



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

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Defense Business and Industry

INS Sindhughosh decommissioned after 40 years, marking Navy's modernization.



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21-Dec-25

The Indian Navy's INS Sindhughosh, the lead submarine of its class, was officially decommissioned on December 19, 2025, after an impressive 40 years of service, as announced by the Western Naval Command. The ceremony took place at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, attended by notable figures including Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command, and several distinguished guests, including former and current naval officers and veterans who once served on the submarine. Commanded by Lieutenant Commander Rajat Sharma at the time of decommissioning, INS Sindhughosh has played a significant role in the Indian Navy's operations over the decades, marking a pivotal transition as the navy continues to modernize its fleet. The retirement of this veteran submarine underscores both the achievements of the Indian Navy in maintaining a robust maritime defense posture and the ongoing commitment to advancing naval capabilities in alignment with contemporary strategic requirements.

Lt Gen Rajiv Kumar Sahni Visits Brahmastra Corps, Promotes Innovation



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21-Dec-25

Lieutenant General Rajiv Kumar Sahni, the Director General of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, visited the Brahmastra Corps under the Eastern Command on December 19-20, 2025. During his visit, he commended the officers and troops for their professionalism and technical expertise, emphasizing the necessity of mission-ready maintenance support for operational effectiveness. He reviewed key technical initiatives, notably praising the Drone Excellence Centre

for promoting indigenous solutions aligned with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. This visit underscored the Indian Army's commitment to enhancing technical support systems and indigenization in defense technologies, which are crucial for addressing future operational challenges in an evolving security landscape.

Indian Army accelerates suicide drone acquisition post-Sindoor, enhancing operational capabilities and self-reliance.



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21-Dec-25

The Indian Army is accelerating its acquisition of 850 suicide drones, or loitering munitions, following insights gained from Operation Sindoor in May 2025, which underscored their effectiveness in combat. This strategic shift includes the integration of Ashni Platoons, specialized units equipped with both surveillance and loitering capabilities, enhancing the Army's operational flexibility against threats. The rapid procurement process aims to bolster India's defense self-reliance through indigenous production, with implications for tri-service cooperation and broader deterrence against Pakistan and China. As the Army prepares for future challenges, the evolution of drone warfare marks a significant transformation in its combat approach, positioning India as a leader in South Asian military technology.

Israel seeks India's defense manufacturing partnership amid stricter European export controls.



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21-Dec-25

In response to tightening military export controls from European nations, Israel is strategically pivoting towards India for defense manufacturing, aiming to enhance supply chain resilience. The collaboration aligns with India's 'Make in India' initiative, with Israeli firms exploring joint ventures with Indian companies like Adani Defence and Bharat Forge to produce critical military technologies, including UAVs and missile systems. This partnership is expected to bring

advanced military tech and manufacturing jobs to India, while also providing Israel with the necessary support to mitigate supply chain risks amid ongoing geopolitical tensions. However, Israeli firms seek regulatory clarity in India's FDI norms and Defence Acquisition Procedure to solidify these investments and foster deeper industrial cooperation.

Indian Navy considers more MH-60R Seahawks until indigenous IMRH is ready.



21-Dec-25

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi announced the possibility of acquiring additional MH-60R Seahawks following the induction of 24 units, emphasizing a flexible procurement strategy to maintain operational readiness while evaluating domestic development timelines. This approach aims to address immediate naval needs in anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, while simultaneously nurturing indigenous capabilities with projects like the Deck Based Multi-Role Helicopter (DBMRH) in collaboration with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. The Navy's dual-track strategy underscores the importance of balancing immediate combat capabilities through imports while fostering self-reliance in the long term, ensuring readiness against evolving maritime challenges. This pragmatic stance reflects India's commitment to enhancing its naval aviation capabilities while supporting local industry initiatives.

Indian Navy and Army to soon induct indigenous long-range missiles powered by Manik engine.



