



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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## Defense Business and Industry

### Russian analyst commends India's Pralay missile for superior hypersonic capabilities against modern air defenses.



07-Jan-26

Russian military analyst Evgeny Damantsev has lauded India's Pralay tactical ballistic missile for its advanced hypersonic maneuvers and operational capabilities, particularly following recent successful trials conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The Pralay, which features a two-stage design and can execute rapid salvo launches from mobile platforms, utilizes sophisticated guidance systems that allow for mid-course atmospheric maneuvers and terminal agility. This enhances its effectiveness against modern air defense systems, as its unpredictable flight path complicates interception calculations. The missile's design accommodates varying payloads, making it a versatile asset in India's strategic arsenal, reinforcing the nation's defense posture in a rapidly evolving security environment.

### Rolls-Royce proposes partnership to boost India's stealth fighter program.



07-Jan-26

Rolls-Royce has proposed a strategic partnership with India to develop next-generation aircraft engines, crucial for the indigenous AMCA stealth fighter program aimed at enhancing the Indian Air Force's capabilities. This collaboration, positioned as a shift towards local design and manufacturing, addresses India's challenges in engine technology and seeks to ensure propulsion sovereignty amid geopolitical tensions. Analysts highlight that joint intellectual property ownership could empower Indian scientists and reduce reliance on foreign systems, aligning with India's push for self-reliance. As India diversifies its defense partnerships, this initiative could attract global firms into its defense ecosystem, reinforcing India's position

as a democratic superpower with a focus on indigenous capabilities.

### India Enhances Drone Defense with Joint CUAS Grid Initiative



07-Jan-26

India is enhancing its defense capabilities against drone threats by establishing a Joint Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (CUAS) grid that integrates anti-drone systems across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. This initiative, prompted by lessons from Operation Sindoor, aims to provide a dedicated shield separate from existing air defense networks like the Integrated Air Command and Control System. The CUAS grid, part of the broader Mission Sudarshan Chakra, focuses on rapid detection and engagement of drones, safe deployment in civilian areas, and the procurement of advanced technologies. With a significant budget increase for air defense, this approach aims to bolster India's self-reliance while addressing the evolving challenges posed by aerial threats in contemporary warfare.

### Unmanned electronic warfare market to reach \$5,032.44 million by 2035 amid rising demand.



07-Jan-26

The unmanned electronic warfare (EW) market is projected to grow significantly, with a valuation expected to reach US\$5,032.44 million by 2035, driven by the increasing demand for low-cost, autonomous systems and cognitive EW capabilities. As military forces worldwide modernize their platforms, integrating modular, AI-enabled architectures, this market shift emphasizes the need for advanced, networked systems that enhance situational awareness and multi-domain operations. The dominance of the government and defense sector, which holds an impressive 86.07% market share, highlights the urgency for nations to enhance their electronic warfare capabilities amid rising geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. This transformation is underscored by the adoption of new technologies aimed at countering

asymmetric threats, including the integration of unmanned systems to ensure operational resilience in contested environments. As the landscape evolves, countries like India must prioritize domestic development in EW technologies to maintain strategic autonomy and bolster national security against sophisticated adversarial tactics.

## IAF seeks six AEW&C aircraft to boost surveillance and air defense capabilities.

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07-Jan-26

The Indian Air Force (IAF) issued a Request for Information (RFI) on January 5, 2026, for six Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft to bolster aerial surveillance, network-centric warfare, and air defense amid escalating threats from China and Pakistan. Key requirements include 10-hour endurance or mid-air refueling, 45,000 ft service ceiling, operations from 10,000 ft high-elevation airfields like those in Ladakh, and advanced 360-degree AESA radars detecting drones to hypersonic threats, ESM, CSM, C2 systems, and data links. With only five operational platforms—three Phalcon AWACS on Il-76 and two DRDO Netra on Embraer—this acquisition addresses critical shortfalls, enhancing joint operations and deterrence along volatile borders. From India's strategic lens, it counters adversary AWACS superiority, fortifies Himalayan airspace control, and invites global bids while prioritizing indigenous integration for self-reliance.

## Navy Chief Commends LCA Navy's Role in TEDBF Development

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07-Jan-26

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, in a interview on January 6, 2026, commended the LCA Navy program's pivotal role as a technology demonstrator, validating critical STOBAR operations, reinforced landing gear, and carrier expertise now fueling the Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF) development. Key dates include the program's legacy from 2010s trials and TEDBF's Critical Design Review targeted for late 2026, with prototypes leveraging indigenous avionics shared with AMCA. Aimed at replacing MiG-29K fighters on INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya by 2032, TEDBF bolsters Atmanirbhar Bharat, enhancing India's maritime strike and air defense amid Indo-Pacific tensions with China, ensuring self-reliant naval superiority.

## Tejas Mk2 to Adopt External Gun Pod for Enhanced Avionics Integration

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07-Jan-26

India's Tejas Mk2 fighter jet is undergoing a significant design evolution with the introduction of an external gun pod configuration, departing from the internal cannon design of its predecessors. This strategic shift aims to optimize internal space for advanced avionics and electronic warfare systems, aligning with modern aerial warfare demands. By relocating the gun externally, the aircraft gains flexibility for mission-specific armament, reducing aerodynamic drag and improving radar cross-section for enhanced survivability. This development underscores India's commitment to integrating cutting-edge technology into its defense capabilities, ensuring the Tejas Mk2 effectively bridges the operational gap between current platforms and future advanced fighters like the AMCA.

