day ban on paragliding, flying balloons, and the use of light-emitting objects in the free flight zone of the Mumbai international airport due to safety concerns. The ban, effective from March 31 to May 29, aims to mitigate risks to aviation operations, as these activities have previously endangered aircraft during landings and take-offs. By prohibiting such distractions, the police are safeguarding the aviation sector's integrity, reflecting a proactive approach to maintaining air traffic safety. Those who violate the order will face legal consequences, highlighting the seriousness of the measures taken to protect passengers and aircraft.

## PM Modi to Join BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand Amid Earthquake



30-Mar-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand on April 3-4, focusing on regional

cooperation and maritime collaboration, despite the recent earthquake in Myanmar affecting the area. The summit aims to adopt the Bangkok Vision 2030, promoting peace, stability, and economic sustainability among member nations, including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Modi will also engage in bilateral discussions with Thai leaders and later visit Sri Lanka to review cooperative projects and partnerships. This engagement underscores India's commitment to enhancing regional ties and addressing shared challenges, reinforcing its role as a key player in South Asian geopolitics.

## British MP Proposes PoK Airport, Faces Local Backlash



30-Mar-25

British MP Tahir Ali has proposed the construction of an international airport in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), specifically in Mirpur, which has sparked criticism for prioritizing foreign issues over local problems in Birmingham, his constituency. Critics, including Shadow Justice Secretary Robert Jenrick, highlighted the pressing waste crisis in Birmingham, suggesting Ali should focus on domestic issues instead. Although supporters argue that an airport could enhance trade and tourism between the UK and PoK, this proposal has brought to light the tension between local responsibilities and international advocacy in political discourse. The situation underscores the complexities of diaspora politics and the implications of such initiatives on bilateral relations.

## India Rejects False Claims of RAW Agent Ties to Bengaluru Passport Office



30-Mar-25

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has dismissed allegations from a Pakistani journalist claiming that Bengaluru's Regional Passport Officer, Ajit John Joshua, is a RAW agent involved in a hijacking incident in Balochistan. The claims suggest Joshua is orchestrating terrorism from abroad, alleging ties to separatist groups. This incident highlights ongoing misinformation campaigns aimed at undermining India's reputation and intelligence operations. By refuting these baseless allegations, India reaffirms its commitment to countering false narratives and protecting its diplomatic personnel, demonstrating resilience in the face of disinformation efforts aimed at destabilizing regional security.

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