



Defense Business and Industry

Indian Army plans to acquire 850 kamikaze drones for ₹2,000 crore.

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The Indian Army is set to procure 850 kamikaze drones worth ₹2,000 crore, pending final approval from the Defence Acquisition Council in December 2025. This initiative, part of the 'Make in India' campaign, aims to enhance the Army's drone warfare capabilities and operational readiness amid rising border tensions with Pakistan and China. The drones will be sourced from domestic manufacturers, supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat goals and stimulating the defense ecosystem. The acquisition follows the success of Operation Sindo, highlighting the effectiveness of loitering munitions in asymmetric warfare and signaling a strategic shift towards advanced drone-centric operations across infantry battalions. This move not only fortifies India's defense posture but also positions it as a leader in indigenous drone technology on the global stage.

Indian Coast Guard commissions Amulya vessel, enhancing maritime defense capabilities.

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The Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Amulya, the third in the series of eight new-generation Adamya-class fast patrol vessels, at a ceremony in Goa on December 19, 2025, built by Goa Shipyard Limited with over 60% indigenous components to bolster self-reliance under Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India. This 51-metre vessel, powered by two 3,000 kW advanced diesel engines, achieves 27 knots top speed and 1,500 nautical miles endurance, equipped with a 30 mm CRN-91 gun, two 12.7 mm stabilised remote-controlled guns, controllable pitch propellers, and integrated surveillance systems for superior manoeuvrability. Based at Paradip, Odisha, under Coast

Guard Region (North East) commanded by Commandant (JG) Anupam Singh with five officers and 34 personnel, Amulya enhances surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue, anti-smuggling, and pollution response along India's eastern seaboard, strengthening national maritime security.

US Missile Defense Agency Boosts Golden Dome Contractors to 2,100

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The US Missile Defense Agency has expanded its contractor pool for the Golden Dome missile defense initiative to over 2,100 firms, reflecting a significant investment of up to \$151 billion in advanced technologies aimed at countering various aerial threats. This expansion, part of a broader strategy under President Trump's defense initiatives, emphasizes rapid innovation in missile defense capabilities, including artificial intelligence and digital engineering. From an Indian strategic perspective, this development highlights the growing US focus on layered missile defenses amid heightened geopolitical tensions, which could influence regional security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific and open avenues for collaboration in defense technologies, enhancing India's own ballistic missile defense systems against emerging threats.

India aims for a strong defense industry with ₹3 lakh crore production by 2029.

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India is intensifying efforts to build a robust defence industrial base, aiming for ₹3 lakh crore in defence production and ₹50,000 crore in exports by 2029, amid rising geopolitical tensions and supply chain challenges. With indigenous defence production reaching ₹1,27,434 crore, the country emphasizes strategic autonomy and operational readiness, illustrated by successful adaptations of platforms during the Ladakh standoff. However, challenges such as regulatory complexities, financing constraints, and testing delays persist. Moving forward, India plans to implement reforms like a single-window export agency

and long-term procurement roadmaps to enhance manufacturing capabilities and streamline operations, underscoring the importance of an indigenous defence base in strengthening national security and international partnerships.

India's defense procurement reaches 89% domestic sourcing, boosting Make in India initiative.

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India's defense procurement has reached an impressive 89% domestic sourcing, significantly advancing the Make in India initiative, as stated by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. The Ministry of Defence aims to spend at least 75% of capital expenditure on domestic items, a target already surpassed. Streamlining procurement processes and improving timelines have become priorities, with contracts worth Rs 1.6 lakh crore signed this year alone. The Defence Secretary also emphasized the growing role of defence public sector undertakings and startups, fostering innovation and competitiveness. Despite challenges in execution due to reliance on imported components, initiatives like the AMCA fighter aircraft and advanced air-defense systems signal India's commitment to enhancing its indigenous defense capabilities.

Indian Army seeks bids for 100,000 new 9mm pistols to enhance combat capabilities.

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The Ministry of Defence has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to Indian firms for the procurement of 100,000 new 9mm pistols, aimed at modernizing the Indian Army's close-quarters combat capabilities. The Army seeks a pistol with ambidextrous controls, suppressors, and modular design for future upgrades, suitable for diverse terrains and weather conditions. This initiative emphasizes the 'Make in India' policy, as the Army transitions from reliance on imported firearms to indigenous solutions, including advancements like 3D-printed components. The move is significant for enhancing operational effectiveness, particularly for special forces engaged in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism efforts.