21-Dec-25

India's strategic strike capabilities are set to undergo a significant enhancement with the imminent induction of indigenous Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missiles (LRLACM) and Long Range Anti-Ship Missiles (LRAShM) powered by the domestically developed Manik engine. Expected to enter operational service within three years, the LRLACM boasts a range exceeding 1,000 kilometers and advanced avionics for precise strikes. The Indian Navy is actively integrating the naval variant with Universal Vertical Launch Modules, with live firing trials scheduled by late 2026. These developments are crucial for strengthening India's deterrence posture in the Indian Ocean Region, providing the Army and Navy with enhanced long-range precision strike options against potential adversaries.

Turkey delivers second MILGEM corvette PNS Khaibar to Pakistan Navy, enhancing naval capabilities.



21-Dec-25

Turkey has delivered the second MILGEM-class corvette, PNS Khaibar, to the Pakistan Navy, following the earlier induction of PNS Babur. This delivery signifies a strategic enhancement for Pakistan, featuring advanced capabilities such as anti-submarine warfare systems and modern combat management technologies. The partnership also reflects the growing defense cooperation between Turkey and Pakistan, aimed at diversifying military sources and fostering indigenous shipbuilding capabilities in Pakistan. As both nations strengthen ties amid regional tensions, this development not only bolsters Pakistan's naval capabilities in the Arabian Sea but also underscores a shift in defense collaboration dynamics, promoting strategic autonomy against traditional Western suppliers.

Digantara expands capabilities to track adversary missiles using advanced space technology.



21-Dec-25

Bangalore-based Digantara, a start-up focused on missile tracking, is transitioning from space debris monitoring to advanced surveillance systems amid a growing global demand for defense capabilities. Leveraging its expertise, the company aims to detect and characterize missile launches in near real-time through its AIRA platform, which integrates space- and ground-based data. Digantara's SCOT satellite, launched in January 2025, will be central to its operations, with plans to expand its satellite constellation and ground sensor network. The firm has secured significant contracts, including collaborations with the US Defense Department, and is positioned to enhance India's space defense indigenization, contributing strategically to national security as noted by Prime Minister Modi.

Safran and GTRE to co-develop advanced engine for AMCA Mk2 with sixth-gen technology.



21-Dec-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has reached a significant milestone in its quest for indigenous aero-engine capability by finalizing a partnership with French aerospace giant Safran to co-develop a next-generation

engine for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Mk2. This new engine, designed to fit the dimensions of the existing F414, will combine the reliability of the M88 T-REX with cutting-edge sixth-generation technologies, ensuring a seamless transition for the Indian Air Force. The project includes a 100% transfer of technology, enabling India to manufacture advanced heat-resistant components domestically. With ambitious thrust targets and high-performance capabilities, this development is poised to enhance India's air superiority and establish foundational expertise in jet engine design, a crucial aspect of modern defense aviation.

DRDO seeks industry partner for test rig validating indigenous AESA radar systems.



21-Dec-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has issued a tender for the development of a high-fidelity Test Rig to validate indigenous airborne Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar systems, crucial for the "Uttam" radar integrated into the Tejas Mk1A and future platforms like Tejas Mk2 and AMCA. This Test Rig will enable comprehensive functional testing by simulating aircraft interfaces and operational environments, significantly accelerating certification processes that historically required extensive flight tests. Key components include portable smart racks, a fighter aircraft simulation system, and a data visualisation system, enhancing self-reliance in India's defense capabilities. Ultimately, this initiative aims to bolster the Indian Air Force's advanced radar technology deployment, aligning with the strategic goal of indigenous defense development.

Russia to establish S-400 repair hub in India by 2028, enhancing IAF readiness.



21-Dec-25

In a significant advancement for India's defense capabilities, Russian defense firm Almaz-Antey is set to establish a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility for the S-400 Triumf air defense system in collaboration with a local partner by 2028. This indigenous hub will enable the Indian Air Force (IAF) to maintain its advanced air defense shield domestically, enhancing operational readiness and reducing dependency on foreign services amidst global supply chain challenges. The initiative aligns with India's "Make in India" program and is expected to foster local skill development in advanced military technologies. With

three of the five contracted S-400 squadrons already operational, the MRO facility will bolster India's strategic autonomy as the remaining units are delivered by 2026 and 2027.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