## India seeks French SaM146 engine for Sukhoi SJ-100's commercial success.

 SHARE

07-Jan-26

India is reportedly exploring a strategic partnership with France to secure the PowerJet SaM146 engine for the domestically manufactured Sukhoi SJ-100-95B Superjet, a move essential for enhancing the aircraft's commercial viability. The SaM146, once a symbol of Franco-Russian collaboration, has faced challenges following geopolitical shifts, leading to a lack of support from Safran. The proposed collaboration would involve technology transfer where India would manufacture components domestically, while France and Russia provide the necessary engineering technologies. This initiative not only aims to acquire critical aero-engine technology but also underscores India's intent to prioritize commercial viability in its civil aviation sector, ensuring competitiveness against global rivals like Embraer and Airbus, while enhancing its defense and aviation industrial base.

## IAF seeks Ecuador's grounded Jaguars to extend fleet life until 2035.

 SHARE

07-Jan-26

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is in discussions with the Ecuadorian Air Force to acquire remaining grounded Jaguar airframes, a strategic move aimed at extending the operational life of its Jaguar fleet through 2035. With the IAF being the last air force worldwide to operate the Jaguar in a frontline role, this acquisition is essential for obtaining hard-to-source spare parts. The IAF's proactive approach includes recent successful

agreements with France, the UK, and Oman to secure retired airframes and components, bolstered by significant upgrades under the DARIN III program. This initiative ensures the Jaguar continues to serve as a vital strike asset until the arrival of newer platforms like the indigenous Tejas Mk2 and the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

## **ISRO Embraces Industry Collaboration for Next-Gen Launch Vehicle Development**

07-Jan-26

ISRO is adopting an industry-led model for its next-generation launch vehicle (NGLV), likening it to the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) initiative, where private firms will co-develop and produce launch vehicles alongside ISRO. This strategy involves early-stage investment from Indian companies in manufacturing and technology, ensuring a robust industrial base capable of high launch frequencies. The NGLV will incorporate reusability and advanced propulsion systems, enabling lower costs and higher operational tempo. By integrating private industry, ISRO aims to enhance its focus on cutting-edge research and expand India's capabilities in space missions, ultimately fostering self-reliance and a competitive edge in the global space market.

## **Airober Launches Indigenous Drone Controller, Boosting UAV Localisation Efforts**

07-Jan-26

Delhi-based Airober announced its indigenous drone flight controller in early January 2026, as highlighted in social media updates around January 5, marking a key step in India's efforts to localize UAV avionics under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The New Delhi-headquartered firm, a small team of 11-50 specializing in drones for agriculture, logistics, surveillance, photography, and hydrogen-powered concepts, aims to cut reliance on imported systems like Cube and CUAV boards dominant in the Indian market. While technical details such as processor, sensors, firmware stack, or independent testing remain undisclosed, the controller has undergone initial flight tests in gusty winds, demonstrating stable performance and extended operation. This development bolsters India's growing drone ecosystem, enhancing self-reliance in commercial and potential defense applications, though caution persists pending regulatory clearances and public validations.

## **Tata Advanced Systems to upgrade Indian Army's Pinaka rocket system.**

07-Jan-26

Tata Advanced Systems has received a significant supply order from the Indian Army for the overhaul and upgradation of the first-generation Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) and Battery Command Posts (BCPs). This collaboration aims to enhance the operational readiness and efficiency of this crucial artillery system by utilizing Tata's expertise and certified spare parts. The initiative reflects a strategic move towards indigenization in defense procurement, ensuring sustained performance and availability of frontline systems, thereby bolstering India's military capabilities. This step is indicative of the growing partnership between the Indian defense forces and domestic defense manufacturers, reinforcing national security through self-reliance in critical military technologies.

## **Trump pushes for quicker US weapons production, warns of strict penalties.**

07-Jan-26

President Donald Trump is intensifying efforts to expedite weapons production in the United States, urging defense manufacturers to address delays in their supply chains. He underscored this urgency during discussions with Republican lawmakers, indicating that the administration will impose stricter measures on companies failing to meet production timelines. This push for faster manufacturing is significant as it reflects the administration's commitment to maintaining U.S. military readiness and competitiveness, particularly in light of global security challenges. The move aims to bolster the defense industry's responsiveness and efficiency, essential for sustaining strategic advantages in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

## **DARPA's HARQ Program Boosts Quantum Computer Interoperability Amid Global Competition.**

07-Jan-26

On January 6, 2026, the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) launched the Heterogeneous Architectures for Quantum (HARQ) program, aimed at creating interoperability among various quantum computer architectures. This initiative reflects a critical move in the global quantum race, as it seeks to enhance capabilities for military planning and

encryption. For India, this development accentuates the urgency to bolster its indigenous quantum computing efforts under the National Quantum Mission, ensuring technological sovereignty and national security in an increasingly competitive geopolitical landscape, particularly against adversaries who may leverage advanced quantum technologies for strategic advantages.

## Dev IT wins 26 lakh contract for AutoCAD services with MoD.



07-Jan-26

Dev Information Technology has secured a significant contract valued at 26 lakh from Core Technologies to provide AutoCAD services to the Ministry of Defence, specifically for Goa Shipyard Ltd. This fixed-cost domestic contract includes specialized toolsets and comprehensive technical support, emphasizing compliance with government standards. The company's ability to deliver tailored solutions reinforces its standing in the defense sector, potentially paving the way for future government contracts. The strategic engagement reflects a commitment to operational readiness and adherence to regulatory norms, underscoring the importance of transparency in government procurement processes.

