



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### IAF's Enhanced Su-30MKI with Virupaksha Radar Ready to Outclass Pakistan's J-35A



31-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to enhance its Sukhoi Su-30MKI fleet with the indigenous Virupaksha radar and Astra MkIII missile, offering a strategic advantage over Pakistan's potential acquisition of the Chinese J-35A stealth aircraft. The Virupaksha radar, utilizing advanced GaN technology, is expected to effectively detect stealth targets at significant distances, while the Astra MkIII missile boasts superior range and speed over its counterparts. This upgrade, part of the "Super Sukhoi" program, aims to elevate the Su-30MKI to a 4.5+ generation standard and bolster India's defense capabilities, serving as both a technological and psychological deterrent against Pakistani threats.

### PM Modi Opens Loitering Munition Test Range to Boost Defense Capabilities



31-Mar-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Loitering Munition Test Range at Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited in Nagpur, which will support the development of the Nagastra-1 suicide drone, enhancing India's military capabilities. The Indian Army has ordered 480 Nagastra-1 drones, designed for precision strikes to save soldiers' lives. Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government aims to establish a major defense project in Nagpur with an investment of approximately Rs 12,700 crore, focusing on drones and advanced munitions. The newly unveiled Nagastra-3 prototype further strengthens India's indigenous defense strategy, boasting a range of 100 kilometers and over five hours of endurance. These initiatives underscore India's commitment to self-reliance in defense, fostering technological

advancements and bolstering national security in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.

### NSTL's Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Shines in Lake Trials



31-Mar-25

In a significant advancement for India's underwater defense capabilities, the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) successfully tested its High Endurance Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (HEAUV) in controlled lake environments, demonstrating exceptional dynamics in both surface and submerged conditions across multiple runs. This unmanned vehicle, currently developed at NSTL in Visakhapatnam, is engineered for high endurance and versatility, poised to undertake critical missions such as anti-submarine warfare, mine countermeasures, and oceanographic surveillance. The flawless performance of its advanced sonar and communication systems during the trials validated its design and operational capabilities, showcasing robust command and control through dual-mode operations of radio frequency and acoustic signals. The HEAUV, weighing approximately 8 tons and equipped with electric propulsion, is designed for extended missions of up to two weeks, emphasizing India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. By developing indigenous platforms that can rival foreign systems like the Boeing Orca XLUV and Kongsberg Hugin Endurance, NSTL is not only reducing India's reliance on imports but also fostering innovation in underwater robotics, positioning the HEAUV as a game-changer for the Indian Navy in securing its maritime borders, particularly as security challenges rise in the Indian Ocean Region.

### Parliamentary Committee Urges HAL to Fix Tejas and Dhruv Issues for National Defense Readiness



31-Mar-25

A parliamentary committee has criticized Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for systemic inefficiencies affecting the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft program and

the grounding of the Dhruv helicopters, jeopardizing India's defense readiness. Delays in the Tejas program, crucial for replacing outdated MiG-21s, threaten national security amid regional tensions, while the Dhruv's grounding raises safety concerns. The committee urged HAL to adopt reforms to improve operational efficiency and support the government's "Make in India" initiative. The current situation highlights the urgent need for HAL to enhance its capabilities to restore confidence and ensure the armed forces' operational requirements are met effectively.

## Indian Army Boosts Combat Readiness with Advanced Targeting Tech

31-Mar-25

The Indian Army is significantly enhancing its combat readiness through indigenous technologies, including the LAKSHYA-PT precision targeting software and an Integrated Air Defence Combat Simulator developed in partnership with Zen Technologies. These advancements are part of India's broader push for self-reliance in defense, illustrated by the deployment of Project Sanjay for real-time battlefield surveillance. This strategy not only reduces dependence on foreign military technologies but also strengthens India's defense manufacturing capabilities, supported by public-private partnerships. Overall, these initiatives represent a critical evolution in India's military modernization and operational effectiveness, positioning it as a leader in global defense technology.

## India Rejects NYT Claims on HAL, Calls Report Misleading

31-Mar-25

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has dismissed a New York Times report alleging Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) rerouted sensitive technology to Russia, labeling it "factually incorrect and misleading." The MEA asserted that HAL adheres to international trade regulations, emphasizing India's legal framework for strategic trade. The report claimed HAL received restricted technology from a British firm and transferred similar components to Russia, but it lacked direct proof of these products reaching Russian entities. India criticized the New York Times for failing to verify facts, reinforcing its commitment to compliance with international obligations and the integrity of its defense industry operations.