CAG Highlights 72% Delays in Indian Army's Emergency Procurements



21-Dec-25

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, in Report No. 28 of 2025 tabled in Parliament on December 18, flagged critical lapses in the Indian Army's emergency procurements, revealing 72% of fast-track contracts—examined from November 2020–August 2021 post-Galwan clashes and under EP-1 to EP-5—faced delays up to 18 months, with only 28% delivered within a year. Key issues included procedural gaps at Army Headquarters, unclear delay reporting to the Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Rajnath Singh, and unauthorised regularisation of deviations, undermining waivers granted in July 2020 for urgent needs amid China tensions. From an Indian strategic lens, these delays post-Operation Sindoor expose vulnerabilities in Aatmanirbhar Bharat, risking operational readiness on borders and eroding deterrence against adversarial threats.

Politics

PM Modi accuses Congress of supporting illegal immigration in Assam.



21-Dec-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi criticized the Congress party for allegedly indulging in anti-national activities, particularly concerning illegal Bangladeshi immigration in Assam. Speaking at the inauguration of a Rs 10,601-crore fertilizer plant in Dibrugarh, Modi emphasized the BJP government's commitment to preserving the identity and pride of the Assamese people while enhancing industrialization and connectivity in the region. He expressed disappointment at Congress's lack of initiative to modernize the previous plant and highlighted the government's efforts to empower local farmers and create job opportunities. This development underscores the BJP's focus on regional growth and self-sufficiency, particularly in the agricultural sector, as part of its broader vision for India's economic progress.

Vice-President Radhakrishnan celebrates Vajpayee's centenary, honors his legacy and vision for India. SHARE

21-Dec-25

Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan participated in the Birth Centenary celebrations of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, organized by the Atal Foundation. He highlighted Vajpayee's commitment to dialogue, inclusive development, and governance, which elevated the quality of public discourse in India. The Vice-President recalled landmark initiatives during Vajpayee's tenure, such as the creation of new states and major infrastructure projects like the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the Golden Quadrilateral, which contributed to India's self-reliance, particularly exemplified by the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests. He emphasized that Vajpayee's vision continues to guide the nation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards achieving a developed India by 2047. Additionally, Radhakrishnan unveiled a statue of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, honoring her legacy as a ruler dedicated to public welfare and commending Indore for its status as the cleanest city in India, reflecting a collective civic responsibility.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India starts building strategic Nicobar Airport to enhance defense and Indo-Pacific security. SHARE

21-Dec-25

India has commenced construction on a strategic dual-use airport in the Nicobar Islands, enhancing military and civil aviation capabilities to fortify its presence in the Indo-Pacific region. Positioned near the critical Six Degree Channel, which facilitates significant maritime traffic to the Malacca Strait, the airport will enable the rapid deployment of larger aircraft, including C-17 Globemaster and Su-30MKI fighters, thereby transforming Great Nicobar into a pivotal operational hub for the Indian Navy and Air Force. This initiative significantly bolsters India's surveillance and response capabilities against adversarial naval activities, particularly from China, while aligning with the nation's Act East policy and strengthening ties with Quad partners. Additionally, the project aims to integrate local communities and uphold ecological standards, positioning the Nicobars as a vital logistics node that promotes regional stability and economic development, despite facing logistical and environmental challenges.

Ultimately, the airport underscores India's commitment to enhancing maritime security and projecting power in response to evolving geopolitical dynamics in the Indian Ocean.

US proposes new peace talks format with Ukraine and Russia, says Zelenskiy. SHARE

21-Dec-25

The United States has proposed a new format for peace talks involving Ukraine and Russia, which may include American and European envoys, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. As negotiations resume, Zelenskiy indicated that the format would depend on the outcomes of ongoing discussions with U.S. negotiators, who have recently engaged in separate meetings with Ukrainian and European officials in the U.S. Meanwhile, a Kremlin envoy described the peace talks in Florida as progressing "constructively," emphasizing that discussions began earlier and are set to continue. However, contrasting positions remain evident, as Russian President Vladimir Putin has exhibited a firm stance on his demands, while Ukraine is poised to leverage its relationship with Western allies. The European Union has also committed to providing substantial financial support to Ukraine, amounting to €90 billion, to assist with military and economic needs over the next two years, despite challenges in utilizing frozen Russian assets for funding. This diplomatic effort underscores the complexities of the conflict, highlighting the significant geopolitical ramifications and the enduring struggle for a resolution amidst ongoing military engagements.