Indian Army to acquire 850 kamikaze drones post-Operation Sindoor insights.

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The Indian Army is set to induct 850 kamikaze drones following insights gained from Operation Sindoor, with

the proposal nearing approval from the Defence Acquisition Council in an upcoming high-level meeting. This move is part of a fast-track procurement strategy aimed at enhancing the Army's operational capabilities in modern warfare. The integration of these drones is expected to significantly bolster India's defense posture amid evolving geopolitical challenges. Emphasizing rapid technological advancement, this initiative reflects India's commitment to modernizing its military assets and maintaining strategic superiority in the region.

DRDO's STAR Missile Program Advances to Phase-III for Combat Roles

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The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has advanced its STAR supersonic missile program to Phase-III, focusing on the integration of propulsion, guidance, and control systems for operational deployment. Originally designed as a target drone, the STAR missile is being adapted for combat roles, including an anti-AWACS variant, enhancing India's multi-role indigenous systems under the Make in India initiative. The air-launched and ground-launched variants provide versatile training and tactical capabilities, significantly improving pilot readiness and operational flexibility across diverse terrains. This evolution reflects India's strategic response to regional threats, potentially bolstering its defense diplomacy and self-reliance in military technology.

Lockheed Martin promotes C-130J Super Hercules for IAF's transport aircraft program.

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Lockheed Martin is positioning its C-130J Super Hercules as the prime candidate for the Indian Air Force's Medium Transport Aircraft Program, leveraging its existing fleet of 12 C-130J-30s to demonstrate reliability in India's challenging terrains. As part of a joint venture with TATA Advanced Systems Limited, Lockheed plans to establish an in-country production facility in India, with initial assembly occurring in the U.S. and local MRO capabilities set to support up to 80 aircraft by 2027. The partnership aims to accelerate India's aerospace defense capabilities while enhancing bilateral ties and advancing indigenisation goals. The anticipated Acceptance of Necessity approval in early 2026 will pave the way for Lockheed to outpace competitors in meeting India's tactical airlift needs.

DRDO Chooses Bombardier Global 6500 for India's ISTAR Surveillance Program

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DRDO has selected the Bombardier Global 6500 ultra-long-range business jet as the platform for India's ₹10,000 crore ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance) program, approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on July 3, 2025, under a larger ₹1.05 lakh crore modernization package chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Recent reports from December 16-18, 2025, confirm the Indian Air Force (IAF) will induct three such aircraft, equipped with indigenous sensors from DRDO's Centre for Airborne Systems, offering 18-hour endurance, 51,000-foot ceiling, and high-altitude performance ideal for Himalayan borders. This bolsters real-time battlefield awareness, electronic intelligence, and precision strikes against threats from China and Pakistan, enhancing India's strategic deterrence and self-reliance in contested environments. Deliveries are slated within five years post-contract, bridging critical surveillance gaps.

DRDO to validate 120km Pinaka Mk3 system trials in 2026.

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The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is set to conduct long-range validation trials for the Pinaka Mk3 rocket system, now scheduled for early 2026, following a rescheduling from late 2025. This next-generation artillery system, capable of striking targets up to 120 km away, represents a significant leap in the Indian Army's deep-strike capabilities and aims to reduce reliance on older imported systems. With a projected procurement value of approximately 2,500 crore, the Pinaka Mk3 will utilize advanced guidance technology from the successful Guided Pinaka variant, enhancing accuracy and operational effectiveness. The initiative underscores India's strategic shift towards modernizing its military capabilities while fostering a resilient domestic defense industrial ecosystem, further solidifying its position in the global defense market.

DRDO to develop drone swarms as floating antennas for electronic warfare.

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The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is advancing unmanned aerial technology with a new initiative to develop drone swarms that function as floating antenna arrays for electronic warfare missions. This project aims to create a distributed

phased array of drones capable of real-time formation adjustments, enhancing communication and radar capabilities while overcoming challenges related to stability and communication in contested airspaces. The initiative is particularly significant for asymmetric warfare, as it offers a resilient operational framework that can adapt to losses within the swarm. By leveraging partnerships with Indian MSMEs and startups, the DRDO aligns with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision, ensuring the strategic development and retention of critical technologies within India.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

India's DAP 2025 aims for flexible indigenous norms and quicker military procurement.

