



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

Rajnath Singh lauds DRDO's impact on India's defense capabilities and innovation.

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently praised the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on its 68th Foundation Day, highlighting its crucial role in bolstering India's defence capabilities and advancing the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. He commended DRDO's commitment to developing indigenous weapon systems that enhance the nation's strategic autonomy, particularly referencing the success of Operation Sindoora, where DRDO technologies proved vital. The Minister emphasized the importance of continuous innovation and collaboration with the private sector to create a synergistic defence ecosystem, stating that advancements in technology are essential for maintaining national security. This sentiment was echoed by prominent figures including Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the Chiefs of the Indian Army and Air Force, who recognized DRDO's contributions to India's strategic security and self-reliance. The DRDO, with its extensive network of laboratories, has made significant strides in various defence technologies, including missile systems, solidifying its position as a key player in India's defence landscape and reinforcing the nation's preparedness for future challenges.

Krasukha-2 EW System: Enhancing India's S-400 Air Defense Strategy

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Russia has reportedly offered India the Krasukha-2 Electronic Warfare (EW) System, a ground-based platform designed to jam and deceive hostile radar systems, particularly to protect the advanced S-400 Triumf air defense network. This system disrupts airborne early warning radar signals, misdirects radar

guided missile seekers, and creates false targets, thereby enhancing India's integrated air defense strategy. The integration of Krasukha-2 with indigenous radar efforts, such as the DRDO's AWACS and upcoming Netra Mk2, signifies India's commitment to strengthening its aerial surveillance capabilities. This move underscores the growing emphasis on non-kinetic warfare in India's defense posture, which aims to bolster regional security amid evolving threats.

Indian Army declares 2026 as 'Year of Networking & Data Centricity' for future readiness.

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The Indian Army has declared 2026 as the "Year of Networking & Data Centricity," emphasizing the importance of enhanced connectivity, real-time decision-making, and combat effectiveness to ensure a future-ready force. Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi highlighted the decade-long transformation of the Army, focusing on jointness, self-reliance, and innovation through indigenous technologies. He reaffirmed the Army's commitment to national security, noting that Operation Sindoora remains active in responding to threats. This initiative builds on previous efforts, including the "Year of Technology Absorption" designated for 2024-25, reinforcing the Army's resolve to modernize and adapt in an evolving security landscape.

India's Acquisition of SPICE-1000 Bombs Enhances Precision Strike Capabilities Amid Indigenous Development.

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The Indian Defence Acquisition Council has approved the procurement of SPICE-1000 glide bomb kits from Israel, enhancing the Indian Air Force's long-range precision strike capabilities. While DRDO's indigenously developed Gaurav glide bomb offers certain advantages, including a longer range of 30-150 km, it lacks the advanced electro-optical seeker found in the SPICE-1000, which allows for near-pinpoint accuracy even in adverse conditions. The SPICE-1000, with a cost

of approximately \$480,000, is deemed essential for operations requiring high precision, although its high price limits extensive use. The acquisition reflects India's strategy to bolster its aerial capabilities while balancing indigenous development and foreign procurement to ensure operational effectiveness against emerging threats.

Intensified Russian drone attacks in Ukraine underscore urgent air defense needs.

01-Jan-26

Russian drone strikes have intensified in Ukraine, demonstrating a significant increase in the operational range of their drones, which poses a pressing threat to Ukraine's critical infrastructure. The Institute for the Study of War highlights recent attacks on key assets, including a Ukrainian Mi-24 helicopter and an An-26 transport aircraft, underscoring the urgent need for advanced air defense systems in Ukraine. Experts suggest that innovative Russian tactics, including ultra-low altitude attacks and the use of drones guided via Starlink, necessitate improved point-defense capabilities to counter these threats effectively. This situation reflects a broader strategic challenge, as Ukraine must enhance its defense mechanisms to safeguard against increasingly sophisticated aerial assaults.

MoD Approves Funding for Indigenous 1,350 HP Engines for T-90 Tanks

01-Jan-26

The Indian Ministry of Defence has sanctioned critical funding for the indigenous development of a 1,350 horsepower engine for the T-90 Bhishma Main Battle Tank, enhancing the Army's armoured capabilities in challenging terrains. This initiative, under the MAKE-I procurement framework, aims for at least 50% indigenous content while addressing the performance limitations of the existing 1,000 HP engines, particularly in high-altitude regions like eastern Ladakh. The new power pack will significantly improve the tanks' power-to-weight ratio, enabling superior mobility and tactical agility on diverse battlegrounds. This project not only meets immediate operational needs but also represents a strategic investment in India's defense industrial base, fostering domestic expertise in advanced propulsion technologies.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Ukrainian drone strike kills 24, heightening tensions amid peace talks.