## RAFAEL Showcases TYPHOON 30's Counter-UAS Capabilities

31-Mar-25

RAFAEL Advanced Defense Systems has successfully tested its TYPHOON 30 Remote Weapon Station (RWS) in Israel, demonstrating its capabilities in counter-unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS) operations. The test showcased the system's advanced electro-optical targeting and automatic fire correction, highlighting its adaptability for various platforms and operational environments. The TYPHOON 30, already deployed in countries like the U.S., Canada, and Australia, integrates cutting-edge technologies for effective threat detection and engagement. This development emphasizes the importance of modern defense solutions that enhance military readiness against evolving aerial threats, aligning with global trends in defense technology that India must consider for its strategic advantage.

## HAL to Deliver First TEJAS MK-1A to IAF by Q1 FY26

31-Mar-25

HAL is set to deliver the first TEJAS MK-1A fighter jet to the IAF in the first quarter of FY 2025-26, following delays primarily due to engine testing and certification issues. Despite these setbacks, HAL has ramped up production efforts, establishing a third production line and negotiating technology transfer for F-414 engine manufacturing in India. The TEJAS MK-1A features significant upgrades, including advanced avionics and an electronic warfare suite, and is integral to India's strategy to modernize its air force and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers. The IAF has expressed concerns over these delays, but HAL's commitment to meeting its obligations remains strong, with plans for additional orders anticipated.

## Indian Air Force Backs Kaveri Engine Development for TEJAS Jets

31-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force is supporting the development of the Kaveri turbofan engine, which aims to replace the foreign GE F404 engines currently used in TEJAS MK-1A jets. The indigenous Kaveri engine, with a target thrust of up to 90 kN, is essential for enhancing India's defense self-reliance and operational flexibility. The Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) is focused on proving the engine's capabilities through rigorous testing, with flight testing slated for 2025. Successful development will not only significantly reduce dependence on foreign suppliers but also bolster India's aerospace capabilities, emphasizing the importance of

sustained investment and innovation in defense technology.

## **BrahMos-NG: Supersonic Missile Generates Global Buzz Ahead of 2026 Test**



31-Mar-25

The upcoming BrahMos-NG, a next-generation supersonic cruise missile, is generating significant international interest ahead of its first test flight in 2026. Weighing just 1.3 tons and capable of Mach 3.5 speeds, it offers enhanced capabilities over subsonic missiles, particularly in contested environments highlighted by the Ukraine-Russia conflict. With a range of up to 290 km, potential for extension, and adaptability to various platforms, the BrahMos-NG is poised to bolster India's defense and export potential, especially to nations wary of maritime threats. Countries like Indonesia and Vietnam are reportedly in talks for potential acquisitions, emphasizing the missile's strategic value in regional security dynamics.

## **Helina/Dhruvastra ATGM to Boost IAF Apache and LCH Capabilities**



31-Mar-25

In a notable advancement for India's indigenous defense capabilities, the Helina/Dhruvastra anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) will be integrated into the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Apache helicopters, alongside its integration with the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand. This third-generation missile enhances the IAF's firepower, reducing dependence on foreign munitions and aligning with the Make in India initiative. The integration is expected to streamline logistics and operational efficiency across helicopter platforms. Ultimately, the combination of the LCH Prachand and Helina/Dhruvastra will provide a robust indigenous solution for anti-armour missions, reinforcing India's defense autonomy while boosting the capabilities of the IAF.

## **L&T Advocates for Indigenous 110kN Engine, Seeks Government Support**



31-Mar-25

Larsen & Toubro's Jayant Damodar Patil has proposed the development of a fully indigenous 110kN thrust engine for fighter jets, emphasizing the need for government support to prioritize technical merit over the lowest cost in defense contracts. Drawing on lessons from the Kaveri engine program, Patil envisions collaboration among private players to overcome past challenges and foster innovation. He highlights the

necessity of substantial investment and skill development, while acknowledging potential foreign partnerships for critical technologies. The government's response is awaited, but initiatives like the Atmanirbhar Bharat and renewed focus on aero-engines suggest a positive trajectory for India's defense capabilities in aerospace.