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India is set to revamp its military procurement framework with the forthcoming Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2025, designed to enhance indigenous content norms and expedite the modernization of the Armed Forces. A high-level committee recommends a phased approach to Indigenous Content, allowing vendors to start with lower thresholds, and introduces a "single-vendor" route for urgent needs, aimed at domestic firms. These reforms intend to alleviate entry barriers for small and medium enterprises while ensuring operational readiness. Furthermore, the policy broadens the definition of indigenous content and introduces a robust vendor qualification framework to streamline procurement, thereby bolstering domestic R&D and mitigating equipment shortages. This overhaul supports India's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, reinforcing its commitment to self-reliance in defense capabilities.

Politics

Akhilesh Yadav demands Ahir Regiment and military schools in UP.

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Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has reiterated the demand for an Ahir Regiment in the Indian Army, emphasizing the need to honor the contributions of soldiers from the Ahir community during a recent press conference in Lucknow. He also called for the establishment of additional military schools, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, to enhance

military education and recruitment in the region. Yadav praised the valor of Indian troops during the 1962 India-China war, highlighting their bravery at Rezang La, while criticizing the temporary nature of military recruitment under the Agnipath scheme. This demand reflects broader aspirations to recognize diverse contributions to the Indian defense forces and enhance military infrastructure in the state.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Protests in Bangladesh against Indian missions linked to political unrest, says ex-Foreign Secretary.

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Protests have surged in Bangladesh following the assassination of Osman Hadi, a prominent anti-India activist and spokesperson for Inqilab Moncho, who succumbed to gunshot wounds on December 12. The unrest, which erupted in Dhaka and spread nationwide, has seen demonstrators targeting Indian diplomatic missions, raising concerns over politically motivated violence amid the run-up to the February 2026 elections. Former Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla characterized these protests as orchestrated efforts by anti-India factions, potentially exacerbating tensions as Hadi's political significance had positioned him as a candidate in the upcoming elections. Amid widespread calls for justice and accountability, the interim government, led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, condemned the violence while intensifying security measures to maintain order. The situation reflects a deepening instability in Bangladesh, with broader implications for its democratic process and relations with India, as political ambitions collide with societal tensions and anti-India sentiments, complicating the regional geopolitical landscape.

Jaishankar seeks Dutch support as India-EU FTA negotiations advance.

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During the visit of Dutch Foreign Minister David van Weel to New Delhi, India and the Netherlands established a Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) and signed several key Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at enhancing cooperation in strategic sectors, including semiconductors, digital technologies, and cybersecurity. The JTIC will facilitate trade, promote mutual investments, and address barriers to commerce, meeting annually to streamline processes and support small and medium enterprises.

High-level discussions also covered defence collaboration, reaffirming commitments to joint exercises and technology transfers, reflecting India's broader push for indigenisation in its military capabilities. These developments are set against the backdrop of the ongoing negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the EU, which has reached a critical stage, with the Netherlands playing a pivotal role. The dialogues also touched upon significant geopolitical matters, including the Ukraine conflict and regional tensions, with both nations condemning terrorism and advocating for stronger international cooperation. Overall, this visit underscores the evolving and multifaceted strategic partnership between India and the Netherlands, promising mutual benefits in an increasingly interconnected global landscape.

Rubio highlights Trump's role in de-escalating India-Pakistan tensions and promoting peace.

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At a press conference in Washington DC, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized President Donald Trump's commitment to peacemaking, citing his role in de-escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. Rubio noted that the US has been actively engaged in resolving conflicts globally, including in India-Pakistan, and praised Trump's efforts to bring about peace in regions with longstanding disputes. He reiterated Trump's claims of having halted potential conflicts, underscoring the importance of US diplomacy in international relations. Meanwhile, India launched Operation Sindoor targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan following a deadly attack, leading to a brief conflict that was resolved through mutual understanding. Rubio also addressed the broader geopolitical landscape, highlighting the need for the US to maintain strong partnerships in the Indo-Pacific while managing its relationship with China. He acknowledged Pakistan's potential role in peace efforts while stressing the necessity of clarity regarding any military presence in Gaza. This narrative reflects the intricate interplay of diplomacy and military engagement in contemporary geopolitics, underscoring the US's self-portrayal as a crucial mediator in South Asian conflicts.