### Politics

## JNU Students Protest Against PM Modi After Umar Khalid Verdict



07-Jan-26

On January 5, 2026, the Supreme Court denied bail to former JNU students Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the 2020 Delhi riots larger conspiracy case under UAPA, citing prima facie evidence of their central roles in coordinated disruptions. Hours later, 30-40 JNU students from Left outfits like DSF, AISA, and SFI gathered at Guerrilla Dhaba to mark the sixth anniversary of the January 5, 2020 campus attack, raising provocative slogans against PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah; JNUSU president Aditi Mishra and VP Kizhakoot Gopika Babu attended, defending them as ideological expressions of dissent. JNU administration filed an FIR, vowing strict action against "anti-national" activities, while BJP Delhi ministers Kapil Mishra, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, and Ashish Sood slammed the protests as support for separatists—linking Imam's Northeast bifurcation calls and Khalid's alleged riot roles to opposition like Congress and AAP—and warned of threats to national

unity. From an Indian security lens, the episode exposes persistent urban Naxal networks undermining law amid judicial resolve, risking internal stability and emboldening anti-national elements.

## Congress's Jairam Ramesh alleges US Secretary Rubio halted India's Operation Sindoor amid Kashmir tensions.



07-Jan-26

Jairam Ramesh of Congress has claimed that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio intervened to halt India's Operation Sindoor, launched in response to a terror attack in Kashmir. His comments challenge the Indian government's assertion that the ceasefire and de-escalation were achieved independently through bilateral military channels. The government maintains that all issues with Pakistan should be resolved without third-party mediation, in line with the Simla Agreement. Ramesh's remarks ignite a domestic debate over India's strategic autonomy and transparency in crisis management, as they raise questions about the influence of American involvement in regional security dynamics and could lead to increased scrutiny of India's diplomatic processes during the 2025 crisis.

### Geopolitics and Security Alliances

## Chinese anti-stealth radars fail in Venezuela, echoing Pakistan's experience.



07-Jan-26

In a significant military operation on January 3, 2026, U.S. forces captured Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, highlighting the comprehensive failure of Venezuela's air defense systems, heavily reliant on Chinese and Russian technology. The JY-27, a Chinese-made radar marketed as a counter to stealth aircraft, failed to detect U.S. F-22 and F-35 fighters due to intense electronic warfare tactics employed by the U.S., indicating profound deficiencies in the performance of Chinese military hardware under actual combat conditions. This event mirrors the shortcomings seen during the 2025 India-Pakistan conflict when Pakistani air defenses, similarly depending on Chinese systems, were unable to counter Indian precision strikes. Analysts note that the rapid neutralization of Venezuela's defenses raises serious questions about the credibility of Chinese military exports, as the operational failures expose the limitations of Chinese technology in high-intensity conflicts against advanced



military forces like those of the U.S. and India. The broader implications of these failures may lead nations relying on Chinese defense systems to reassess their operational effectiveness, potentially shifting global defense dynamics and affecting future procurement decisions among regional rivals.

## Army Chief General Dwivedi visits UAE, underscores evolving security cooperation. SHARE

07-Jan-26

India's Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, recently embarked on a historic two-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), marking the first visit by an Indian Army Chief to the nation. During this visit, General Dwivedi engaged in crucial discussions with Major General Yousef Maayouf Saeed Al Hallami, Commander of the UAE Land Forces, focusing on enhancing bilateral military cooperation, training convergence, and positive military engagement. The talks were set against the backdrop of evolving global security dynamics and regional developments, particularly tensions in the Gulf region. Emphasizing the importance of collaborative defense strategies, General Dwivedi highlighted the roles of senior military leaders in advancing regional and global peace. His visit included interactions with the UAE National Defence College and other military establishments, reinforcing India's commitment to strengthening defense ties and interoperability with friendly nations in the Indian Ocean Region and West Asia. Following his engagements in the UAE, General Dwivedi is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka, further underscoring India's strategic military diplomacy in the region.

## Cuban envoy calls US Venezuela actions terrorism, praises India's global role. SHARE

07-Jan-26

Cuban Ambassador to India Juan Carlos Marsan Aguilera condemned the US military operation on January 3, 2026, that captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores on narco-terrorism charges, labeling it a "criminal and terrorist act" violating the UN Charter and international law. Speaking to ANI on January 7 amid damage in Caracas, 32 Cuban deaths, and Havana's two-day mourning, he decried US revival of the Monroe Doctrine treating Latin America as its "backyard," urging Global South unity via BRICS—where India holds presidency—NAM, and G77+China to counter unilateralism. From India's strategic lens, Aguilera praised New Delhi's balancing

role and historical anti-sanctions support for Cuba, aligning with its measured MEA concerns over the crisis while safeguarding strategic autonomy amid Trump-era tensions.

## US prioritizes acquiring Greenland, military options considered amid Arctic tensions. SHARE

07-Jan-26

The Trump administration is reviving discussions around the potential acquisition of Greenland, emphasizing its strategic importance for U.S. national security in countering growing Russian and Chinese influence in the Arctic. Senior officials have stated that while diplomacy remains the preferred approach, military options are also being considered, a stance that has sparked significant backlash from European leaders who assert that Greenland's sovereignty must be respected. The White House has indicated that discussions include possible outright purchase or forming a Compact of Free Association, although Greenland has consistently expressed its desire to remain independent from U.S. control. The renewed focus on Greenland follows President Trump's assertion of American dominance in the Western Hemisphere after the recent capture of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro, highlighting an aggressive U.S. foreign policy approach in the region. The situation raises critical questions about NATO unity and the balance of power in the Arctic, as U.S. ambitions clash with European assertions of autonomy and collective security principles.