## **Minnesota's Stavatti Aerospace pitches sixth-gen fighter to India.**



31-Mar-25

Stavatti Aerospace, a Minnesota-based company with no aircraft production history, has proposed its sixth-generation fighter, the SM-39 Razor, to India, targeting a cost-effective alternative in the advanced fighter jet market. CEO Chris Beskar claims the aircraft boasts impressive specifications, including Mach 4+ speeds and AI integration, but skepticism surrounds the company's ability to deliver on these promises due to its lack of a proven track record. While the potential advantages of a new, cost-effective fighter could benefit India's defense capabilities, the absence of a prototype and manufacturing experience raises significant doubts about the feasibility of such an ambitious project.

## **LCH Prachand Showcases Manned-Unmanned Teaming with Drones**



31-Mar-25

India's indigenous Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand is being showcased in a computer-generated video directing HAL's Warrior Loyal Wingman drones, highlighting the potential for Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T) capabilities. This integration aims to enhance the operational effectiveness of the Indian Air Force and Army, particularly in high-altitude environments. With 156 additional Prachand helicopters approved, and the Warrior UAV under development for autonomous operations, this initiative aligns with India's push for self-reliance in defense. The innovative use of the LCH as a command platform could revolutionize aerial combat, allowing for safer reconnaissance and target engagement while maintaining tactical advantages against adversaries.

## **DRDO Begins TARA Bomb Trials on Jaguar, Boosting Strike Power**



31-Mar-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has initiated captive trials for the indigenously developed TARA precision-guided bomb using the Indian Air Force's Jaguar aircraft, significantly

enhancing India's deep-strike capabilities. The TARA system features advanced guidance mechanisms, achieving high accuracy with a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of under 3 meters, comparable to global standards. With variants designed for different target profiles, TARA allows the IAF to engage effectively while remaining beyond enemy air defenses. This development underscores India's commitment to bolstering its aerial capabilities, adapting existing infrastructure, and ensuring operational readiness against emerging threats. The trials pave the way for future live drop tests, crucial for validating the bomb's performance.

possibility of indirect talks through intermediaries like Oman may offer a pathway to reduce tensions.

## Sweden Announces \$1.6 Billion Military Aid Package for Ukraine [SHARE](#)

31-Mar-25

Sweden has announced a substantial \$1.6 billion military aid package to Ukraine, marking its largest contribution since the onset of the conflict. The aid includes nine billion kronor for newly produced military materials, primarily sourced from the Swedish and European defense industry, with additional funds aimed at bolstering Ukraine's defense sector and utilizing existing stockpiles. Swedish Defence Minister Pal Jonson emphasized the urgency of support, especially as Ukraine approaches critical negotiations. This ongoing commitment underlines Sweden's strategic alignment with European security interests and reinforces the importance of a united front against aggression in the region.

## Netanyahu: Military Pressure on Hamas is Effective, Negotiations Shift [SHARE](#)

31-Mar-25

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that intensified military pressure on Hamas is yielding results, noting that "cracks" are appearing in the group's negotiation demands. As mediators, including Egypt, Qatar, and the US, push for a ceasefire and the release of Israeli hostages, Hamas has reportedly approved a new ceasefire proposal. However, Netanyahu insists that Hamas must lay down its arms to secure any deal, asserting Israel's commitment to overall security in Gaza. This situation underscores the complexity of the conflict, where military actions and diplomatic efforts are intertwined, demonstrating Israel's strategic resolve amidst ongoing hostilities.

## PM Modi: Congress Policies Fuel Naxalism; BJP Drives Change [SHARE](#)

31-Mar-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi criticized the Congress party for fostering Naxalism in states like Chhattisgarh due to its neglect and poor policies over the decades. He emphasized that the BJP government is transforming Maoist-affected areas through development initiatives such as Swachh Bharat and Ayushman Bharat, leading to a new era of peace and improved living conditions. Modi highlighted the BJP's commitment to fulfilling promises, contrasting it with Congress's failures to address local needs. This shift in governance is seen as pivotal in restoring trust among

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### Indian Army Chief Discusses Defense Ties with Bangladesh Amid Shifts [SHARE](#)

31-Mar-25

The recent meeting between Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma with Bangladeshi leaders underscores India's concern over Dhaka's increasing military engagement with Pakistan and economic collaboration with China. This shift in Bangladesh's geopolitical stance, marked by significant Chinese investments and a revival of military ties with Pakistan's ISI, raises alarms about the potential resurgence of anti-India militant networks. India is particularly wary of the implications for regional security, especially given the historical context of Bangladesh hosting Islamist groups with ties to Pakistan. This evolving nexus poses a challenge to India's strategic interests in South Asia, demanding a proactive defense strategy to counterbalance these developments.

