



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

December 13, 2025 | Day 347

Defense Business and Industry

Russia upgrades S-400 for India, enhancing air defense capabilities with Ukraine war insights.



14-Dec-25

Russia is enhancing the S-400 Triumf air defense system by incorporating lessons learned from the Ukraine conflict, focusing on countering evolving aerial threats such as drones and precision-guided munitions. This upgrade is notably significant for India, which is set to receive the remaining two regiments of the S-400, now equipped with improved radar capabilities, enhanced missile options, and greater mobility, reinforcing its layered air defense posture. The recent Operation Sindoor showcased the effective operational synergy between the S-400 and India's BrahMos missile system, demonstrating India's increasing military sophistication, as it successfully neutralized Pakistani aircraft at unprecedented ranges. Russian analyst Alexei Mikhailov Petrenko affirmed the S-400's impressive performance during this operation, affirming its capabilities in long-range engagements, which significantly impacted Pakistan's air superiority and strategic calculus. These developments illustrate a transformative phase in India's defense capabilities, highlighting the integration of advanced imported technologies with indigenous assets to create a formidable deterrent and response mechanism against regional threats.

HAL anticipates Tejas Mk1A orders surpassing 180 due to MiG-21, Jaguar retirements.



14-Dec-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is optimistic about securing additional orders for the Tejas Mk1A fighter jets, projecting that total procurements could exceed 180 units as the Indian Air Force (IAF) prepares for the retirement of ageing MiG-21 and Jaguar fleets

over the next decade. With a solidified order history totaling approximately ₹1,19,172 crore for 220 Tejas fighters since its inception, the program has evolved significantly, showcasing advanced capabilities like the Uttam AESA radar and reduced foreign dependency. The pace of retirements, particularly of the MiG-21 by 2025 and the Jaguar by 2035, underscores the urgent need for the Tejas Mk1A to bridge the capability gap until the more advanced Tejas Mk2 and AMCA fifth-generation fighter enter service. This strategic shift not only aids in maintaining combat readiness but also reinforces the indigenous defense production ecosystem, with over 500 MSMEs contributing to the supply chain, thereby enhancing national security and self-reliance in defense manufacturing.

Committee urges MoD to finalize global certifications to boost HAL exports.



14-Dec-25

A recent report from the Committee On Public Undertakings (CPU) has urged the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to expedite agreements with global certification agencies, particularly the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), to enhance Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) aircraft exports. The report, presented in December, highlights significant delays in HAL's Gas Turbine Engine project, attributed to slow approvals for essential test-bed infrastructure and procurement bottlenecks, which have stalled progress since 2018 and led to substantial financial losses. The committee criticized the MoD for lacking a clear roadmap on critical testing facilities, underscoring the importance of resolving these issues to meet India's aspirations for self-reliance in aerospace systems under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Despite HAL's proactive measures in developing indigenous components and collaborating with global aerospace firms, the ongoing gaps in testing capabilities pose a threat to the nation's defense modernization efforts and its ability to compete in the global aviation market. The CPU's call for an urgent action plan, complete with timelines and funding arrangements, reflects a critical need for

administrative agility alongside technological advancements in India's defense R&D ecosystem.

China showcases world's largest aerial drone carrier, the Jiutian. SHARE

14-Dec-25

China has successfully completed the maiden flight of the Jiutian, touted as the world's largest aerial drone carrier, capable of deploying swarms of weaponized drones. This development illustrates China's advancements in unmanned aerial technology, with the Jiutian able to carry up to six tons and launch over 100 small drones, aiming to overwhelm enemy defenses. The unveiling comes amid China's broader military modernization efforts, which include expanding its nuclear capabilities and addressing internal corruption impacting its military effectiveness. The rise of such drone technology is significant, as it could reshape warfare dynamics in the region, particularly in light of ongoing global conflicts highlighting the strategic utility of drones.

Super Sukhoi: Upgraded Su-30MKI to Rival Global Fighters' Performance SHARE

14-Dec-25

The Indian Air Force's (IAF) potential upgrade of the Su-30MKI under the "Super Sukhoi" program is gaining traction, aiming to transform the aircraft into a state-of-the-art combat platform akin to the U.S. F-15EX. This initiative seeks to integrate advanced indigenous technologies, including the Virupaksha AESA radar, an enhanced electronic warfare suite, and advanced countermeasures, markedly improving its operational capabilities. Transitioning from reliance on foreign systems to indigenously developed components not only promises to elevate the aircraft's performance but also strengthens India's strategic autonomy in defense. By enhancing the Su-30MKI, the IAF can maintain a competitive edge in regional air power dynamics, ensuring enhanced survivability and operational flexibility against potential adversaries.