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Russian officials reported that a Ukrainian drone strike in the Kherson region killed 24 people during New Year's celebrations, intensifying tensions despite ongoing peace talks. The attack, which struck a cafe and hotel, was condemned by Russian leaders who claimed it underscored their demands in the conflict. Concurrently, Ukraine's President Zelenskyy mentioned that a peace deal is "90 percent ready," with critical issues remaining that could impact the future of Ukraine and Europe. Amid these developments, Ukraine's air defense successfully intercepted a significant number of drones targeting civilian infrastructure, reflecting the ongoing hostilities and the challenges faced in achieving a lasting resolution to the conflict.

Russia claims Ukraine attacked Putin's residence; Ukraine disputes evidence.

01-Jan-26

Russia's defense ministry has released video footage claiming to show a thwarted drone attack by Ukraine on one of President Vladimir Putin's residences, alleging that 91 drones were launched from Ukrainian regions. Ukrainian officials have dismissed these claims, asserting that Russia failed to provide evidence and accusing it of fabricating the incident to derail peace talks. Concurrently, both nations have targeted each other's Black Sea ports, with damage reported in Tuapse and Odesa, where Russian strikes injured civilians and caused infrastructural harm. The ongoing conflict escalates as both sides exchange accusations, complicating efforts toward a resolution.

Kim Jong Un celebrates 'invincible alliance' with Russia in New Year message.

01-Jan-26

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has lauded his troops for their role in supporting Russia's invasion of Ukraine, characterizing their efforts as an "invincible alliance" with Moscow. In a New Year's message, he praised soldiers fighting abroad and hinted at increased overseas military actions, while analysts suggest that this partnership provides crucial economic and military

support to North Korea, allowing Kim to resist U.S. and South Korean diplomatic overtures. Reports indicate that North Korean forces face dire conditions on the battlefield, with some troops reportedly ordered to commit suicide rather than be captured. This evolving alliance underlines a significant geopolitical shift and poses challenges for regional security dynamics, particularly concerning India's defense strategy in response to heightened military collaboration between North Korea and Russia.

India and Pakistan share annual nuclear facilities lists, ensuring transparency.

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India and Pakistan have exchanged their annual lists of nuclear installations and facilities, adhering to a bilateral agreement that prohibits attacks on such sites. This exchange, the 35th since the pact's inception in 1991, reflects a commitment to nuclear transparency and stability, even amid strained relations following recent military hostilities. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that the lists were shared simultaneously through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad. This ongoing practice serves as a critical mechanism in managing nuclear tensions between the two nations, emphasizing the importance of communication in mitigating risks associated with their complex security dynamics.

Arunachal Governor discusses national security and development with CDS Chauhan.

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Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt. General K.T. Parnaik (Retd.) met Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan in New Delhi to discuss critical national security issues, focusing on the state's strategic importance. The discussions highlighted the Vibrant Border Village Programme, the Agnipath scheme, and the implementation of Sadbhavana projects, aimed at empowering youth and enhancing their opportunities in the armed forces. Emphasizing border management and operational readiness, the Governor praised the synergy between the state government and armed forces in promoting development in border villages. He also underscored the transformative vision of Prime Minister Modi's Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, which aims at self-reliance and socio-economic progress, reinforcing Arunachal Pradesh's pivotal role in national security and growth.

Military Operations

Indian Army's Romeo Force escalates operations in Poonch's Pir Panjal amidst severe winter conditions.

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The Indian Army's Romeo Force has intensified search and surveillance operations in the Pir Panjal ranges of Poonch district, Jammu and Kashmir, amid heavy snowfall and extreme cold conditions. Conducting operations at altitudes above 13,000 feet, troops are equipped with specialized gear and are proactively pursuing potential terrorists in an effort to maintain security during the traditionally quieter winter months. This shift in strategy includes establishing temporary bases and surveillance posts to monitor and neutralize threats from across the Line of Control. The heightened military activity underscores the Indian Army's commitment to ensuring the safety of civilians and maintaining regional stability against the backdrop of potential terrorist exploitation of harsh winter conditions.

Army Chief emphasizes Operation Sindoor, seeks public support for a Developed India by 2047.

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In his New Year message, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi emphasized the ongoing Operation Sindoor, highlighting the Army's decisive actions against adversarial threats and its commitment to national progress and disaster response. He called for public support towards achieving the goal of a Developed India by 2047, stressing the importance of trust and cooperation from citizens. The Army's modernization efforts are focused on self-reliance, jointness, and innovation, with 2026 designated as the Year of Networking and Data Centricity to enhance operational effectiveness. This strategic transformation illustrates the Indian Army's commitment to future readiness and resilience in the face of evolving challenges.