### Khamenei vows strong retaliation against Trump's nuclear threats [SHARE](#)

31-Mar-25

Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has issued a stark warning of a "strong counterattack" against the US in response to President Trump's threats of military action if a new nuclear deal is not reached. Khamenei dismissed Trump's demands as "mischief," emphasizing that any US aggression would provoke a significant Iranian response. This escalation of tensions follows Trump's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement and the reimposition of severe sanctions on Iran, complicating potential negotiations. While both sides remain entrenched in their positions, the



the people, showcasing the BJP's focus on both infrastructure and welfare in conflict-affected regions.

## Yunus's Comments Raise Alarm: Is Bangladesh Eyeing Indian States? SHARE

31-Mar-25

A recent statement by Muhammad Yunus, interim Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, has sparked concern in India as he referred to the northeastern states of India, known as the Seven Sisters, highlighting Bangladesh's role as the "guardians of the ocean" due to their landlocked status. This comment is perceived as a veiled assertion of territorial ambitions, especially amid recent calls in Bangladesh for the annexation of these regions. The deteriorating India-Bangladesh relations, following Yunus's rise to power after an ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, have heightened fears of potential threats to India's security and territorial integrity, particularly given Yunus's government's alleged anti-India rhetoric and the geopolitical context involving China and Pakistan.

## Former Pakistani Senator Urges Houthi Rebels to Strike India SHARE

31-Mar-25

Former Pakistani Senator Faisal Raza Abidi has incited controversy by urging Houthi rebels to target India with missiles, claiming India's support for Israel places it against the Islamic world. His incendiary remarks tap into anti-India sentiments while promoting a violent narrative, despite lacking evidence for his accusations of Indian arms supply to Israel. While the Houthis possess missile capabilities that theoretically could reach India, such an escalation remains speculative and logistically complex. Abidi's comments highlight the ongoing geopolitical tensions in the region, reflecting Pakistan's attempts to frame its rivalry with India in religious terms, thereby undermining constructive dialogue and stability in South Asia.

## Military Operations

## Indian Air Force Showcases Skills at INIOCHOS-25 in Greece SHARE

31-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to participate in the biennial multinational air exercise INIOCHOS-25 in Greece, involving forces from countries such as the US, Israel, and France from March 31 to April 11, 2025. This exercise aims to enhance international cooperation,

tactical exchange, and operational capabilities through various complex air operations. With a contingent featuring Su-30 MKI fighters and other aircraft, the IAF's involvement underscores its commitment to global defense partnerships and operational excellence. This exercise not only strengthens India's strategic military ties but also improves interoperability among allied air forces, reflecting India's proactive approach to enhancing its defense capabilities on an international stage.

## Chhattisgarh Security Forces Achieve Major Success in Anti-Naxal Ops SHARE

31-Mar-25

Security forces in Chhattisgarh successfully executed an anti-Naxal operation, resulting in the elimination of a prominent woman Maoist, Renuka, with a bounty of Rs 25 lakh. The operation, part of ongoing efforts against Maoist insurgency in the Bastar region, was conducted in the forests of Dantewada and Bijapur, where 135 Maoists have been neutralized this year alone. Union Home Minister Amit Shah reaffirmed the government's determination to eradicate Naxalism by March 2026, highlighting the recent surrender of 50 Maoists as a sign of progress towards peace and rehabilitation. The series of encounters and surrenders underscores the Indian government's robust strategy to dismantle Maoist networks while promoting reintegration into society, reflecting a comprehensive approach to national security and stability.

## India Enhances Special Forces for Covert Warfare Excellence SHARE

31-Mar-25

India is significantly enhancing the capabilities of its special forces for covert warfare, focusing on counter-terrorism and strategic operations. Equipped with advanced weaponry like Sako sniper rifles and M4A1 carbines, as well as next-gen communication systems and loitering munitions, these forces are prepared for high-stakes missions. The establishment of the Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD) strengthens inter-service coordination, while advanced training facilities, including a vertical wind tunnel, ensure elite operators are mission-ready. With these developments, India's special forces are positioned to execute covert missions with exceptional precision and effectiveness, reinforcing the nation's defense strategy against emerging threats.