AMCA Mk2 induction may be delayed to 2040 due to engine validation issues. SHARE

14-Dec-25

India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Mk2 induction faces a potential slip to 2040 due to protracted validation of the indigenous 120 kN engine, jointly developed by DRDO's GTRE and France's Safran. Key dates include engine deal clearance expected in 2026, first ground run in 2032, prototype trials in

2032-33, and full certification beyond 2037-38, as reported on December 12, 2025. To bridge Indian Air Force capability gaps amid retiring Mirage-2000s and MiG-29s, options under review involve scaling up AMCA Mk1 procurement with GE F414 engines (98 kN) and retrofitting early Mk2 airframes for plug-and-play compatibility. From New Delhi's strategic lens, this propulsion bottleneck—mirroring global fifth-gen challenges—heightens vulnerability against China's J-20 fleet, demanding accelerated self-reliance and diversified partnerships to safeguard regional air superiority by the mid-2030s.

Indian Army proposes acquisition of 120 km range guided Pinaka rockets for enhanced artillery capabilities. SHARE

14-Dec-25

The Indian Army is strategizing to enhance its artillery capabilities by proposing the acquisition of 120 km range guided Pinaka rockets, with an estimated budget of Rs 2500 crore. Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), these rockets will significantly improve the strike range of the existing Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher system, which currently has a maximum range of 75 km. As part of this initiative, the Army is also procuring advanced Area Denial Munition and has engaged with domestic firms for upgrades to the system. This move not only bolsters India's defense infrastructure but also positions the Pinaka system as a promising export product, attracting interest from various countries, including Armenia and several European nations, thereby enhancing India's stature in the global defense market.

Indian Army enhances counter-drone capabilities with indigenous SAKSHAM system procurement. SHARE

14-Dec-25

On December 12, 2025, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) announced securing additional orders worth Rs 776 crore since November 14, explicitly including the indigenous SAKSHAM Counter Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS), signaling accelerated Indian Army procurement. Developed by BEL Ghaziabad, SAKSHAM delivers AI-driven command-and-control over the secure Army Data Network, fusing surveillance data for real-time Recognised UAS Picture up to 10,000 feet in the Tactical Battlefield Space, enabling swift detection, tracking, and neutralization of low-altitude drone threats via soft/hard-kill options. Initially approved under Fast Track Procurement in October 2025 post-Operation Sindoor drone incursions, this expansion underscores

urgency amid Pakistan/China border tensions, fortifying India's air littoral dominance and Atmanirbhar Bharat self-reliance against hybrid warfare. Deployment across formations within a year will integrate with Akasheer and Sudharshan Chakra, enhancing strategic deterrence in volatile geopolitics.

India's defense industry surges while China's military faces turmoil.



14-Dec-25

India's defense sector is undergoing a significant transformation, transitioning from a long-standing arms importer to a burgeoning global manufacturer, as evidenced by companies like HAL, BEL, and MDL making it to the SIPRI Top-100 arms makers. Although India currently captures only 1.1% of the global arms revenue, its rapid growth underscores a transformative shift in capabilities and production. This evolution is largely attributed to the "Make in India" initiative, which has bolstered domestic manufacturing. Meanwhile, China's military faces uncertainty amid internal purges under Xi Jinping, indicating a potential strategic advantage for India in the global arms race and regional security dynamics.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

General Chauhan highlights jointness, self-reliance, and innovation for transforming Indian armed forces.



14-Dec-25

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, addressing newly commissioned officers at the Air Force Academy in Dundigal, emphasized that India's future combat capability will rely on three core principles: jointness, Atmanirbharta (self-reliance), and innovation, collectively termed JAI. He noted that while the tempo of military operations has somewhat reduced, Operation Sindoor remains active, requiring constant vigilance and operational readiness throughout the year. General Chauhan contrasted India's strong military institutions and professionalism with the institutional fragility observed in neighboring regions, asserting that effective military success demands purposeful action rather than mere rhetoric. He outlined JAI as a guiding ethos, where jointness fosters unified combat capabilities, Atmanirbharta focuses on developing reliable defense systems for both India and global markets, and innovation encourages proactive advancements in military technology. With the landscape of warfare evolving

towards speed and intelligence, particularly in air combat, the armed forces are committed to adapting and leading in new technological frontiers, ensuring their relevance and effectiveness in future conflicts. The event culminated in the graduation of 244 cadets, marking a significant step in strengthening India's defense capabilities.