Imran Khan and wife sentenced to 17 years for corruption.

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Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, were sentenced to 17 years in prison

for corruption related to the Toshakhana case, which involves fraud concerning state gifts received in 2021. Convicted of criminal breach of trust and corruption, they have been incarcerated since August 2023, facing multiple legal challenges since Khan's ouster in April 2022. The court has acknowledged their age and gender in considering their punishment, while Khan has consistently claimed the charges are politically motivated. Amidst ongoing appeals, concerns have been raised regarding Khan's treatment in detention, including reports of inhumane conditions and isolation, prompting international scrutiny over his rights. This case underscores the political turmoil in Pakistan and its implications for governance and rule of law.

Pentagon plans ban on indirect ties to Chinese defense firms by 2027.

20-Dec-25

The US Pentagon is set to enforce a ban on companies with indirect links to blacklisted Chinese military firms, as outlined in the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. Beginning June 2026, the Department of Defense will prohibit direct contracts with these entities, with a full indirect procurement ban effective by June 30, 2027. This initiative aims to eliminate vulnerabilities in defense supply chains and reflects a broader strategy to counter China's military-civil fusion approach. For India, this shift presents an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and diversify supply chains in critical defense technologies, enhancing regional resilience against Chinese influence in strategic sectors.

Lukashenko announces operational deployment of Russian Oreshnik missiles in Belarus.

20-Dec-25

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko confirmed the deployment of Russia's advanced Oreshnik hypersonic missiles in Belarus, with operational readiness achieved as of December 17, 2025. These nuclear-capable intermediate-range ballistic missiles, capable of traveling at Mach 10 and featuring multiple warheads, significantly enhance Russia's deterrent posture amidst ongoing geopolitical tensions. This move reflects a strategic integration between Russia and Belarus aimed at countering NATO expansion, particularly in light of Western military support for Ukraine. For India, this development underscores shifting Eurasian security dynamics, emphasizing the necessity of vigilance and strategic partnerships in an increasingly multi-polar world.

Bangladesh's strategic shift challenges India's influence in Northeast region.

20-Dec-25

Bangladesh's recent strategic shift, marked by a transition from a subordinate geopolitical position, poses significant challenges for India's northeastern states. The evolving dynamics in South Asia could undermine India's historical influence in the region, raising concerns about security and trade routes. As Bangladesh navigates this transformation under a new interim administration, India faces the prospect of reassessing its foreign policy and strengthening its ties with local stakeholders to counterbalance these developments. The broader implications of this shift could reshape regional alliances and impact stability in the already complex geopolitical landscape of South Asia.

Taiwan reports increased Chinese military presence with six aircraft and eleven vessels detected.

20-Dec-25

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense has reported the detection of six Chinese military aircraft and eleven naval vessels operating near its territorial waters, marking a continuation of heightened military activity from China, which included a similar observation of seven aircraft and eleven vessels the previous day. This increased presence underscores ongoing tensions in the Taiwan Strait, as Taiwan's National Security Bureau is also monitoring Chinese officials in foreign embassies believed to be engaged in intimidation of Taiwanese citizens abroad. The situation reflects Taiwan's pressing need to bolster its defense strategies amid rising military assertiveness from China, impacting regional security dynamics and international responses toward the Taiwan Strait.

Quad nations enhance humanitarian response through inaugural logistics exercise in the Indo-Pacific.

20-Dec-25

The Quad nations—India, the United States, Australia, and Japan—successfully conducted their inaugural Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN) Field Training Exercise from 8 to 12 December 2025, enhancing regional humanitarian response capabilities. This initiative, aligned with the longstanding Operation Christmas Drop, aims to streamline logistics for rapid disaster response in the Indo-Pacific region. India's

active participation strengthens its strategic role in the Quad, showcasing commitment to regional stability through coordinated humanitarian efforts. The exercise builds on prior simulations, emphasizing interoperability among Quad partners and setting the stage for future collaborations, potentially incorporating advanced technologies, thereby reinforcing the Quad as a pivotal force for stability amidst growing regional uncertainties.