US Navy Intensifies Drug War with Lethal Strikes on Boats

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The U.S. military has escalated its drug interdiction campaign, conducting lethal strikes against suspected drug-trafficking boats in international waters, resulting

in at least 115 deaths since early September. While the administration justifies these actions as necessary to combat narcotics trafficking linked to the Venezuelan government, legal experts express concerns about potential human rights violations and extrajudicial killings, noting that the targeted individuals did not pose an immediate threat. The operations, part of a broader geopolitical strategy against Venezuela, raise questions about the legality and diplomatic ramifications of unilateral military actions in the region. Critics argue that this approach may further destabilize the area without addressing the underlying issues of drug trafficking.

roles, including key positions such as Commanding Officer of a fighter squadron and Defence Attaché to Pakistan. Kapoor has been honored with several prestigious awards, including the Param Vishisht Seva Medal and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, reflecting his exemplary service. His appointment comes at a crucial time for the IAF as India continues to modernize its air capabilities and strengthen its defense posture amidst evolving regional security challenges.

Lt Gen Vivek Dogra honors fallen soldiers at National War Memorial. **SHARE**

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Lt Gen Vivek Dogra, SM, recently assumed his role as Senior Officer-in-Command and Senior Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Signals, commencing his tenure with a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial. This poignant event honored the sacrifices of India's courageous soldiers and marked a reaffirmation of the Army's commitment to uphold the values of bravery, dedication, and service. Lt Gen Dogra underscored the enduring inspiration derived from the valor of fallen heroes, emphasizing their legacy as a guiding force for current and future military personnel. This ceremony not only reflected the Corps of Signals' respect for the sacrifices made by the armed forces but also reinforced the collective commitment of military leadership to maintain professionalism and selflessness in service to the nation.

Subedar Major Durgesh Singh appointed to enhance Army leadership and soldier welfare. **SHARE**

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Subedar Major Durgesh Singh has been appointed as the Army Subedar Major, marking a significant step in enhancing communication and leadership within the Indian Army. Established on June 16, 2023, this role serves as a vital link between senior leaders and soldiers, promoting soldier welfare, training, and mentorship throughout the ranks. The formalization of Subedar Major positions aims to amplify soldiers' voices and strengthen morale, ensuring unity and trust within the force. This appointment reflects the Indian Army's commitment to empowering junior leaders and reinforcing its foundational principles of duty, honour, and service, ultimately fostering a cohesive and resilient military force.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

General Dwivedi visits Base Hospital Delhi Cantt to celebrate New Year 2026 with personnel. **SHARE**

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General Upendra Dwivedi, the Chief of the Army Staff, visited Base Hospital Delhi Cantt to commence the New Year 2026, engaging with both serving personnel and veterans undergoing treatment. He praised their resilience and bravery, extending his New Year greetings and wishing for their swift recovery, while emphasizing the Indian Army's commitment to their welfare. General Dwivedi also commended the medical staff for their professionalism and dedication, recognizing the Armed Forces Medical Services as vital for operational readiness and morale. This visit underscores the Army's core values of leadership, compassion, and community, reinforcing bonds between commanders, troops, and the military medical community as the New Year begins.

Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor appointed Vice Chief of Air Staff, succeeding Tiwari. **SHARE**

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Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor has officially taken charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force (IAF), succeeding Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari, who retired after four decades of service. Kapoor, a distinguished fighter pilot commissioned in December 1986, previously served as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the South Western Air Command and has accumulated over 3,400 flying hours on various aircraft, including the MiG-21 and MiG-29. His extensive career spans numerous operational, instructional, and staff

Major General D K Singh Assumes Command of Bengal Sub Area in Indian Army

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Major General D K Singh has officially assumed command of the Bengal Sub Area in the Indian Army, succeeding Major General Rajesh A Moghe, who retired after an esteemed 37-year career. This transition, marked by a formal ceremony, underscores the Army's tradition of effective leadership succession, which is critical for maintaining operational readiness and administrative continuity in the Eastern theatre. Lieutenant General R C Tiwari of the Eastern Command commended both generals, particularly highlighting Major General Moghe's dedicated service and professionalism throughout his tenure. The leadership change is significant as it reflects the Indian Army's commitment to strategic preparedness and its capability to adapt seamlessly to new challenges.

Nagesh Kapoor takes charge as Vice Chief of Air Staff, enhancing India's air defense strategy.