## India's Russian oil imports reach €144 billion since Ukraine war. SHARE

07-Jan-26

India has imported €144 billion worth of Russian crude oil since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, emerging as the second-largest buyer after China, per recent Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) estimates released January 5-7, 2026. Russia peaked at supplying 35-40% of India's imports by mid-2023, shifting reliance from Middle Eastern sources amid discounts, but U.S. sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil (effective November 22, 2025) prompted major refiners like Reliance Industries—India's top buyer—to halt purchases, with no January 2026 deliveries expected, projecting imports below 1 million bpd from December's 1.2 million bpd low. From New Delhi's strategic lens, this curbs energy costs yet strains security via higher global prices and U.S. tariff hikes (to 50% by August 2025 under President Trump),

complicating trade deals while balancing discounted supplies against secondary sanction risks amid Ukraine tensions. State refiners like IOC and BPCL persist cautiously with non-sanctioned sources.

## Israel strikes Lebanon ahead of crucial Hezbollah disarmament meeting. SHARE

07-Jan-26

Israel conducted precision airstrikes on January 5-6, 2026, targeting Hezbollah and Hamas weapon storage sites in southern Lebanon, including a commercial building in Sidon, and eastern regions like al-Manara and Jezzine, resulting in at least two injuries but no fatalities. These strikes, issued after evacuation warnings, precede Lebanon's cabinet meeting today, January 8, where army chief Gen. Rudolph Haikal will brief on Phase 1 disarmament south of the Litani River, originally due by end-2025 amid the November 2024 ceasefire terms. President Joseph Aoun condemned the actions as sabotaging state control efforts. From an Indian strategic lens, Israel's moves counter Iran-backed threats akin to those India faces from Pakistan-based proxies, bolstering regional stability vital for energy routes and counter-terror pacts, though escalation risks broader Middle East instability impacting New Delhi's security calculus.

## EAM Jaishankar Foresees Stronger India-Luxembourg Ties by 2026 SHARE

07-Jan-26

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's recent visit to Luxembourg highlighted the strengthening bilateral ties between India and the European Union amidst a shifting geopolitical landscape. In his meetings with Luxembourg's leaders, including Prime Minister Luc Frieden and Deputy Prime Minister Xavier Bettel, Jaishankar emphasized the potential for collaboration in fintech, artificial intelligence, and space, asserting that both nations could benefit significantly from enhanced cooperation in these sectors. He acknowledged Luxembourg's pivotal role within the EU and expressed optimism about advancing free-trade negotiations, which are currently in an advanced stage. Jaishankar's discussions underscored Luxembourg's influence in EU decision-making and the importance of a citizen-centric approach to technology, as he anticipates a major business delegation from Luxembourg to India in 2026. This engagement reaffirms India's commitment to deepening strategic partnerships with European nations, particularly as global dynamics encourage nations to forge reliable alliances amidst increasing unpredictability.

## Venezuela's oil revival could help ONGC recover \$500 million dividends. SHARE

07-Jan-26

The potential revival of Venezuela's oil sector, driven by U.S. investments, could benefit India's ONGC, which has a 40% stake in the San Cristobal Project and hopes to recover \$500 million in unpaid dividends since 2014. While India does not heavily import Venezuelan crude, a stabilization of Venezuela's production could lower global crude prices, offering indirect benefits to the Indian economy. Experts indicate that a significant international investment of \$30-35 billion over the next few years is crucial for Venezuela to restore its oil output to pre-sanction levels, potentially reaching 3 million barrels per day by 2040. This scenario underscores the complex interplay of geopolitics and global energy markets, with implications for India's energy security.

## Trump acknowledges Modi's concerns over tariffs and oil purchases, highlighting US-India tensions. SHARE

07-Jan-26

US President Donald Trump recently expressed that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not pleased due to high tariffs imposed by the US on India's imports of Russian oil. Trump highlighted that while India has made significant reductions in its Russian oil purchases, the tariffs—up to 50%—are still a point of contention, affecting bilateral economic relations. He noted that Modi is attempting to assuage these tensions, but emphasized that the US strategy aims to pressure India to align more closely with American foreign policy, particularly relating to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Additionally, Trump mentioned that India has been awaiting the delivery of Apache helicopters for five years, indicating ongoing defense procurement issues. This situation underscores the complexities of US-India relations, where economic dependencies and defense partnerships are intertwined with global geopolitical dynamics, particularly as they navigate the challenges posed by Russia's actions.

## PoJK refugees urge PM Modi for military action to reclaim PoK. SHARE

07-Jan-26

On January 5, 2026, SOS International, led by Chairman Rajiv Chuni, wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging decisive military intervention to liberate Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), citing the US's recent Operations Southern Spear and Absolute Resolve that captured Venezuelan President

Nicolas Maduro on narco-terrorism charges in early 2026. Representing tens of thousands displaced since the 1947 genocide of Hindus and Sikhs, the group highlighted PoJK's role as a terrorism hub with training camps launching attacks on India, alongside drug trafficking fueling narco-terrorism that threatens national security. Invoking India's 1994 Parliamentary resolution affirming J&K's integrity, they demand strikes to dismantle terror infrastructure, capture Hizbul chief Syed Salahuddin, and reintegrate PoJK, prioritizing strategic reclamation amid Pakistan's oppression and resource exploitation despite global pressures. This appeal signals rising domestic calls for bold action to secure borders and uphold sovereignty.