## Manipur Security Forces Conduct Sweeping Operations to Restore Order SHARE

31-Mar-25

Security forces in Manipur conducted extensive search operations across vulnerable areas, recovering a variety of arms, ammunition, and explosives, which highlights the ongoing security challenges in the region. The operations included the installation of 112 checkpoints to ensure public safety and the arrest of individuals linked to anti-social activities, including extortion. The state government has incentivized public cooperation by offering rewards for information leading to the recovery of a missing person, demonstrating a proactive approach to tackling lawlessness. These measures reflect India's commitment to maintaining order and security in Manipur amidst rising tensions and underline the importance of community engagement in overcoming local challenges.

### Terrorism and Counterterrorism

## Security forces cordon off Kathua as three terrorists flee encounter SHARE

31-Mar-25

In Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, security forces have cordoned off an area following reports of the suspected movement of three terrorists who had escaped a recent encounter, where two terrorists and four policemen were killed. The Jammu and Kashmir Police clarified that there was no snatching of weapons during the operation, dispelling rumors and asserting that all belongings of the fallen officers were recovered. The police emphasized that the terrorists fled, leaving their weapons behind due to the relentless action by the Special Operations Group. This incident underscores the ongoing challenges in counter-terrorism efforts in the region and highlights the importance of maintaining operational integrity and public trust amidst misinformation campaigns by anti-national elements. The swift response of the security forces reflects India's commitment to upholding national security in the face of persistent threats.

## Poonch Police Seize Assets of Terror Suspect Fled to POJK SHARE

31-Mar-25

Poonch Police have taken action by attaching the properties of Manzoor Ahemed, a terror suspect who fled to Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) after being declared a proclaimed offender.

Simultaneously, Baramulla Police have registered a case under the UAPA against individuals promoting terrorism during a procession by displaying Hezbollah flags and slogans. This highlights the ongoing efforts of Indian authorities to combat terrorism and maintain peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Mil Personnel & Veterans

## Colonel Bath and wife seek justice from Rajnath after assault by police SHARE

31-Mar-25

Colonel Pushpinder Bath and his wife met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi to seek justice following an alleged assault by Punjab Police officials. The incident occurred during a dispute over parking near a hospital in Patiala, raising significant concerns about police conduct and accountability. Colonel Bath has expressed frustrations regarding the difficulty in registering an FIR against the accused, prompting him to request the investigation be transferred to the CBI or another independent agency. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has also voiced concerns over the delay in arrests, highlighting the need for swift action to uphold the rule of law and maintain trust in law enforcement, especially involving military personnel.

## Odisha Honors Fallen Soldier Havildar Raj Kishore Munda SHARE

31-Mar-25

The mortal remains of Havildar Raj Kishore Munda, a soldier from the 6th Battalion, Bihar Regiment, were returned to Odisha after his tragic death in an accident while on duty in Arunachal Pradesh. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi paid tribute to Munda, emphasizing his bravery and dedication, and assured that his last rites would be conducted with full state honors in his native village of Nuagaon in Keonjhar district. Munda's sacrifice underscores the commitment and valor of Indian armed forces personnel who face significant risks in safeguarding the nation, reinforcing the importance of honoring their service and sacrifices.

## Miscellaneous

### Bangkok Building Collapse Sparks Concerns Over Chinese Construction



31-Mar-25

A massive 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar, resulting in significant destruction, including the collapse of a 33-storey building in Bangkok that claimed at least 18 lives and left dozens missing. The building, constructed by a joint venture involving a Chinese firm, has raised concerns regarding construction quality and safety, leading Thailand's deputy prime minister to initiate an investigation. Experts highlight that while many skyscrapers in Bangkok remained intact, this incident suggests potential flaws in design or construction practices. The scrutiny of the Chinese firm's involvement also underscores broader implications regarding foreign investments and infrastructure reliability in Thailand.