ISI's 'Dhaka Cell' linked to violence in Bangladesh, threatens India. SHARE

21-Dec-25

Investigations into recent violence in Bangladesh have linked the "Dhaka Cell," an alleged unit of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), to orchestrating unrest aimed at destabilizing India's West Bengal and northeastern states. Created within the Pakistan High Commission, the cell reportedly involves military officers and has plans to incite chaos, particularly ahead of Bangladesh's upcoming elections in February 2026. Intelligence sources suggest the ISI's broader agenda includes establishing terror networks in India, seeking to exploit political turmoil in Bangladesh. Indian security officials affirm their preparedness to counter these threats, indicating a significant challenge ahead.

but expressing confidence in their capabilities to maintain stability.

China vows military response to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. SHARE

21-Dec-25

China's defense ministry has announced plans to enhance military training and implement forceful measures in response to the United States' recent \$11.1 billion arms sales package to Taiwan, the largest ever from the U.S. to the island, which Beijing claims as its territory. The ministry criticized the U.S. for allegedly supporting Taiwan's independence and stated that continued arms sales would lead to greater tensions and repercussions. China has called for the U.S. to halt these sales while asserting its determination to safeguard national sovereignty and combat perceived separatism. This development highlights the escalating military and political tensions in the Taiwan Strait, raising concerns about regional stability and the potential for conflict stemming from U.S.-China relations.

US intelligence reports Putin's war goals in Ukraine remain unchanged. SHARE

21-Dec-25

U.S. intelligence indicates that Russian President Vladimir Putin remains committed to his ambitions of extending Russia's control over Ukraine and potentially reclaiming former Soviet territories, contrary to assertions of a desire for peace. While negotiations led by U.S. officials, including Donald Trump's team, are ongoing, significant disagreements persist regarding territorial concessions, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy firmly opposing any cession of land. U.S. proposals include security guarantees and military support for Ukraine, contingent on Zelenskyy's agreement to a capped military force. The situation remains critical as it reflects broader geopolitical tensions, with implications for European security and future U.S.-Russia relations.

US Intensifies Operations, Seizes Second Oil Tanker Near Venezuela. SHARE

21-Dec-25

The United States has intensified its maritime operations by seizing a second oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela, a move aimed at disrupting the country's crude exports that allegedly finance narco-terrorism and sustain Nicolás Maduro's regime. This action, described as a "consented boarding," follows a previous seizure and is part of a broader strategy to enforce

sanctions and impose a "blockade" on sanctioned oil tankers. As Venezuelan oil exports dwindle—plummeting production since 2019—regional stability is at risk, with potential repercussions for global energy markets, particularly for countries like India that rely on Venezuelan heavy oil. The situation highlights the escalating geopolitical tensions, particularly involving U.S. military presence and Venezuela's diminishing oil revenues, which once accounted for 95% of its exports.

EAM Jaishankar: India Emerges Strong as West Faces Stagnation SHARE

21-Dec-25

In a recent address, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar articulated the transformative shifts in the global order, positioning India as a rising power amidst stagnation in developed economies. He emphasized India's substantial human capital advantage, which contrasts with the demographic challenges faced by Western nations. Jaishankar critiqued the Western economic model for offshoring production, stressing that India's economic success stems from deliberate governance and reforms. He called on the youth to contribute to India's strategic ambitions, particularly in defense and aerospace, reinforcing the nation's commitment to self-reliance and indigenization. This perspective underscores India's proactive role in shaping a multipolar world, underscoring the importance of policy over privilege in achieving national advancement.