## Think Tank Predicts 100,000 Chinese Troop Losses in Taiwan Invasion



07-Jan-26

A recent report from a US think tank anticipates that a Chinese invasion of Taiwan could result in staggering casualties, estimating up to 100,000 Chinese troops could be lost due to effective Taiwanese and US military responses, alongside high costs for Taiwan and other nations involved. While the People's Liberation Army may reach Taiwan's shores, logistical challenges and sustained attrition are predicted to undermine their campaign, potentially leading to a withdrawal that acknowledges failure. The document underscores concerns about Beijing's increasing reliance on coercive tactics in the region, especially given the prohibitive costs of full-scale invasion, and highlights the international community's likely cautious response, particularly in a minor conflict scenario. This analysis reflects ongoing geopolitical tensions and the need for robust defense strategies in the Indo-Pacific region.

## China criticizes US Venezuela strike, urges respect for sovereignty.



07-Jan-26

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning condemned the recent US military strike in Venezuela, asserting that no nation has the right to act as the world's police and emphasizing the importance of respecting state sovereignty. Following the operation, which resulted in the capture of deposed leader Nicolas Maduro, China called for peaceful resolution of disputes and highlighted the risks of escalating instability due to unilateral interventions. Beijing's support for Venezuela reflects its stance against external military influence and its advocacy for a multilateral approach to international relations. This situation underscores the global debate on the

legitimacy of military interventions and the growing significance of China's position as a defender of non-interference and regional stability.

## US targets Venezuela's Diosdado Cabello amid political transition efforts.



07-Jan-26

The U.S. administration is reportedly focusing on Diosdado Cabello, Venezuela's hardline interior minister, as a potential target amid ongoing efforts to stabilize the country following the toppling of Nicolas Maduro. U.S. officials express concerns that Cabello's influence could destabilize the transition under Interim President Delcy Rodriguez, whom they view as pivotal for U.S. interests, especially regarding oil and narcotics trade. The Trump administration's strategy involves leveraging cooperation from Maduro's loyalists while avoiding a chaotic power vacuum. This approach highlights a nuanced U.S. intervention strategy aimed at exerting control over Venezuela's oil reserves and political landscape without deploying ground forces. The unfolding dynamics could significantly influence regional geopolitics and U.S.-Latin America relations.

## European leaders reject Trump's Greenland claims, affirming sovereignty.



07-Jan-26

On January 6, 2026, leaders from Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, and Britain collectively rejected US President Donald Trump's threats to assert control over Greenland, emphasizing that the territory's future is a matter for its people and Denmark to decide. This united European stance, articulated in a statement in Copenhagen, reinforces the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity as outlined in the UN Charter. The leaders also highlighted NATO's critical role in Arctic defense amid growing threats from Russia and China, underscoring the importance of maintaining international stability and transatlantic alliances, which are vital to broader security dynamics, including India's interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

## India Boosts Defense Exports and Ties with Southeast Asia Nations



07-Jan-26

India is enhancing its defense exports and strategic partnerships with Southeast Asian nations, notably Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam, amidst escalating maritime tensions in the South China Sea. Recent discussions between Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Indonesian officials have focused on the supply of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles,

positioning Indonesia as a key regional partner alongside the Philippines. These collaborations are aligned with India's Act East Policy and aim to bolster regional security through comprehensive strategic partnerships, troop training, and joint exercises. Such initiatives not only promote defense interoperability but also reinforce a rules-based order in crucial maritime routes, reflecting India's commitment to countering regional assertiveness and diversifying defense cooperation amid global geopolitical uncertainties.

## Venezuela mobilizes military forces to counter perceived US aggression. SHARE

07-Jan-26

On January 6, 2026, Venezuela's interim government, led by Vice President Delcy Rodríguez, mobilized the National Bolivarian Armed Forces in response to a recent US military operation that resulted in the capture of former President Nicolás Maduro. Defense Minister Gen. Vladimir Padrino López announced a high alert status for military and law enforcement units amid a declared state of commotion, emphasizing Venezuela's commitment to national sovereignty against perceived US aggression. This escalation reflects Caracas's intent to deter further incursions and could potentially involve Russian-supplied military equipment, complicating regional security dynamics. The situation underscores broader implications for global energy security and the strategic balance in the Americas, particularly concerning alliances opposed to Western interventionism.

## Russia's Oreshnik missile unit operational in Belarus amid base enhancements. SHARE

07-Jan-26

Russia's Defense Ministry confirmed the operational status of the Oreshnik intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile unit in Belarus, following a formal ceremony on December 30, 2025. This development aligns with satellite imagery revealing the construction of a strategic missile base, enhancing Russia's military footprint near NATO's eastern flank. Such advancements are significant as they could shift regional power dynamics, prompting India to consider bolstering its own missile defense capabilities in response to evolving security challenges within Eurasia. The deepening military integration between Russia and Belarus further underscores the necessity for India to stay vigilant against potential hypersonic threats.

## Train derailment disrupts North Korean military supply route for Russia. SHARE

07-Jan-26

A significant train derailment occurred in Russia's Amur region on the Transbaikal Railway, a critical route for transporting North Korean military supplies to support Russia's operations in Ukraine. The crash, which involved 35 freight wagons, has raised concerns about potential sabotage amid ongoing hostilities. As investigations unfold, the incident spotlights the increasingly complex alliance between North Korea and Russia, particularly as North Korean troops are reportedly being deployed in combat roles alongside Russian forces. This partnership has heightened fears regarding the sharing of military technologies and resources, which could further escalate regional tensions and impact global security dynamics.