### India-US Exercise Tiger Triumph 25 Enhances Crisis Response Skills



31-Mar-25

The fourth edition of Exercise Tiger Triumph, a bilateral tri-service India-US Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, is set to take place from April 1 to 13, 2025, along the Eastern Seaboard. This exercise aims to enhance interoperability and establish Standard Operating Procedures for effective coordination between Indian and US Joint Task Forces during crises. The Indian contingent will include various naval ships, Army troops, and Air Force aircraft, while the US will be represented by Navy ships and Marine Division troops. The exercise will feature a joint command center and culminate with a closing ceremony aboard a US Navy ship, emphasizing the strong defense partnership between India and the US.

### Sangli honors IAF hero Wing Commander Prakash Navale with chowk dedication.



31-Mar-25

A chowk in Sangli, Maharashtra, has been named after Wing Commander Prakash Navale, a former Indian Air Force pilot awarded the Shaurya Chakra for his courageous act of saving Odisha's then Chief Minister J B Patnaik from a mob in 1982. This honor recognizes Navale's determination and presence of mind during a

critical situation that could have escalated further. The gesture underlines India's respect for its defense personnel and their contributions beyond combat, fostering a spirit of gratitude towards those who safeguard public figures and maintain law and order. Navale expressed his appreciation for the honor and the support from local leaders.

### Indian Army Mountaineers Set to Conquer Kanchenjunga by May



31-Mar-25

The National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS) has launched an expedition to scale Kanchenjunga, India's highest peak, with the mission commencing on April 7 and concluding by the end of May. This endeavor is part of the Har Shikhar Tiranga initiative, symbolizing national pride as the Indian tricolor has already been hoisted on the highest peaks of all 28 states. The climb poses significant challenges due to harsh weather and difficult terrain, yet triumphing over Kanchenjunga will reflect India's perseverance and determination. Successfully reaching the summit will send a powerful message of national strength and resilience on an international stage.

### India Launches Operation Brahma to Aid Myanmar After Earthquake



31-Mar-25

India has swiftly launched Operation Brahma to provide humanitarian assistance to Myanmar following a catastrophic 7.7-magnitude earthquake that has resulted in significant casualties and widespread destruction. The Indian Army's first relief team arrived in Mandalay, while two C-17 aircraft delivered 60 tons of aid, including medical supplies and a 60-bed treatment center to assist in trauma care. Additionally, naval vessels INS Satpura and INS Savitri have transported essential relief materials such as food, water, and emergency supplies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to supporting Myanmar reinforces India's role as a first responder in regional crises, demonstrating its strategic dedication to humanitarian efforts and regional stability amidst international challenges. This proactive response not only aids Myanmar but also strengthens India's geopolitical ties in the region.

### LG Sinha: Committed to Smooth Return of Kashmiri Pandits



31-Mar-25

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha reaffirmed the Indian government's commitment to facilitating the dignified

return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley, emphasizing ongoing efforts to remove obstacles for their resettlement. He encouraged the younger generation to celebrate Navratri as Nari Shakti Utsav and highlighted the community's significant contributions to the region's heritage. Sinha urged a collective effort towards unity and reiterated that the government is working to create a conducive environment for the return of the Pandit community. His remarks reflect a broader strategy aimed at restoring peace and fostering inclusivity in Jammu and Kashmir, reinforcing the importance of cultural heritage and emotional bonds in nation-building.

## **AFSPA Extended for Six Months in Manipur Amid Ongoing Violence**

31-Mar-25

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has been extended for six months across most of Manipur and parts of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh due to ongoing law and order issues following ethnic violence that has claimed over 260 lives. Despite criticisms labeling AFSPA a "draconian law," the central government emphasizes its necessity in ensuring stability and security in disturbed areas. Union Home Minister Amit Shah noted that AFSPA has been removed from 70% of northeastern regions, indicating a cautious approach towards de-escalation while balancing national security. The situation underscores the complex interplay between governance, security, and local sentiments in India's Northeast.

## **Trump Stirs Controversy with Third Term Suggestion Despite Limits**

31-Mar-25

Former President Trump has stirred controversy by suggesting he may pursue a third term, despite the 22nd Amendment's limit of two terms for U.S. presidents. He claims public support and critiques the 2020 election as "totally rigged," although legal experts assert there are no credible arguments to bypass this constitutional restriction. Critics, including Representative Daniel Goldman, argue that Trump's remarks undermine democracy and highlight the improbability of amending the Constitution to allow a third term. This situation raises concerns about Trump's intent to challenge democratic norms, reflecting a significant political and constitutional debate in the U.S. political landscape.