Aatmanirbharta signifies indigenous defense equipment design, upgrades, and control: Defense Production Secretary.



14-Dec-25

Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Sanjeev Kumar stressed the need for self-reliance in India's defence manufacturing to tackle conventional and unconventional challenges. Delivering a lecture on 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence Sector and Various Government Initiatives', organised by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in New Delhi on December 12, 2025, he defined Aatmanirbharta as avoiding dependence on others through indigenous design and development of equipment, upgrade capabilities, and full control over products. He highlighted initiatives like the Srijan Scheme, Positive Indigenisation Lists, Make Procedures, and iDEX in fostering a robust defence ecosystem, while underscoring the role of audit agencies in ensuring transparency. Kumar reiterated the government's commitment to these efforts for strategic independence.

Government reports 11,152 acres of defense land encroached, impacting military readiness.



14-Dec-25

The Indian government has reported that approximately 11,152 acres of defense land is currently under encroachment out of a total of 1.8 million acres, raising concerns about land management and utilization. Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth highlighted that while some land appears unused, it is earmarked for military training and infrastructural development, crucial for national security. Additionally, around 8,113 acres are embroiled in legal disputes, further complicating land usage. The Ministry is also moving towards revising the Defence Acquisition Procedure to streamline procurement processes, reflecting a commitment to enhancing the operational readiness of the armed forces amidst these challenges.

Amit Shah: India aims to eradicate Maoism by 2026, focusing on Bastar's development.



SHARE

14-Dec-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Indian government aims to eliminate Left Wing Extremism, particularly Maoism, by March 31, 2026, during the Bastar Olympics-2025 in Jagdalpur. He emphasized the importance of transforming the Bastar region into the most developed tribal area in India by December 2030, highlighting infrastructure improvements such as roads, electricity, and healthcare facilities, along with initiatives for cooperative industries and higher education. Shah praised over 700 surrendered Maoists participating in the games, indicating a shift towards mainstream society, and reiterated the government's commitment to provide extensive support and rehabilitation for former insurgents. This initiative marks a significant step towards stability and development in a region historically affected by insurgency.

CM criticizes Centre's claim of normalcy amid tourist site closures.



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14-Dec-25

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, on December 13, 2025, sharply criticized the Centre's narrative of normalcy in the region, pointing to the prolonged closure of key tourist destinations like parts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam following the deadly April 22, 2025, terror attack in Baisaran Valley that killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists. He argued these shutdowns—initially affecting around 50 spots without state consultation—send conflicting signals globally, confuse visitors, and contradict historical precedents when tourism thrived amid worse security in the 1990s. From an Indian strategic lens, such closures bolster terrorist narratives of instability, undermining counter-insurgency gains and economic revival in a terror-prone border state, while Abdullah urged immediate reviews to reopen sites and bolster infrastructure. He also flagged winter power outages as stemming from underreported consumer loads causing transformer failures, not smart meter delays, amid revenue losses for the power department.

Dhurandhar" sparks political debate over propaganda, terrorism, and artistic freedom in cinema.



SHARE

14-Dec-25

Aditya Dhar's hard-hitting spy thriller "Dhurandhar," released on December 5, 2025, has shattered box office records, crossing ₹290 crore nett in India by December 13 while racing past films like War 2 to become the fifth-highest grosser of 2025, with audiences packing theaters in awe of its gripping portrayal of India's covert ops against Pakistan-backed terror from the 1999 Kandahar hijacking, 2001 Parliament attack, and 26/11 Mumbai carnage. Yet, this triumph—fueled by Ranveer Singh's powerhouse performance and unapologetic realism—has triggered a vicious political storm by December 12, as opposition voices like Samajwadi Party's Ameeque Jamei and Congress's Tariq Anwar decry it as "government propaganda," while BJP leaders defend its raw truth on terrorism, even as six Gulf nations banned it over anti-Pakistan content. Liberals and elite critics vilify its patriotism as "hyper-nationalistic bigotry" and "shrill jingoism," shamelessly preferring the distorted, bikini-clad ISI fantasies of Pathaan's romanticized escapism that sanitizes enemies for "palatable patriotism," exposing their allergy to films that mirror India's hard-fought battles without woke dilutions. Box office annihilation proves the masses reject this anti-India snobbery, cheering Dhurandhar's bold stand as the real blockbuster verdict against those peddling forgetfulness over fierce national pride.