## China showcases hypersonic missile capabilities in military drills, escalating regional tensions. SHARE

07-Jan-26

China has showcased its hypersonic missile capabilities during recent military drills, emphasizing its DF-17 missile, which features a hypersonic glide vehicle designed to evade missile defenses. This demonstration aligns with China's broader strategy to modernize its military and challenge the U.S. across the Pacific. The Pentagon warns that China's rapid advancements in hypersonic technology, along with its substantial missile arsenal, are intended to counteract U.S. military presence and strengthen its strategic position in regional conflicts, particularly around Taiwan and the South China Sea. Such developments underscore the increasing military tensions in the region and signal a significant shift in global power dynamics as China seeks to establish itself as a preeminent military force.

## General Upendra Dwivedi visits Sri Lanka to enhance defense ties. SHARE

07-Jan-26

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi embarked on an official visit to Sri Lanka on January 7, following his trip to the UAE, to strengthen bilateral defense cooperation and military ties. His visit is part of Operation Sagar Bandhu, initiated to provide humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka during Cyclone Ditwah. General Dwivedi's agenda includes discussions with senior Sri Lankan military and civil leaders, addressing training cooperation and regional security at key military institutions, and paying homage at the IPKF



War Memorial. This engagement underscores India's commitment to enhancing interoperability and mutual trust within the Indian Ocean Region and reflects a broader strategy to reinforce ties with regional partners.

## German Chancellor Merz to Visit India for Trade and Tech Talks SHARE

07-Jan-26

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz is set to visit India on January 12-13, focusing on trade, technology, and geopolitical relations amidst ongoing tariff tensions with the United States. His itinerary includes stops in Ahmedabad and Bengaluru, reflecting India's strategic push to enhance economic engagement with Europe. This visit is significant as it underscores India's efforts to diversify its trade partnerships and strengthen ties with European nations, thereby bolstering its position in global geopolitics. The outcomes of Merz's discussions could have long-lasting implications for Indo-European cooperation, particularly in technology and defense sectors, crucial for India's national security and economic resilience.

## Trump's aggressive foreign policy threatens Colombia and Greenland's stability. SHARE

07-Jan-26

Following the recent U.S. military operation in Venezuela, President Donald Trump has escalated threats against Colombia and Greenland, indicating a more aggressive foreign policy stance. Trump accused Colombian President Gustavo Petro of being complicit in the cocaine trade, suggesting military intervention, while also renewing claims to Greenland, citing national security concerns linked to Russian and Chinese presence in the Arctic. Internationally, Denmark and the EU condemned Trump's rhetoric, asserting sovereignty over Greenland, while concerns were raised at the U.N. about the implications of U.S. military threats. This development underscores a shift toward a confrontational U.S. approach, potentially destabilizing regional relations and affecting global geopolitical dynamics.

## Bolton: Trump's tariffs harm India ties, undermining strategic partnership. SHARE

07-Jan-26

Former US National Security Advisor John Bolton criticized President Trump's tariff threats against India as detrimental to US-India relations and strategically incoherent amidst rising tensions with China. Bolton

emphasized the need for stronger collaboration with India, Japan, and other allies in the Indo-Pacific to effectively counter Chinese assertiveness. He argued that penalizing India for its Russian oil purchases undermines the broader strategic partnership essential to balancing China's influence. Bolton suggested that renewed direct dialogue between Trump and Prime Minister Modi could help restore confidence and momentum in bilateral ties, highlighting the importance of treating India as a core ally rather than merely a trade partner in the context of global security challenges.

## Rajnath Singh and Netherlands FM discuss strengthening defense ties in New Delhi. SHARE

07-Jan-26

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met with Netherlands Foreign Minister David Van Weel in New Delhi on December 18, 2025, to strengthen the burgeoning defence partnership between the two nations. They discussed key bilateral security issues and co-development opportunities in defence equipment, emphasizing military cooperation as a cornerstone of their Strategic Partnership. A Letter of Intent on defence cooperation was signed, aiming for mutual benefit through a joint industrial roadmap focused on technology collaboration and co-production. Both ministers reiterated their commitment to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, while noting the significance of strong people-to-people ties through the Indian diaspora in the Netherlands.

## Military Operations

### US Navy Growlers disabled Venezuelan air defenses, aiding Maduro's capture. SHARE

07-Jan-26

Reports indicate that US Navy electronic-warfare aircraft, specifically the EA-18G Growlers, played a pivotal role in neutralizing Venezuelan air defenses during a military operation that led to the capture of President Nicolas Maduro. By employing advanced signal-jamming technology, the Growlers effectively overwhelmed Venezuela's aging radar and communications systems, allowing US special forces to operate with increased safety. This operation marks a significant resurgence of electronic warfare capabilities, which are now seen as critical in modern conflicts, particularly against nations with sophisticated air-defense systems. The effectiveness of such tactics raises important considerations for future military

strategies, especially in the context of Indo-Pacific tensions, where control of the electromagnetic spectrum is becoming increasingly vital.

## MiG-21 installed in Kota park to honor India's military legacy and inspire youth.



07-Jan-26

The MiG-21 fighter aircraft, a symbol of India's military prowess, has been installed at the Kota Karanth Theme Park in Udupi, highlighting its historical significance, particularly during the Kargil War. This initiative, spearheaded by MP Kota Shrinivas Poojary after extensive discussions with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, aims to inspire interest in the Indian Armed Forces among students and the public. The MiG-21's legacy includes the notable incident where Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman downed a Pakistani F-16, marking a pivotal moment in aerial combat history. The display, managed by the Kotatattu gram panchayat and Karanth trust, enriches the park's cultural offerings and fosters a deeper connection to India's defense heritage.