Bangladesh Army Chief reassures India: Assets secure amid protests. SHARE

21-Dec-25

In response to escalating protests in Bangladesh, Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman assured his Indian counterpart, General Upendra Dwivedi, that Indian assets remain secure amidst the unrest. This reassurance underlines the robust military communication between India and Bangladesh, essential for maintaining stability along their extensive border. As demonstrations challenge Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government, with the army playing a key role in maintaining order, India emphasizes its strategic interests in Bangladesh, including trade and energy transit. The military dialogue reflects India's ongoing commitment to regional stability, aligning with its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, and could facilitate future talks on defense cooperation and economic ties, should the situation normalize.

Chinese Media Reports J-16 vs. Rafale War Game Amid Tensions

21-Dec-25

Chinese media reported on a recent war game simulation involving the People's Liberation Army (PLA), where J-16 fighters were pitted against Rafale jets. This exercise, which involved multiple military branches, focused on aerial confrontations, though details on specific outcomes were not disclosed. The J-16 is noted for its payload and range, suitable for long-range strike roles, while the Rafale boasts superior agility and advanced electronic warfare capabilities, aided by India's integration of indigenous Astra missiles. The war game highlights growing tensions in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly amid China's military modernization efforts, and serves as a reminder of the strategic balance in aerial superiority, impacting regional defense postures.

Balochistan's unidentified bodies raise serious human rights violation concerns.

21-Dec-25

Recent discoveries of unidentified bodies in Balochistan, Pakistan, have intensified concerns over human rights violations in the region, where enforced disappearances have been prevalent for decades. Activists and families of the missing have raised alarms over ongoing detentions and lack of accountability from authorities, which they argue are indicative of state-sponsored repression against Baloch nationalist sentiments. The geopolitical significance of Balochistan, particularly in relation to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, adds complexity to the issue, with India highlighting these human rights abuses in international forums. Advocacy for independent investigations and reforms continues, as the international community presses for Pakistan to address the root causes of this human rights crisis.

Military Operations

Lt Gen Devendra Sharma Visits Air Force Academy to Boost Joint Training

21-Dec-25

Lieutenant General Devendra Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Army Training Command, visited the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad on December 19, 2025, to bolster inter-services cooperation and joint training initiatives between the

Indian Army and Air Force. The visit featured a comprehensive briefing on the academy's advanced training modules that incorporate modern technology and innovative methodologies to enhance cadet preparedness for future combat scenarios. Emphasizing the importance of adaptability and interoperability, Lt Gen Sharma highlighted the collaborative spirit essential for addressing complex multi-domain security challenges. This initiative reflects India's commitment to creating a mission-centric and synergistic defense force, ultimately strengthening national security.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Jammu escalates anti-terror ops along IB amid infiltration threats.

21-Dec-25

Security forces in Jammu have escalated anti-terror operations along the International Border following intelligence reports of potential infiltration attempts by terrorists, particularly amid dense fog conditions. Operations are being conducted by the police, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and Army personnel in various areas, including Kathua, Samba, and Rajouri districts. Reports indicate suspicious movements at launch pads, prompting extensive search and cordon operations across multiple locations. The intensified efforts also aim to dominate the area during harsh weather, reflecting a proactive stance against terrorism and ensuring regional security amidst ongoing threats.

India advances against Maoists, nearing victory in Bastar region.

21-Dec-25

India is making significant strides in its efforts to combat Maoist insurgency in the Bastar region, reportedly closing in on the last strongholds of these armed groups. Recent military operations have intensified, demonstrating the Indian security forces' commitment to restoring peace and stability in this strategically important area. The ongoing campaign emphasizes not only a tactical approach but also the importance of addressing the socio-economic factors that contribute to the insurgency. As the Indian government seeks to eliminate the Maoist threat, these developments are poised to have a substantial impact on national security and governance, marking a crucial phase in the fight against internal extremism.

Maoist leader Rupesh surrenders, signaling a strategic shift in insurgency approach.



21-Dec-25

Maoist leader T Vasudeva Rao, known as Rupesh, has announced his surrender, highlighting a significant shift in the Communist Party of India (Maoist) strategy as internal debates led to a reassessment of their approach to gaining popular support. He acknowledged the party's waning influence and the need to decentralize forces, emphasizing attempts to reconnect with the local population. Rupesh also commented on the loss of key commander Hidma, reflecting on his own controversial past within the movement. This development underscores the broader dynamics of insurgency in India, indicating potential shifts in the Maoists' operational capabilities and the government's ongoing efforts to combat left-wing extremism.