Congress criticizes Modi for India's exclusion from US-led Pax Silica initiative.



SHARE

14-Dec-25

On December 13, 2025, the Congress party criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for India's exclusion from the US-led Pax Silica initiative, launched on December 12 to secure a resilient silicon supply chain—from critical minerals to AI infrastructure—countering Chinese dominance, with partners including Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the Netherlands, UK, Israel, UAE, and Australia, but notably omitting India despite QUAD ties. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh attributed this to strained Trump-Modi relations since May 10, 2025, calling it a missed opportunity that undermines India's strategic tech interests, especially after Modi's recent phone call with President Trump discussing bilateral economic ties. From an Indian perspective, the snub underscores the need for self-reliant supply chains amid global shifts, as

New Delhi advances its own AI initiatives like the upcoming India-AI Impact Summit.

bolstering its defense industrial base amid evolving geopolitical dynamics, as it balances partnerships with Russia and the West.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Chinese coast guard injures Filipino fishermen in South China Sea clash.

 SHARE

14-Dec-25

Three Filipino fishermen were injured following a confrontation with the Chinese coast guard, which used water cannons against Philippine fishing boats near the disputed Sabina Shoal in the South China Sea. The incident involved aggressive maneuvers by the Chinese coast guard, including cutting anchor lines of several Philippine vessels, ultimately endangering the crews. The Philippine coast guard successfully reached the fishermen to provide medical assistance and supplies, despite ongoing tensions. This incident highlights the escalating maritime disputes in the South China Sea, where China's expansive territorial claims face international criticism, including the U.S. commitment to defend its ally, the Philippines, under their mutual defense treaty.

India cautiously evaluates Russian offers while prioritizing indigenous AMCA program and self-reliance in defense.

 SHARE

14-Dec-25

India has adopted a cautious stance regarding Russia's offers of the Su-57E stealth fighter, opting for a limited direct purchase rather than extensive co-development, as it prioritizes its indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. Despite Russia's advocacy for a deep Transfer of Technology, New Delhi is exploring acquiring 40 to 60 Su-57Es primarily as an interim solution to enhance the Indian Air Force's capabilities until the AMCA is operational by the mid-2030s. This decision reflects lessons learned from the previous FGFA program, where disputes and rising costs led to India's withdrawal from co-development. As India diversifies its defense procurement and focuses on self-reliance, it remains skeptical of foreign projects that could derail its domestic production timelines while securing agreements on high-performance engine technology, positioning itself at the forefront of advanced military capability. The ongoing strategic recalibration underscores India's commitment to

Germany to deploy soldiers to strengthen Poland's eastern border against Russia.

 SHARE

14-Dec-25

Germany plans to deploy a group of soldiers to Poland starting in the second quarter of 2026 to assist in fortifying the eastern border amid escalating tensions with Russia. The German soldiers will engage in engineering activities, which may include constructing fortifications and laying barbed wire, without necessitating parliamentary approval due to the absence of immediate military threats. This move aligns with Poland's ongoing efforts to bolster its defense capabilities and support Ukraine in its conflict with Russia, reflecting a broader trend of increased military readiness among NATO member states in Eastern Europe. Germany remains a significant military aid supplier to Ukraine, further emphasizing the collective security dynamics in the region.

Ekuverin Exercise Enhances Indo-Maldivian Military Cooperation and Readiness

 SHARE

14-Dec-25

The 14th edition of the Indo-Maldivian Ekuverin exercise, taking place from December 2 to 15 in Kerala, enhances military ties between India and the Maldives, focusing on amphibious and littoral operations crucial for Indian Ocean security. With equal contingents from both nations, the exercise emphasizes interoperability, counter-terrorism, and disaster response, fostering collaboration and mutual understanding. This initiative reflects India's Neighbourhood First policy and its SAGAR vision, reinforcing India's commitment to regional stability amid growing geopolitical challenges, including China's maritime assertiveness. The exercise not only strengthens operational readiness but also deepens trust and camaraderie between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force, paving the way for future joint endeavors that may incorporate advanced technologies.

Ukraine war reshapes defense supply chains, positioning India strategically.

 SHARE

14-Dec-25

The ongoing Ukraine war is prompting a significant shift in European defense policies, moving from emergency

military aid towards long-term industrial partnerships, with India emerging as a key player in discussions to diversify supply chains away from China. Experts emphasize that Ukraine's defense industry, which has rapidly expanded, requires substantial funding to increase production capacity, highlighting the vulnerabilities in current supply chains. With NATO allies reassessing their defense strategies, industrial cooperation is seen as essential for sustainable peace and effective deterrence against Russia. This evolving landscape underscores the importance of international collaborations, particularly involving India, in strengthening global defense frameworks.