US Secretary of State Acknowledges Pakistan's Troop Offer for Gaza Stabilization Force

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US Secretary of State Rubio acknowledged Pakistan's tentative offer to consider troop contributions to a proposed International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in Gaza, emphasizing the need for further clarifications before any commitments are made. While Pakistan has historically supported UN peacekeeping operations, its current indecision reflects domestic sensitivities and strategic calculations amid regional tensions, particularly with India. The ISF, part of a broader initiative to stabilize Gaza post-ceasefire, could enhance legitimacy among Muslim nations if Pakistan participates, although risks associated with asymmetric threats loom large. Ultimately, this development illustrates the delicate balance of geopolitical alliances as the Trump administration seeks to redefine its Middle East strategy while addressing concerns regarding Pakistan's role.

India Monitors Chinese Influence in Bangladesh Amid Security Concerns

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India is closely monitoring the increasing Chinese influence in Bangladesh amid its ongoing political crisis, which has led to significant disruptions in trade and travel between the two nations. A Parliamentary Committee report highlighted the prioritization of medical visas for Bangladeshis, reflecting India's commitment to healthcare ties despite a 90% drop in travel. The report raised concerns over the potential dumping of Chinese goods into India via Bangladesh, leveraging existing preferential trade agreements. Furthermore, India's responsive trade restrictions against Bangladeshi imports underscore the delicate balance of maintaining economic interdependence while addressing security vulnerabilities, as geopolitical shifts could impact regional stability and bilateral relations.

Bangladesh conducts Osman Hadi's state funeral amid unrest and tight security.

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The state funeral of Sharif Osman Hadi, a slain youth leader and election candidate, drew tens of thousands of mourners in Dhaka amid heightened security following his violent death, which has incited unrest across Bangladesh. Interim government leader Muhammad Yunus emphasized Hadi's enduring legacy, while protests demanding justice and accountability for political violence continue, marked by assaults on media outlets and civic organizations. The upcoming parliamentary elections on February 12, 2025, hold significance for the nation's stability, as the interim government seeks to navigate a landscape rife with political tensions and anti-India sentiment, exacerbated by the ousting of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Human rights organizations have condemned the violence and called for independent investigations, underlining the fragile state of democracy in Bangladesh.

Hindu man lynched in Bangladesh amid tensions after activist Hadi's death.

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A Hindu man was lynched in Bangladesh amid rising tensions following the death of anti-India activist Hadi, with the incident highlighting an alarming trend of violence against the Hindu minority since former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ousting in August 2024. Eyewitness reports indicate a chaotic scene as the mob not only killed the victim but also desecrated his body, prompting widespread condemnation and demands for accountability from both local authorities and international observers. This brutal episode underscores the fragility of interfaith relations in Bangladesh, exacerbated by unverified blasphemy allegations. As the interim government faces scrutiny over its ability to protect minorities, the incident raises urgent calls for comprehensive legal reforms and safeguarding measures, particularly with potential elections looming in early 2026.

Jaishankar Engages Multi-Party Delegations at UNGA to Boost Diplomacy

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External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently met with multi-party parliamentary delegations that

represented India at the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), emphasizing India's commitment to parliamentary diplomacy. The delegations, comprising members from various political parties, successfully articulated India's positions on significant global issues and strengthened the nation's multilateral outreach. Jaishankar praised their effective engagement, which aligns with India's proactive foreign policy aimed at enhancing diplomatic ties and promoting national interests. This initiative underscores India's strategic use of parliamentary diplomacy to foster unity in addressing complex international challenges, while also valuing insights from grassroots representatives to inform future diplomatic strategies.

Military Operations

Rajnath Singh underscores IAF's vital role in national security and modern warfare strategies.