Three minors injured in Manipur bomb blast; explosives found nearby.



21-Dec-25

On 20 December 2025, three minor boys were critically injured when a suspected 2-inch mortar shell exploded while they were playing in Molnoi village of Manipur's Tengenoupal district, near the India-Myanmar border, with one child reported in serious condition. The blast, likely linked to earlier Kuki-Meitei clashes, coincided with a broader explosives scare: a hand grenade was found near Liberal College at Luwangshangbam in Imphal East and safely destroyed, while a para shell bomb unearthed during excavation at Khamaran in Sekmai was neutralised by bomb squads. These incidents, along with recent arrests of women and other drug peddlers in Imphal East and Jiribam with sizable narcotics consignments, underline the convergence of insurgency, cross-border trafficking and unsecured ordnance.

Search operations launched after terrorists steal food in Udhampur.



21-Dec-25

Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district have initiated a search operation following reports that terrorists took food from a local house before fleeing into nearby forests. The operation is focused on Chore Motu village, approximately 5 km from the site of a recent encounter that resulted in the death of a policeman. Authorities received intelligence indicating the presence of two unidentified terrorists linked to Jaish-e-Mohammad. Despite immediate mobilization of police and paramilitary forces, the

terrorists evaded capture, prompting a coordinated combing operation at first light. This incident underscores the ongoing challenges faced by security forces in countering terrorism in the region, highlighting the necessity for vigilance and rapid response in maintaining order and safety.

Srinagar intensifies security measures amid threats of potential terror attack.



21-Dec-25

Srinagar has heightened security measures in response to specific intelligence indicating a potential targeted terror attack, particularly focusing on vehicle checks and frisking. Authorities have established multiple checkpoints and intensified patrols, especially targeting vehicles from outside Jammu and Kashmir, while searching for a white Ford EcoSport believed to be transporting militants. This proactive approach, which includes detaining suspects and enhancing surveillance, reflects ongoing challenges with militant activity in the region, notably from groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen. The community's cooperation is deemed crucial, with police encouraging the reporting of suspicious activities to ensure civilian safety and bolster regional stability amid heightened tensions.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

France Uncovers Disinformation Campaign Against India's Rafale Deal



21-Dec-25

A sophisticated disinformation campaign targeting India's acquisition of 26 Rafale Marine fighter jets has been exposed by the French government agency Viginum. Forged letters attributed to Dassault Aviation's CEO and India's External Affairs Minister circulated on social media, falsely claiming significant delays and internal discord regarding the deal. This operation, which began on November 25, 2025, highlights ongoing attempts to undermine confidence in the Franco-Indian defense partnership amidst rising geopolitical tensions. As India strengthens its naval aviation capabilities with the Rafale Marine, the incident underscores the critical need for vigilance against digital misinformation that seeks to impact strategic defense collaborations in the Indo-Pacific region.

BEL Leaders Honored for Leadership and Innovation at PSU Conclave 2025.



21-Dec-25

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) received significant acclaim at the 5th PSU Transformation Conclave 2025 in New Delhi, celebrating its leaders for excellence in leadership, cybersecurity, and digital innovation. Rajnish Sharma was awarded for his transformational leadership, Eswarao Rao was recognized for bolstering cybersecurity, and Shivakumar M was honored for his contributions to the Smart Ship Operations Project. These accolades underscore BEL's pivotal role in advancing India's defense capabilities and commitment to technological innovation within the defense electronics sector. As a premier public sector enterprise, BEL continues to support critical defense projects, enhancing India's strategic autonomy and digital resilience.

J&K secures 5,100 devices under robust Cyber Security Plan amid rising attacks.



21-Dec-25

The Jammu and Kashmir government has successfully implemented cyber security measures across Civil Secretariat complexes in Jammu and Srinagar, securing nearly 5,100 devices, with plans to include an additional 15,000 devices by January 2026. This initiative, outlined in a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, also includes security audits of departmental websites, establishment of Cybercrime Investigation Centres, and a structured approach to enhance cyber forensic capabilities. The efforts come amid a significant surge in cyber attacks, predominantly from Pakistan, with over 1.5 million reported during Operation Sindoor earlier this year. These steps are vital for ensuring digital safety, governance efficiency, and the integrity of government operations in the region.