Germany Hosts Vital Ceasefire Talks for Russia-Ukraine Conflict SHARE

14-Dec-25

Germany is hosting crucial peace talks in Berlin on December 14, 2025, aimed at resolving the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, with participation from US envoy Steve Witkoff, Ukrainian representatives, and European advisors. Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced a broader summit on December 15, where President Zelenskyy will seek bilateral economic support before engaging with EU and NATO leaders on a European peace proposal. This diplomatic effort highlights the complexities of establishing a stable European security framework, essential for global energy markets and supply chains impacting India's defense imports. Furthermore, it underscores India's commitment to advocating for peaceful resolutions in multilateral conflicts, reinforcing the significance of negotiations in enhancing multipolar stability amid ongoing tensions marked by Russia's military actions.

ICGS Sarthak concludes successful goodwill visit, enhancing India-Kuwait maritime cooperation. SHARE

14-Dec-25

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sarthak, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel, concluded its maiden five-day goodwill visit to Kuwait's Shuwaikh Port from December 9 to 13, 2025, markedly advancing India-Kuwait maritime ties under the SAGAR vision and the 2024 Defence Cooperation MoU signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic trip. The visit featured a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Kuwait Navy Ship KNS Al Garoh, professional interactions at the Kuwait Naval Base including discussions on joint exercises and training by Indian Ambassador Paramita Tripathi with Kuwait Navy Commander Saif Alhamlan, and outreach like yoga sessions, ship tours for

schoolchildren, and a Diwali-themed reception for the Indian community and dignitaries. These engagements underscored India's pivotal role in fostering regional security, interoperability, and people-to-people bonds in the Gulf, with ICGS Sarthak set to continue its deployment to Iran and Saudi Arabia.

MEA Secretary Ghosh's Beijing Talks with China Seen as Positive SHARE

14-Dec-25

During a recent visit to Beijing on December 11-12, 2025, Indian MEA Secretary Ghosh engaged in productive talks with Chinese officials, emphasizing the positive momentum in India-China relations. Both sides reaffirmed commitments from the previous Tianjin meeting and focused on advancing bilateral exchanges while managing differences, particularly concerning export controls vital for defense and civilian collaboration. These discussions reflect a mutual interest in stabilizing ties amid complex geopolitical contexts and enhancing people-centric initiatives. The dialogues signal a pragmatic approach by New Delhi, aiming to address frictions while exploring cooperative avenues, which could influence future border discussions and economic collaborations as 2026 approaches.

Bipartisan U.S. lawmakers push to repeal Trump's 50% tariffs on India. SHARE

14-Dec-25

A bipartisan group of U.S. Representatives has introduced a resolution urging the repeal of President Trump's 50% tariffs on Indian goods, arguing that these measures are detrimental to U.S.-India relations and American consumers. The resolution stems from concerns that the tariffs, imposed due to India's purchase of Russian oil, have disrupted supply chains and contributed to inflation, while jeopardizing strategic cooperation with India, a key partner in countering Chinese influence in the Indo-Pacific. Lawmakers emphasize the need to regain congressional authority over trade policies and raise alarms about the potential for retaliatory measures from India. The resolution reflects growing unease in Congress regarding escalating trade tensions and could pave the way for renewed discussions on a U.S.-India free trade agreement.

Military Operations

Ukraine strikes two Russian ships in Caspian Sea, disrupting military logistics. SHARE

14-Dec-25

Ukrainian special forces, in collaboration with a local resistance group, reportedly targeted and struck two Russian ships, the Composer Rakhmaninoff and the Askar-Sarydzha, which were allegedly transporting military equipment in the Caspian Sea. This operation marks a significant escalation in Ukraine's military actions, following earlier strikes on a Russian oil rig in the same region, disrupting oil and gas extraction from numerous wells. The attack underscores Ukraine's ongoing efforts to undermine Russian military logistics and illustrates the complexities of naval warfare in a region seen as strategically vital for both nations. The effectiveness of such operations raises questions about maritime security and the geopolitical stability of the Caspian Sea area.