## **Parker Solar Probe Sets Record Speed on Historic Solar Flyby**

31-Mar-25

The Parker Solar Probe has made history by reaching a record-breaking speed of 430,000 miles per hour during its perihelion on March 22, 2025, coming within 3.8 million miles of the Sun's surface. This mission, aimed at studying the Sun's corona and solar wind, confirms the probe's health as it continues to transmit crucial data back to Earth. With a total of 24 planned flybys, the probe provides unprecedented insights that may enhance our understanding of solar phenomena and improve space weather predictions, vital for protecting technology and life on Earth. Its achievements signify a monumental advancement in solar science, benefiting both scientific research and practical applications.

## **PM Modi to Launch Inaugural Vande Bharat Train to Kashmir on April 19**

31-Mar-25

Prime Minister Modi is set to inaugurate the first Vande Bharat train to Kashmir on April 19, addressing a long-standing demand for direct rail connectivity to the region. This project, delayed since 1997 due to challenging terrain, features impressive engineering, including 38 tunnels and the world's highest railway bridge, the Chenab Bridge. Initially, only one train will operate during the day for security reasons, with thorough passenger checks at Katra station. This development not only enhances accessibility to Kashmir but also symbolizes infrastructural progress and security in a sensitive region, reflecting India's commitment to improving connectivity and fostering economic growth.

## **35 Individuals Charged for Unlawful Palestine Unity March in Maharashtra**

31-Mar-25

In Mumbai, Maharashtra, police have charged 35 individuals connected with an unauthorized march advocating for Palestinian unity, organized by the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI). This protest involved a prayer session and flag-waving in front of a mosque, violating public order regulations. Ten participants have been identified and booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Mumbai Police Act. The incident underscores the delicate balance between freedom of expression and the need for public order, highlighting the importance of adhering to legal frameworks while engaging in political expression in India.



## Centre Defends Sahyog Portal Against X's Censorship Claims



31-Mar-25

The Indian government has rejected claims from X Corp, owned by Elon Musk, that its Sahyog portal operates as a censorship platform, asserting that X misinterprets the IT Act's provisions. In its affidavit to the Karnataka High Court, the Centre clarified that the portal's takedown notices are removal requests, not blocking orders, and emphasized the legal responsibility of intermediaries under the IT Rules. The government argued that X is attempting to mislead the court by conflating different legal sections and concerns about content regulation while defending national security and public order. As the court proceedings continue, the Centre maintains that its legal framework is designed to balance platform liability with free speech rights.

## Eid Celebrations in Bhopal Spark Controversy Over Palestinian Flags



31-Mar-25

During the Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations in Bhopal, the display of Palestinian flags by some attendees led to controversy, inciting sharp criticism from the ruling BJP. Senior BJP leader Vishwas Sarang condemned the act as provocative and indicative of a mindset aiming to create unrest, questioning its relevance during a religious festival. He called for legal action against those responsible and suggested the opposition Congress encourages such "anti-national activities." The incident highlights the ongoing tensions surrounding political expressions in cultural contexts and the ruling party's commitment to maintaining social harmony amid rising inter-community sensitivities.

## PM Modi Highlights India's Nuclear Power Commitment for Sustainable Energy



31-Mar-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to sustainable energy through nuclear power, emphasizing its potential to drive economic growth while reducing carbon emissions. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the substantial increase in nuclear capacity, aiming for 100 GW by 2047, with significant projects underway and a focus on indigenous technology. The government seeks to enhance domestic capabilities and strengthen international collaborations, particularly with Russia, France, and the US. Singh argued that nuclear energy, as a reliable and environmentally friendly alternative, is essential for meeting the country's projected electricity demand, while also underscoring the importance of strict safety protocols and public acceptance.

## US Approves Holtec for Nuclear Reactor Design in India with Tata and L&T



31-Mar-25

The US Department of Energy has granted regulatory approval to Holtec International to design and build Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in India, collaborating with Tata Consulting Engineers and Larsen & Toubro. This approval marks a significant advancement in India-US nuclear cooperation, enabling India to enhance its nuclear capabilities while aligning with its clean energy goals. The SMR-300, which is designed for efficiency and flexibility, will help India meet its target of 100 gigawatts of nuclear power by 2047. This partnership not only strengthens bilateral ties but also promotes India's self-reliance in nuclear technology, positioning it as a potential hub for SMR manufacturing.

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