20-Dec-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the Indian Air Force's critical role in national security during the Indian Air Force Commanders Conclave, highlighting the operational success of actions against terrorist camps in Pakistan and PoK as markers of India's high-impact military capabilities. He urged commanders to learn from Operation Sindoar and maintain readiness in a rapidly evolving security landscape, underscoring the importance of speed, coordination, and a thorough understanding of adversaries. Singh pointed out the relevance of air power in modern warfare, citing recent global conflicts that showcase its strategic significance, alongside the integration of advanced technologies such as cyber operations and artificial intelligence in military planning. He reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing India's security framework through initiatives like the Sudarshan Chakra air defense project and the development of indigenous jet engines, while advocating for collaboration with private sectors and MSMEs to modernize the Armed Forces. Amid discussions on theatre commands, Singh asserted the need to recognize air power not merely as a tactical asset but as a crucial component of national defense, reflecting the overarching goal of improving military effectiveness through joint operations and comprehensive planning.

Indian Army plans fourth base in Mizoram to secure Siliguri Corridor.

20-Dec-25

The Indian Army is reviewing plans for a fourth base in Mizoram to enhance security around the strategically vital Siliguri Corridor, which connects Northeast India to the mainland. This move follows the establishment of three new bases in West Bengal, Bihar, and Assam, emphasizing a defensive arc to counter potential threats from neighboring countries. The proposed base will serve as a frontline defense, with deployment capabilities aimed at both state and non-state actors. Concurrently, the Border Security Force is upgrading infrastructure along the Mizoram-Bangladesh border, including bunkers and blast-proof shelters, highlighting a coordinated effort to improve national security and rapid response mechanisms amid shifting geopolitical dynamics.

Ukraine Strikes Russian Oil Tanker in Mediterranean with Drones

20-Dec-25

On December 19, 2025, Ukraine's Security Service conducted a drone strike on the Russian-linked oil tanker Qendil in the Mediterranean Sea, marking a significant escalation in Ukraine's long-range strike capabilities. The operation, executed from a nearby vessel off the Libyan coast, targeted a tanker tied to Russia's shadow fleet aimed at circumventing Western sanctions and funding military operations against Ukraine. This precision strike underscores Ukraine's innovative warfare tactics and may inspire other nations facing similar hybrid threats. Russian President Vladimir Putin acknowledged the attack, promising retaliation while minimizing its impact, highlighting the complexities of maritime warfare and the broader implications for international security norms surrounding wartime economic assets.

Eastern Army Commander assesses security at Mizoram, Tripura borders amid Bangladesh tensions.

20-Dec-25

Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen R.C. Tiwari, accompanied by Spear Corps Commander Lt Gen Abhijit S. Pendharkar, visited the India-Bangladesh border areas in Mizoram's Parva and Tripura's Belonia on December 19, 2025, to assess security preparedness amid escalating unrest in Bangladesh. The senior officers reviewed operational readiness at Assam Rifles and BSF company operating bases, commanding troops for their professionalism,

steadfastness, and high vigilance along the 1,880-km frontier shared by India's northeastern states. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha highlighted the state's close monitoring of cross-border risks, including released criminals and smuggling threats, while affirming India's robust defenses bolstered by advanced drone surveillance and S-400 systems under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vigilant leadership. These measures underscore India's unwavering commitment to safeguarding its borders against regional instability.

US targets 70 ISIS sites in Syria, vows strong retaliation.

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The United States launched Operation Hawkeye Strike, a significant military operation targeting over 70 Islamic State sites in Syria, following the recent attack in Palmyra that resulted in the deaths of two U.S. Army soldiers and a civilian interpreter. U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth emphasized the operation's intent to degrade ISIS's operational capabilities and demonstrate a robust response to threats against American forces. As Syria's government reaffirmed its commitment to combating ISIS, cooperation with the U.S.-led coalition has reportedly intensified, reflecting a shift in Syria's political landscape post-civil war. This development underscores the ongoing challenges of counterterrorism efforts and the complex dynamics of U.S.-Syria relations in the fight against radical extremism.

Srinagar security heightened with intensified checks after attack threat detected.

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Security in Srinagar and surrounding districts has been significantly heightened following credible intelligence regarding a potential targeted attack. The Jammu and Kashmir police, along with paramilitary forces, have established multiple checkpoints, intensifying vehicle checks, particularly for two-wheelers and out-of-state cars. Officials confirmed that there are strong indications of militant movements, leading to increased vigilance, including the detention and questioning of numerous suspects in recent weeks. Authorities are particularly searching for a white Ford Eco Sport, which is believed to be involved in transporting militants. This proactive security measure demonstrates the commitment of Indian forces to counter threats and maintain public safety in a volatile region.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

NIA court issues arrest warrant for Hizbul Mujahideen chief Shah.