Russia launches 450 drones and 30 missiles targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure. SHARE

14-Dec-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reported that Russia launched over 450 drones and 30 missiles targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure, particularly affecting regions such as Odesa, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, and others. Despite extensive damage to civilian facilities and widespread power outages, Zelenskyy emphasized the determination of emergency services to restore essential utilities. He underscored that these attacks illustrate Russia's continued aggression and the necessity for sustained international support to bolster Ukraine's defensive capabilities and apply pressure for diplomatic resolutions. The ongoing assault on Ukraine's energy sector raises significant humanitarian concerns, particularly as winter approaches, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive international assistance.

VT-4 Tank's Barrel Explosion Raises Concerns Over Chinese Quality Control SHARE

14-Dec-25

A Chinese-made VT-4 main battle tank of the Royal Thai Army suffered a catastrophic 125mm gun barrel rupture

on December 12, 2025, during intense border clashes with Cambodia near a contested frontline, injuring three crew members with burns, concussions, and lacerations while rendering the vehicle inoperable. The explosion also damaged the tank's digital fire control system and laser warning receivers, marking the first confirmed armoured loss in the escalating skirmishes, as Thai forces conducted direct fire missions against Cambodian positions. Thai officials attribute the failure to sustained heavy firing and possible barrel wear or ammunition issues, with joint investigations underway alongside NORINCO, amid scrutiny of Chinese export reliability that favours cost-comparable proven platforms like Russia's T-90S and western tanks for nations prioritising combat endurance. This incident underscores vulnerabilities in Chinese defence hardware.

India and Malaysia strengthen defense ties through joint military exercise. SHARE

14-Dec-25

The Indian and Malaysian armies are currently engaged in joint operational training under Exercise Harimau Shakti, taking place at the Mahajan field firing ranges from December 5 to December 7. This exercise includes diverse activities such as army martial arts drills, helicopter slithering, low-hover jumps from MI-17 helicopters, and counter-IED training, thereby enhancing skills for contemporary operational environments. A joint weapon and equipment display highlighted advanced military technologies, while physical fitness activities like yoga fostered camaraderie between the two forces. This collaboration not only bolsters professional bonds and mutual trust but also signifies an important step in strengthening defense cooperation in the region amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

NIA court declares Muzaffar Rather, linked to Delhi blast, a fugitive. SHARE

14-Dec-25

An NIA court has declared Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad Rather, implicated in a white-collar terror module linked to a November 10 car blast near Delhi's Red Fort, a proclaimed offender. This follows an extensive investigation initiated by Srinagar police, which uncovered a network threatening law enforcement and resulted in significant explosive material seizures. Rather, believed to be in Afghanistan, is required to appear before the court on January 28, 2026. His case

is indicative of the challenges posed by radicalized individuals utilizing their professional backgrounds for nefarious purposes, reflecting ongoing security threats in the region and the government's commitment to addressing terrorism through stringent judicial measures.

Kashmir police detain over 150 in crackdown on terror network.

14-Dec-25

Jammu and Kashmir police, in coordination with other security agencies, have executed a significant crackdown on Over Ground Workers (OGWs) associated with terrorist groups, detaining over 150 suspects across the Kashmir Valley, particularly in Srinagar. This operation aims to dismantle the networks of the banned outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad and other terror groups, following a commitment from Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to eradicate the terror ecosystem in the region. The ongoing raids reflect a robust effort by the government to address the issue of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, underscoring the serious repercussions for sympathizers and supporters of terrorism as authorities strive for greater security stability.

Trump vows serious retaliation after ISIS attack kills three Americans in Syria.

14-Dec-25

A lone ISIS gunman ambushed a joint US-Syrian security patrol near Palmyra, resulting in the deaths of two US Army soldiers and one US civilian interpreter, with three additional American service members injured. This incident marks the first US combat fatalities since the political transition following the ouster of Bashar al-Assad and underscores the ongoing threat posed by ISIS remnants in Syria's unstable regions, despite recent improvements in US-Syrian relations. President Donald Trump pledged "very serious retaliation" against the attackers, emphasizing the commitment of the United States to counter-terrorism operations in the area, where approximately 2,000 US troops are deployed. The attack highlights the broader challenge of jihadist networks, paralleling similar threats from ISIS affiliates in South Asia and reinforcing the critical need for robust international counter-terrorism cooperation to safeguard national security interests against transnational extremism.

Rs 92 crore in assets seized, major blow to Naxal funding.