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New Delhi has welcomed a significant leadership change in the Indian Air Force with Nagesh Kapoor assuming the role of Vice Chief of Air Staff. This appointment is pivotal as it reflects the ongoing commitment of the Indian defense forces to strengthen air capabilities amid evolving geopolitical challenges in the region. Kapoor's extensive experience and strategic vision are expected to enhance operational readiness and bolster collaborative efforts with allied forces, particularly in the context of Indo-American defense relations. This transition underscores India's determination to maintain a robust defense posture and adapt to dynamic security environments.

Air Marshal Bhasin honors fallen heroes at Amar Jawan Jyoti ceremony.

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Air Marshal Rahul Bhasin, VM, recently paid homage to India's fallen heroes during a solemn ceremony at the Amar Jawan Jyoti, marking his appointment as the Director General (Works & Services). He laid a wreath at the memorial, expressing profound respect for the courage and selflessness of those who have served the nation, reinforcing the values of duty, honor, and commitment central to the Indian Air Force's ethos. This gesture not only honored the legacy of past soldiers but also underscored the leadership's resolve

to uphold these ideals as Air Marshal Bhasin steps into his new role, emphasizing the Indian Air Force's dedication to excellence and the preservation of its storied heritage.

Air Marshal S. Shrinivas appointed new head of IAF Training Command.

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Air Marshal Seethepalli Shrinivas has assumed the role of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Indian Air Force's Training Command. A distinguished alumnus of the National Defence Academy, he has a wealth of experience with over 4,200 flight hours on various aircraft, including MiG-21 and Chetak helicopters. His extensive career includes key positions such as Commandant of the Air Force Academy and AOC of significant frontline bases. Recognized for his exceptional service with the Vishisht Seva Medal and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Air Marshal Shrinivas's leadership is expected to enhance training standards within the IAF, contributing to India's evolving strategic capabilities amidst a dynamic regional security environment.

Albert Ekka Brigade celebrates 56th Raising Day with tributes in Agartala.

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The Albert Ekka Brigade, renowned for its heroic contributions during the 1971 India-Pakistan war, commemorated its 56th Raising Day in Agartala with solemn ceremonies, including a wreath-laying tribute to fallen soldiers. Brigadier Dheeraj Singh praised the brigade for its operational excellence and commitment to national security, emphasizing its significant role in safeguarding peace in the region. The brigade, which recently relocated to Agartala Military Station, holds the unique distinction of being awarded the Param Vir Chakra, highlighting its legacy of bravery. This observance not only honors the brigade's storied history but also reaffirms its readiness to tackle future challenges in service to the nation.

Miscellaneous

Indian Army celebrates New Year 2026 in Assam, promoting community welfare and defense readiness.

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The Indian Army's Red Shield Division celebrated New Year 2026 at Nirasoi Shishu Bhawan in Jorhat, Assam,

showcasing its commitment to social responsibility by interacting with children and distributing gifts. Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi extended New Year greetings, emphasizing the ongoing Operation Sindoor, which highlights the Army's readiness to counter threats while contributing to national progress through disaster response and community initiatives. He underscored the importance of "jointness, self-reliance, and innovation" as the pillars of India's defense strategy, positioning the Army as a vital force in both safeguarding borders and fostering societal bonds. This event reflects the Indian Army's ethos of service before self and reinforces its role in nation-building.

ISRO to test semi-cryogenic engine, enhancing LVM-3 rocket's capabilities.

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ISRO is advancing its space capabilities with the development of a fully integrated semi-cryogenic engine, the SE-2000, which aims to enhance the LVM-3 rocket's thrust from 1,600 kN to 2,000 kN. This engine, featuring non-toxic propellants and improved efficiency, is designed for significant payload increases, supporting heavier satellite launches and future lunar missions. Ongoing tests at the ISRO Propulsion Complex have validated various engine systems, with operational readiness targeted for 2027. This initiative not only strengthens India's indigenous propulsion

technologies but also bolsters its position in the global commercial space market amid challenges in past cryogenic technology transfers.

President launches #SkilltheNation AI Challenge and inaugurates skill centres in Odisha.

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The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched the #SkilltheNation AI Challenge under the SOAR initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship at Rashtrapati Bhavan on January 1, 2026, while also inaugurating the IGNOU Regional Centre and Skill Centre in Rairangpur, Odisha. Emphasizing that artificial intelligence (AI) is shaping economies and societies, she highlighted its potential as a transformative opportunity for India, urging the youth to utilize technology for societal benefit and empowerment, especially for marginalized communities. The President noted the essential role of skills like data science and AI engineering in developing the nation's talent pool, projecting that AI will significantly contribute to India's GDP and employment in the coming decade. She called for collaborative efforts among government, industry, and academia to build a knowledge-driven and inclusive India, aligning with the National Education Policy's vision for a prosperous future.

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