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An NIA special court in Budgam, Jammu and Kashmir, has issued a non-bailable warrant for the arrest of Hizbul Mujahideen chief Mohammad Yousuf Shah, also known as Syed Salah-ud-din, who operates from Pakistan. This directive follows an investigation revealing Shah's involvement in multiple offenses under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. The court emphasized sufficient evidence against him, relating to threats to India's sovereignty and terrorist conspiracies. Notably, Shah has been on the run since 1993, and his properties were attached by the NIA earlier this year, highlighting ongoing efforts to combat terrorism and disrupt funding channels linked to such activities, ultimately reinforcing India's commitment to national security.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

COAS honors veterans for their significant post-service contributions to nation-building.

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The Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, recently honored four distinguished veterans with the Veteran Achievers Award during a Retiring Officers Seminar in New Delhi, acknowledging their significant contributions to society post-service. The awarded veterans include Lieutenant Colonel B S Rautela, who advocated for veterans' welfare; Lieutenant Colonel Iqbal Singh, who facilitated veterans' transitions to corporate careers; Havildar Congress Pradhan, noted for his community engagement in Odisha; and Signalman Anil Kumar Jakhar, who has inspired youth towards careers in the Armed Forces through sports. This recognition underscores the vital role of veterans in nation-building and the importance of their ongoing contributions to society, enhancing the image of military service and camaraderie.

Miscellaneous

India Confirms 202 Citizens Recruited by Russia, 26 Dead, 7 Missing

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The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India has confirmed that 202 Indian nationals were recruited into the Russian armed forces since 2022, with 26 confirmed fatalities and seven individuals currently reported missing. The government has successfully facilitated the early discharge of 119 of these citizens and is actively working to repatriate 50 more who remain enlisted. Reports indicate that many of these individuals were lured to Russia under false pretenses, such as promises of employment or education, before being coerced into military service. The MEA has taken steps to assist the families of the deceased, including the repatriation of remains and the provision of DNA samples to identify those missing. This situation highlights the increasing risks faced by Indian citizens abroad and underscores the government's commitment to safeguarding its nationals by countering fraudulent recruitment practices and urging caution against travel to conflict zones.

ISRO to launch US BlueBird Block-2 satellite on December 24.

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The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch the BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite for US-based AST SpaceMobile on December 24, 2025, at 08:54 AM IST from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. This mission, designated LVM3-M6, represents a significant commercial partnership through NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm. The BlueBird Block-2 satellites feature expansive phased-array antennas covering nearly 2,400 square feet, making them the largest commercial arrays ever deployed in low Earth orbit, with capabilities of offering high-speed cellular broadband directly to smartphones globally. This venture aims to bridge connectivity gaps in remote and underserved regions, potentially revolutionizing mobile communications worldwide upon the full deployment of the satellite constellation. The successful execution of this mission not only underscores ISRO's technical prowess and reliability in the global launch market but also enhances India's standing in the burgeoning space commerce sector, showcasing its commitment to fostering

international partnerships and advancing technological innovation.

India launches Bureau of Port Security to bolster maritime safety and trade security.

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20-Dec-25

India has launched the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) to enhance the safety of its maritime trade and port facilities, following a meeting led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The BoPS, modeled after the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, will be directed by an IPS officer and will focus on a risk-based approach to security, including a dedicated division for cyber security. The initiative is part of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, and emphasizes collaboration with the Central Industrial Security Force for security assessments and training of private agencies. This proactive measure illustrates India's commitment to addressing contemporary maritime security challenges, reflecting the growing importance of securing its critical infrastructure amidst increasing global trade dynamics.

President Murmu honors freedom fighters and armed forces on Goa Liberation Day.

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20-Dec-25

On Goa Liberation Day, President Droupadi Murmu led tributes to the freedom fighters who played a crucial role in liberating Goa from Portuguese colonial rule, emphasizing their sacrifices for India's integration. Union Home Minister Amit Shah highlighted the historical significance of December 19, noting that until 1961, Indians required permission to visit Goa. The Congress party also commemorated the day, acknowledging the collective efforts that culminated in Goa's liberation through Operation Vijay, a swift military operation executed by the Indian Armed Forces. This observance not only honors the past struggles but also reinforces national unity and the importance of remembering India's diverse history in the context of its independence movements.