14-Dec-25

In a decisive anti-Naxal operation, the Indian government has seized assets worth Rs 92 crore, significantly disrupting the financial support of Naxal groups. This coordinated action, involving multiple agencies, has resulted in the neutralization of 317 Naxals in 2025 alone, alongside the arrest of 862 and the surrender of 1,973 individuals. The government's strategy, which combines security measures with infrastructure development, has reduced Naxal-affected districts from 126 in 2014 to just 11 this year, showcasing a more unified and multi-dimensional approach. As violence declines and development initiatives expand in these regions, the government's commitment to eradicating Naxalism by March 2026 appears increasingly attainable, fostering hope for lasting peace and stability.

Retired IAF officer arrested for sharing sensitive data with Pakistan operatives in Assam.

14-Dec-25

In a significant security development, a retired Indian Air Force Junior Warrant Officer named Kulendra Sharma has been arrested in Tezpur, Assam, for allegedly sharing sensitive documents with operatives linked to Pakistani intelligence agencies. The arrest, carried out by Tezpur Police, follows a broader crackdown resulting in the apprehension of three additional individuals suspected of espionage activities. Sharma, who retired in 2002 and later worked at Tezpur University, reportedly maintained contact with suspected operatives, potentially using social media for information exchange, raising serious concerns regarding national security given Tezpur's strategic military significance. The police have seized electronic devices from Sharma's residence, which are undergoing forensic examination to ascertain the nature and extent of the information shared. Meanwhile, the investigation has prompted local reactions, with villagers protesting against Sharma and branding him a traitor, highlighting the emotional and social ramifications of the case. The ongoing investigation also led to the arrest of a woman involved in a money laundering operation with links to Pakistan, as authorities continue to assess the implications of foreign-linked networks operating in sensitive areas.

ED raids 40 sites in Maharashtra, seizes Rs 9.7 crore linked to ISIS module. SHARE

14-Dec-25

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted extensive raids across over 40 locations in Maharashtra and other states, targeting an ISIS-linked module, leading to the seizure of assets valued at approximately Rs 9.7 crore, including Rs 3.7 crore in cash and gold worth Rs 6 crore. The operation revealed a network involved in terrorism financing, recruitment, and illegal activities, including the clandestine harvesting and smuggling of Kaith wood, with proceeds allegedly funneled into extremist operations. These findings underscore the importance of counter-terrorism financing efforts and the need for inter-agency cooperation in dismantling radicalised networks. The ED's actions reflect a robust national security strategy, aimed at curtailing the operational capacity of extremist factions and enhancing India's defenses against radicalisation.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Germany blames Russia for cyberattacks on air traffic and election interference. SHARE

14-Dec-25

Germany has accused Russia of orchestrating a cyberattack on its air traffic control system in August 2024 and attempting to interfere in its federal elections earlier that year, attributing these actions to the Russian military intelligence agency, the GRU, and the hacking group Fancy Bear. In response to these allegations, Germany plans coordinated countermeasures with European partners, including sanctions and heightened monitoring of Russian diplomats. This incident underscores a broader trend of hybrid warfare tactics employed by Russia, aimed at destabilizing democratic institutions across Europe. As tensions rise, European leaders, including NATO's Secretary General, highlight the urgency of addressing both cyber threats and potential military aggression from Russia, particularly in light of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

General Dwivedi reviews IMA Passing Out Parade, commissioning 525 officers. SHARE

14-Dec-25

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the 157th Passing Out Parade at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun, where 525 officer cadets, including 34 from 14 friendly foreign nations, were commissioned into the Indian Army. During the ceremony, which included the traditional Pipping Ceremony, General Dwivedi emphasized the importance of courage, integrity, and the evolving nature of modern warfare, citing Operation Sindoor as a prime example of the Indian Army's adaptive strategies that blend military action with diplomatic efforts. He urged the newly commissioned officers to uphold the highest standards of discipline and leadership in response to the complex security challenges facing the nation. This event not only signifies the transition of cadets into commissioned officers but also highlights India's commitment to military modernization and international defense partnerships, reinforcing the significance of cooperation among nations in ensuring regional stability.

IMA Dehradun sees 491 officers commissioned into Indian Army during Passing Out Parade. SHARE

14-Dec-25

A grand Passing Out Parade at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun marked the commissioning of 491 young officers into the Indian Army, alongside 34 foreign cadets from 14 nations. The ceremony, reviewed by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, celebrated the culmination of rigorous training for the 157th Regular Course and several other entry schemes. Notable achievements included the Sword of Honour awarded to ACA Nishkal Dwivedi and medals recognizing excellence among technical and special commission officers. General Dwivedi emphasized the responsibilities of service, urging the new officers to embody the Army's traditions of loyalty and commitment as they embark on their lifelong duty. This event underscores India's commitment to nurturing leadership and strengthening its military capabilities.