Denmark accuses Russian-linked hackers of attacking water plant, elections.



21-Dec-25

Denmark has accused Russian-linked hacker groups of conducting cyberattacks on its infrastructure, specifically targeting a water treatment plant and local elections. Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen announced plans to summon the Russian ambassador following these incidents, which are seen as part of a broader hybrid warfare strategy by Moscow to instill insecurity in nations supporting Ukraine. The military intelligence agency (FE) has identified the pro-Russian groups NoName057 and Z-Pentest as instrumental in

these operations. Denmark's commitment to Ukraine is underscored by recent developments, including the establishment of a Ukrainian arms factory on Danish soil, highlighting the heightened security concerns in Europe amid ongoing tensions with Russia.

Amazon alerts on ongoing Russian cyberattacks targeting energy infrastructure for five years.



21-Dec-25

Amazon Web Services (AWS) has revealed a five-year Russian cyber espionage campaign primarily targeting critical infrastructure, especially the energy sector in North America and Europe, conducted by the Sandworm hacker group linked to Russia's GRU. The operation exploits human and configuration errors rather than software vulnerabilities, making detection challenging and enabling prolonged network infiltration. Concurrently, AWS reported increased cyber activity from North Korean operatives attempting to infiltrate tech companies, with over 1,800 blocked applications since April 2024. Amazon warns that misconfigurations will be the main attack vector moving into 2026, urging organizations to tighten security measures, as a single misconfiguration could compromise even the most secure systems.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Navy chief engages 2024 IDAS probationers, stressing national defense roles.



21-Dec-25

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi engaged with the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS) probationers of the 2024 Batch in New Delhi, emphasizing the Navy's critical role in safeguarding national maritime interests. He highlighted the importance of the Defence Accounts Department in enhancing the country's defense preparedness through robust financial management and accounting practices. Admiral Tripathi called for professionalism, integrity, and synergy among IDAS officers, underscoring their responsibilities as leaders to provide proactive and solution-oriented guidance. This interaction is significant as it reinforces the need for a cohesive approach in defense administration, ultimately contributing to the operational readiness of the Indian Armed Forces.

Indian Army's JAG Department marks 42nd Corps Day, promoting legal equality.



21-Dec-25

The Indian Army recently celebrated the 42nd Corps Day of its Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Department, underscoring the importance of military law and justice within the force. Major General Sandeep Kumar emphasized the evolving challenges faced by the JAG Branch, which provides legal guidance on disciplinary matters and operational law. A pivotal development this year was the Supreme Court's ruling against gender-based restrictions in the JAG Entry Scheme, declaring the previous vacancy allocation for men and women arbitrary. This landmark decision affirms the principles of meritocracy and equality, which are essential for fostering a more inclusive and capable military justice system, thereby enhancing the operational efficacy of the Indian Army.

Miscellaneous

IIT-Madras director cites Op Sindhoor for promoting interdisciplinary education.



21-Dec-25

IIT-Madras Director Prof V Kamakoti emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary education, citing Operation Sindhoor as a model that integrated 10-11 engineering disciplines. Speaking at the 93rd annual South Indian Music Conference, he encouraged parents to foster musical skills in children, linking music to scientific foundations like mathematics. The institution is advancing its interdisciplinary focus by establishing a bamboo-based mic-less auditorium and the Ilayaraya Centre for Excellence in Music. This approach aims to enhance educational frameworks, blending traditional arts with engineering, and signifies a progressive step in cultivating well-rounded professionals equipped for diverse fields.

Namrup fortified for PM Modi's visit; IAF helicopters ready.