## Southern Command chief assesses Jodhpur Sub Area's readiness and community initiatives.



07-Jan-26

Southern Command chief Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth recently reviewed the operational readiness of the Jodhpur Sub Area, commending its exemplary performance during Operation Sindoor and improvements in logistics and disaster response capabilities. He highlighted the formation's effective coordination with central and state agencies, underscoring its role in humanitarian assistance and nation-building efforts. Concurrently, the Army's Spear Corps initiated an Eco-Tourism Exposure Tour in Arunachal Pradesh for students, aimed at promoting sustainable development and enhancing practical skills in ecotourism. This initiative reflects the Army's commitment to youth empowerment and community engagement, reinforcing the military's pivotal role in fostering regional development and citizen connection.

## Defence Minister praises IAF's operational prowess and modernization efforts at Conclave.



07-Jan-26

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the Indian Air Force (IAF) for its high-impact operational capability demonstrated during Operation Sindoor at the Air Force

Commanders Conclave in New Delhi. He emphasized the IAF's technological advancements and operational agility, underlining the critical role of air power in modern warfare, which transcends mere tactical use to become a strategic instrument for national interests. Singh highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts with the private sector in defense modernization and commended the successful integration of innovative ideas through initiatives like iDEX. He also reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing indigenous capabilities, particularly in developing jet engines, to ensure India's defense readiness in an evolving global landscape.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### Punjab teen detained for espionage, sharing military data with Pakistan.



07-Jan-26

A 15-year-old boy from Pathankot, Punjab, has been detained for allegedly spying and sharing sensitive military information with handlers associated with Pakistan's ISI via social media. The police discovered that he had been providing critical data for nearly a year, including images of military sites, and identified psychological vulnerabilities linked to a belief that his father had been murdered. Investigations suggest he was not acting alone, raising concerns among Indian security agencies about a potential trend of recruiting minors for espionage activities, which poses a significant security risk. Authorities have issued statewide alerts to identify other children who may also be targeted by Pakistani operatives.

### NIA takes over investigation of Manipur's twin blasts amid unrest.



07-Jan-26

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) assumed control of the probe into twin IED blasts in Manipur's Bishnupur district on January 5, 2026, injuring two civilians—retired CRPF trooper Soibam Sanatomba (51) and Nongthombam Indubala (37)—near an abandoned Meitei house in Nganukon, abandoned since ethnic violence erupted on May 3, 2023. The first explosion struck at 5:45 AM, with the second at 8:45 AM as locals gathered, prompting combing operations, heightened security, and protests including a 24-hour bandh by groups like COCOMI and AMSU, who torched a CRPF bunker alleging lapses. Under President's Rule since February 2025—post N. Biren Singh's resignation—this attack near the Churachandpur buffer zone risks

reigniting Meitei-Kuki clashes that have killed over 260 and displaced 60,000, demanding robust counter-insurgency to safeguard India's volatile Northeast frontier.

## Jaishankar highlights Pakistan's long-term support for terrorism in major cities. SHARE

07-Jan-26

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized India's unique diplomatic stance towards Pakistan, attributing it to Islamabad's longstanding and overt support for terrorism, which he described as a sustained policy rather than an episodic occurrence. He criticized Pakistan for normalizing its terrorist activities, stating that global attitudes have shifted and such justifications are increasingly rejected. Jaishankar argued that India's foreign and security strategies must adapt to this "unpalatable reality," asserting that India's approach will differ fundamentally between cooperative nations and those that threaten its security, like Pakistan. This underscores the critical need for India to formulate policies based on the actions of its neighbors, particularly in the context of regional stability and security.

## Pakistani ISI uses honeytraps to extract military secrets from citizens. SHARE

07-Jan-26

Haryana Police recently arrested a 31-year-old man, Sunil, for allegedly sharing sensitive information about the Indian Army and Air Force with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) through a honeytrap scheme. Using a fake female profile on social media, the operatives reportedly manipulated him over several months, leading to disclosures about military unit locations and troop movements. This incident underscores a growing concern regarding honeytrapping in espionage, particularly as digital interactions become more prevalent. In response, Indian defense forces are reinforcing guidelines to safeguard personnel against such tactics, emphasizing caution in online engagements and the protection of sensitive information.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### Cyber warfare's pivotal role in modern geopolitics is increasingly evident. SHARE

07-Jan-26

Recent developments in U.S.-Venezuela tensions highlight the growing integration of cyber warfare into military operations, as seen in Operation Absolute Resolve launched on January 3, 2026. This multi-domain effort by U.S. Cyber Command and Space Command preceded a Delta Force raid that captured President Nicolás Maduro, beginning with a cyberattack around 2 a.m. local time in Caracas that disabled the power grid, plunging large areas into darkness to mask over 150 incoming aircraft including drones, fighters, and helicopters. Preceding cyber effects degraded Venezuelan air defenses, radar systems, military communications, and critical infrastructure, creating a secure pathway for the assault force while suppressing detection capabilities. Earlier phases from December 2025 included a ransomware attack on PDVSA oil systems on December 13-15, crippling administrative functions and exports, alongside strikes on drug vessels to weaken regime funding and test defenses. Authorized by President Trump at 10:46 p.m. ET on January 2, the operation exemplified non-kinetic tools layering effects for kinetic success, with no U.S. casualties reported. Analysts note this marks a shift where cyber operations enable precision strikes, raising debates on capability disclosure amid global threats

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### IAF employee arrested for drunk driving and damaging breathalyser in Pune. SHARE

07-Jan-26

An Indian Air Force (IAF) employee was booked by Pune's Airport police for allegedly obstructing a public servant and mischief after he reportedly snatched a breathalyser from a traffic police officer and smashed it on the road. The incident occurred around 2:40 AM in Vimannagar when the individual, found riding his motorcycle inebriated, refused to cooperate with police checks for drunk driving. Instead of complying, he confronted the officers, verbally abused them, and damaged the breathalyser. This event underscores the challenges law enforcement faces in ensuring road

safety, especially when individuals in responsible positions fail to adhere to legal protocols, potentially undermining public trust in the enforcement of traffic regulations.