Karnataka HC urges swift citizenship process for Pakistani woman before visa expires.

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The Karnataka High Court on December 18, 2025, directed the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs, along with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office, to expeditiously process the citizenship

application of Nighat Yasmeen, a Pakistani national married to Indian citizen Mohammed Younus since April 2009 and mother of two Indian children, before her long-term visa expires on April 6, 2026. Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted delays due to post-India-Pakistan conflict visa policy changes, including an April 24, 2025, advisory after the Pahalgam attack and e-FRRO portal mandates, yet affirmed protection for valid long-term visa holders from deportation. The court allowed withdrawal of her prior applications since 2021 for a single consolidated fresh one, urging Bengaluru police and state authorities to forward it promptly within two weeks, prioritizing family unity amid tightened scrutiny on Pakistani applicants.

ISRO successfully tests drogue parachutes for Gaganyaan crew module's re-entry system.

20-Dec-25

ISRO achieved a pivotal milestone for India's Gaganyaan human spaceflight program by successfully completing drogue parachute deployment qualification tests on December 18-19, 2025, at the Rail Track Rocket Sled facility of DRDO's Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory in Chandigarh. These rigorous trials validated the parachutes' stability and deceleration under extreme re-entry conditions, forming a key part of the crew module's 10-parachute system—starting with apex cover separation, followed by drogue stabilization, pilot extraction, and main parachutes for safe splashdown. Involving Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment, and DRDO, this success bolsters India's indigenous crew recovery capabilities, counters reliance on foreign tech amid border tensions, and positions New Delhi as a strategic space power, potentially enhancing satellite surveillance for national security by early 2026 uncrewed flights.

President Murmu highlights India's wisdom for global peace and progress in Hyderabad conference.

20-Dec-25

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, recently addressed a conference in Hyderabad organized by the Brahma Kumaris Shanti Sarovar to celebrate its 21st anniversary. In her speech, she emphasized the pressing global transformations and challenges such as mental health issues and social conflicts, urging a balance between material development and inner stability, emotional intelligence, and a value-based approach. She highlighted the ancient Indian principles

of truth, non-violence, and peaceful coexistence from the sage tradition, noting the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which envisions the world as one family, as crucial for global peace. The President commended the Brahma Kumaris for their role in promoting universal Indian values internationally, strengthening societal ethics and contributing significantly to nation-building, thereby reinforcing the link between spirituality and social unity. This conference underscores the importance of integrating traditional wisdom into contemporary global challenges, fostering a more cohesive and peaceful society.

Rajnath Singh emphasizes IAF's crucial role in India's defense strategy.

20-Dec-25

Rajnath Singh recently addressed the Indian Air Force (IAF) Commanders Conclave in New Delhi, emphasizing the critical role of the IAF in India's defense strategy amidst evolving geopolitical challenges. He highlighted the importance of enhancing operational readiness and integrating advanced technologies to bolster air defense capabilities. Singh underscored the need for continuous training and collaboration with allied forces, particularly in the context of Indo-American military partnerships. This initiative reflects India's commitment to strengthening its defense posture and readiness in a rapidly changing security environment, ensuring that the IAF remains a pivotal force in safeguarding national interests.

Court orders Christian Michel's release in AgustaWestland case, but he remains jailed for corruption.

20-Dec-25

A Delhi court on December 20, 2025, ordered the release of British arms dealer Christian Michel James from custody in the Enforcement Directorate's money laundering case tied to the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam, invoking Section 436A CrPC after his seven-year detention exceeded the maximum seven-year penalty under PMLA. Extradited from Dubai in December 2018 and accused as the key middleman who allegedly received €30 million in kickbacks to sway the €556 million 2010 deal for 12 helicopters, Michel remains jailed pending a CBI corruption case hearing on December 22. This ruling highlights protracted probes spanning 12 years, raising alarms over delays in high-profile defense trials that undermine India's procurement transparency and expose vulnerabilities to foreign influence in strategic aviation assets critical for national security.

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