21-Dec-25

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to lay the foundation stone for a ₹10,000 crore fertiliser project at the Namrup Fertilizer Plant, the town has been placed under tight security, with the Indian Air Force deploying helicopters on standby and multiple checkpoints established to manage access. The project, aimed at

making Assam self-reliant in fertiliser production, is anticipated to enhance annual output to 12 lakh metric tonnes and reduce import dependency, thereby supporting the Atmanirbharta initiative. Despite the significant industrial growth this project represents, local protests concerning crop damage from land acquisition for the event venue have prompted discussions on compensation for affected farmers. The event is expected to attract over one lakh attendees, underlining the strategic importance of the project in the region.

Indian Army's Kashmiruk Fankaar finale showcases youth engagement and cultural unity in Bandipora.



21-Dec-25

The Indian Army concluded the third edition of its youth initiative, Kashmiruk Fankaar, in Bandipora with a vibrant finale that highlighted local culture and community engagement. With over 3,000 spectators braving harsh winter conditions, the event featured 2,100 participants across various activities, including sports, social awareness, and cultural performances. Major General Tushar Sharma emphasized the initiative's role in fostering trust between the Army and local communities, showcasing the potential for youth engagement to contribute to regional development and long-term peace in Kashmir. This program not only promotes artistic talents but also channels youthful energy towards nation-building, underlining the Army's commitment to a prosperous and united Kashmir.

Indian Navy to host International Fleet Review in Vizag, Feb 2026.



21-Dec-25

The Indian Navy will host the International Fleet Review (IFR) in Visakhapatnam from February 15 to 25, 2026, aimed at enhancing maritime security and naval cooperation among over 100 participating nations. Captain S. Venkatesh Kumar emphasized that the IFR will serve as a practical platform for interoperability and addressing contemporary maritime threats, such as cyber attacks and hybrid warfare. The event will include joint exercises simulating hybrid threats, showcasing advanced technologies like drones and AI for maritime domain awareness. Additionally, discussions will focus on legal frameworks and capacity-building for smaller navies, reflecting India's commitment to cooperative security in the Indo-Pacific region and the importance of collective responses to emerging challenges at sea.

Apple Negotiates iPhone Chip Assembly in India, Boosting Local Industry



21-Dec-25

Apple is reportedly negotiating with Indian semiconductor companies for the assembly and packaging of iPhone chips, marking a significant step in India's semiconductor ambitions and the Make in India initiative. This partnership, likely with CG Semi in Gujarat, aims to localize chip integration processes currently dominated by East Asia. The move is expected to create high-skill jobs, enhance supply chain resilience, and attract further investment in the sector. By shifting operations to India, Apple aims to mitigate risks associated with geopolitical tensions in the Taiwan Strait while reinforcing India's position as a critical player in the global electronics landscape, signaling a transformative shift in high-value manufacturing capabilities towards India.

Vice-President Radhakrishnan celebrates World Meditation Day, promoting peace and India's cultural heritage.



21-Dec-25

Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, participated in the World Meditation Day celebrations at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Telangana, emphasizing meditation's universal significance in promoting inner peace and social harmony. He acknowledged India's pivotal role in co-sponsoring the United Nations resolution declaring December 21 as World Meditation Day, marking a global recognition of the practice's benefits for mental and spiritual well-being. Shri

Radhakrishnan highlighted India's rich civilizational heritage in meditation, citing teachings from the Bhagavad Gita and Thirumantiram, and advocated for the integration of meditation into daily life to foster emotional stability and ethical living. He articulated a vision for a Viksit Bharat@2047, underscoring that national development should encompass emotional and spiritual upliftment alongside economic advancement, thus contributing to a resilient and compassionate society.

Army officer arrested for bribery as MoD enforces zero tolerance.



21-Dec-25

An Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Deepak Kumar Sharma, and a middleman, Vinod Kumar, were arrested by the CBI for alleged bribery linked to defense-related clearances. The Ministry of Defence reaffirmed its commitment to its "Zero Tolerance Against Corruption" policy, emphasizing a proactive approach to curb corruption within its ranks. Investigations revealed Sharma's involvement in accepting bribes from private defense companies, including a Dubai-based firm, in exchange for undue favors. Significant cash seizures during searches at multiple locations, including Sharma's residence, highlight the scale of the alleged corruption, as authorities continue to delve deeper into the case. This incident underscores the government's efforts to maintain integrity and transparency in defense operations, which is crucial for national security and public trust.

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