## Miscellaneous

### PM Modi praises commissioning of ICGS Samudra Pratap, enhancing India's maritime security and capabilities.

 SHARE

07-Jan-26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently hailed the commissioning of the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samudra Pratap, marking a significant milestone in India's maritime journey and enhancing the nation's security and maritime capabilities. Constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited, this pollution control vessel is the largest in the Indian Coast Guard fleet and features over 60% indigenous content, showcasing India's commitment to self-reliance in defense. With a weight of 4,170 tons and a length of 114.5 meters, the ICGS Samudra Pratap is equipped with advanced pollution control equipment, including high-capacity skimmers and a dedicated pollution control laboratory. It also includes modern systems for dynamic positioning and integrated management, as well as armament capabilities with a 30mm gun and firefighting systems. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the vessel's multi-functional capabilities, which will bolster coastal patrol and maritime safety, while also noting the historic inclusion of two women officers aboard. The commissioning of ICGS Samudra Pratap signifies India's proactive approach to enhancing its maritime security infrastructure and environmental responsibility amidst evolving maritime challenges.

### Suresh Kalmadi, former IAF pilot and controversial sports figure, passes away at 81.

 SHARE

07-Jan-26

Senior Congress leader Suresh Kalmadi, a former Indian Air Force pilot and prominent figure in Indian sports administration, passed away at the age of 81 in Pune following a prolonged illness. Born on May 1, 1944, Kalmadi served in the IAF from 1964 to 1972 and was involved in the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan, earning numerous accolades for his service. His political career spanned several decades, during which he held multiple terms in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, and he played a significant role as President of

the Indian Olympic Association. However, his legacy was marred by allegations of corruption related to the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, leading to his arrest in 2011 and subsequent suspension from the Congress Party. Despite being cleared of all charges in recent years, Kalmadi's public image suffered greatly due to the scandal, reflecting the complexities of accountability in Indian sports and politics. His death marks the end of a controversial yet impactful career, leaving behind a significant legacy in both political and sports sectors in India.

### PM Modi Emphasizes Virtue, Character, Knowledge, and Wealth's Timeless Values

 SHARE

07-Jan-26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the enduring values of virtue, character, knowledge, and wealth during a recent address, emphasizing their relevance in guiding India's national ethos and individual behaviors. He stated that true beauty is enhanced by virtue, lineage is uplifted by character, and knowledge gains significance through success, while wealth is meaningful when enjoyed responsibly. Modi's reflections underscore a commitment to moral and ethical conduct in contemporary society, suggesting that these time-honored principles are crucial for India's progress and harmony. By sharing a Sanskrit verse, the Prime Minister aims to inspire a collective journey towards a more responsible and enlightened society, reinforcing the importance of these values in navigating the complexities of modern life. This emphasis on traditional wisdom resonates with India's broader cultural narrative, potentially fostering unity and ethical governance as the nation advances on the global stage.

### ISRO plans AI data centres in space to boost edge computing.

 SHARE

07-Jan-26

ISRO has initiated a preliminary study to establish orbiting AI-driven data centres, marking a major step in India's bid to lead next-generation space infrastructure and digital sovereignty. The Department of Space told Parliament and later confirmed via a PIB release in December 2025 that early evaluations show a proof-of-concept for edge computing infrastructure in space is technically feasible, with ISRO now working on conceptual designs for in-orbit processing and storage systems. These AI data centres, envisaged in low Earth and possibly sun-synchronous orbits, would process satellite imagery and communications data in real time, cutting latency, easing bandwidth bottlenecks and



reducing dependence on foreign cloud providers. The initiative, aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat, leverages India's strengths in cost-effective launches and onboard electronics, even as challenges such as radiation-hardened chips, autonomous maintenance and robust power and thermal management remain central to realising operational systems over the next few years.

## Rehearsals for Jaipur's 78th Army Day Parade showcase advanced military assets and national pride.



07-Jan-26

Rehearsals for the 78th Army Day Parade are underway in Jaipur, set to take place on January 15, 2024, marking a significant departure from tradition by being held in a public space rather than a military cantonment. This year's parade will feature advanced military assets, including T-90 tanks, BrahMos missiles, and M-777 howitzers, showcasing India's commitment to technological advancement and self-reliance in defense. The parade commemorates the historic transition of command in 1949, when General KM

Cariappa became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief. This event underscores the Indian Army's operational excellence and reinforces national pride in military capabilities.

## Republic Day Parade Tickets Available for Online and Offline Booking



07-Jan-26

Tickets for the Republic Day Parade, which commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution on January 26, 1950, are now available for booking both online and offline. The annual event will take place at Kartavya Path in New Delhi, featuring a march from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate and concluding at the Red Fort. The parade will showcase a ceremonial unfurling of the national flag by the President of India, followed by a march-past of various military and paramilitary regiments, along with performances that include bands, tableaux, motorcycle displays, and aerial flypasts. This event not only honors India's constitutional heritage but also demonstrates the strength and unity of its armed forces.

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