Nation honors security personnel on 2001 Parliament attack anniversary, reaffirming commitment to combat terrorism. SHARE

14-Dec-25

On the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack, leaders across party lines and families of martyrs paid tribute to the security personnel who sacrificed their lives defending India's democratic institution. Union Minister Kiren Rijju emphasized the nation's enduring gratitude, recalling the bravery of those who responded to the attack, which claimed 14 lives, including that of Constable Kamlesh Kumari, who was posthumously awarded the Ashoka Chakra for her valor. President Droupadi Murmu reaffirmed the nation's commitment to combating terrorism, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior officials participated in the commemorations, underlining the attack's brutal assault on India's sovereignty and the critical importance of honoring those who protect it.

AFA Hyderabad sees 244 officers commissioned into Indian Air Force during Passing Out Parade. SHARE

14-Dec-25

On December 13, 2025, the Air Force Academy in Dundigal, Hyderabad, hosted a Combined Graduation Parade marking the commissioning of 244 Indian Air Force flight cadets—215 men and 29 women—from the 216 Course into flying and ground duty branches. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan reviewed the ceremony, conferring President's Commissions and awarding President's Plaques to top performers like Flying Officer Tanishq Aggarwal, Saksham Dobriyal, and Nitesh Kumar, while emphasizing operational readiness amid ongoing Operation Sindoor as a testament to IAF's professionalism. The event featured synchronized flypasts by Pilatus PC-7, Hawk, Kiran, and Chetak aircraft, thrilling displays by Akash Ganga and Air Warrior Drill Team, and Wings for six Indian Navy officers, eight Coast Guard personnel, and two Vietnamese trainees, underscoring India's strengthening regional defense partnerships, particularly with Vietnam. General Chauhan urged the new officers to embrace jointness, self-reliance, and innovation under 'JAI' principles to safeguard national sovereignty

Miscellaneous

India's National Supercomputing Mission Boosts Self-Reliance with 40 Petaflops of Indigenous Power SHARE

14-Dec-25

The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has successfully deployed 37 supercomputers with a collective power of 40 Petaflops, significantly enhancing India's high-performance computing (HPC) capabilities. Notably, the indigenous PARAM Rudra series is tailored for vital research in various fields, including aerospace engineering and drug discovery, benefiting over 13,000 researchers and producing substantial academic output. The mission emphasizes self-reliance by fostering domestic manufacturing through technology transfers and has developed indigenous components such as the Rudra Server Board. Furthermore, initiatives for advanced HPC processors and tailored applications addressing national priorities strengthen India's position in the global supercomputing landscape, reinforcing its technological sovereignty and innovation potential.

Cabinet approves bill to invite private investment in India's nuclear energy sector. SHARE

14-Dec-25

On December 12, 2025, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, a landmark reform opening India's civil nuclear power sector to regulated private participation for the first time, ending the Department of Atomic Energy's long-standing monopoly. This follows Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's February 2025 Budget announcement of the Nuclear Energy Mission with Rs 20,000 crore for small modular reactors (SMRs) research, targeting five indigenously developed SMRs operational by 2033 to bolster energy security and net-zero goals by 2070. The bill amends the Atomic Energy Act and Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, capping supplier liability, enabling up to 49% foreign direct investment, and creating a unified framework to attract capital for the 100 GW nuclear capacity target by 2047, positioning India as a leader in clean, indigenous nuclear technology.

INSV Kaundinya to voyage historic maritime route from India to

Oman.  **SHARE**

14-Dec-25

INSV Kaundinya, the Indian Navy's traditionally built sailing vessel modeled after a fifth-century merchant ship from Ajanta Caves murals, departed Karwar Naval Base on December 13, 2025, bound for Porbandar, Gujarat. The 20-meter wooden ship, hand-stitched by Kerala artisans using coconut husk ropes, coir fibers, fish oil, and natural tree sap, carries a 16-member Navy crew trained in rigging and carpentry by traditional

experts. Set to embark from Porbandar on December 29 for Muscat, Oman—a voyage expected to last 15 days—it retraces ancient Indian trade routes that linked the subcontinent's spices, ivory, and textiles to West Asia, underscoring India's enduring maritime legacy and strategic presence in the Indian Ocean. Funded by the Ministry of Culture via a tripartite pact with the Navy and Goa-based Hodi Innovations, the May 2025-inducted vessel bears motifs like the Gandabherunda eagle and Simha Yali, honoring ancestral craftsmanship and exploration.

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