



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

December 25, 2025 | Day 359

## Defense Business and Industry

### India's K-4 missile test enhances SSBNs' deterrence and range. [SHARE](#)

25-Dec-25

India has successfully tested the K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from the INS Arighaat in the Bay of Bengal, marking a significant enhancement to its naval nuclear capabilities. This missile, with a range of approximately 3,500 kilometers, allows Indian nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) to target deep within adversarial territories while remaining in secure waters, thus bolstering India's second-strike capability in alignment with its no-first-use doctrine. The K-4's capabilities surpass those of its predecessor, the K-15, which had a limited range, compelling Indian submarines to approach dangerous waters for effective deterrence. The successful test signals a critical advancement in India's sea-based nuclear deterrent, reflecting an ongoing effort to enhance the operational readiness and strategic flexibility of its underwater forces, particularly against regional threats in the Indo-Pacific. As India continues to develop its underwater capabilities, including the upcoming Arihant-class submarines and the anticipated S-5 class, the nation strengthens its position as a formidable maritime power, emphasizing the importance of maintaining credible deterrence amid evolving geopolitical dynamics.

### Belrise and Plasan partner to produce EV components for India's military. [SHARE](#)

25-Dec-25

Pune-based Belrise Industries has formed a strategic partnership with Israel's Plasan Sasa to jointly manufacture electric vehicle components for military use in India. The collaboration aims to adapt Plasan's All-Terrain Electric Mission Module (ATEMM) platform to meet the specific operational requirements of the Indian Armed Forces, enhancing their mobility and

survivability. This partnership not only signifies a step towards indigenizing advanced defense technologies but also positions Belrise within Plasan's global supply chain, promoting cost-effective production for both domestic and international markets. The initiative underscores India's commitment to bolstering its defense capabilities through innovative and sustainable solutions.

### IAF's Super-30 Initiative Boosts Indigenous Software for Su-30MKI Upgrades [SHARE](#)

25-Dec-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is progressing with its 'Super-30' initiative to modernize the Su-30MKI fleet, focusing on creating indigenous software to integrate advanced systems and enhance combat capabilities. While awaiting Cabinet Committee on Security approval for the upgrade of 84 aircraft, the IAF is proactively developing essential software modules to avoid delays post-approval, emphasizing the integration of the indigenous Virupaksha AESA radar and the adaptation of flight control systems. Additionally, the IAF is exploring a dual-track upgrade approach, potentially involving Russian assistance for some aircraft to accelerate capability enhancements while the full indigenous upgrade is developed over a five-year timeline. This strategic effort not only aims to bolster operational readiness and extend the fleet's lifespan but also aligns with India's broader goal of self-reliance in defense technology, reducing dependence on foreign systems. The outcome of these initiatives will significantly impact India's military aviation capabilities and its position in regional geopolitics.

### BEL and Astra Microwave partner to enhance India's defense tech capabilities. [SHARE](#)

25-Dec-25

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Defence, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hyderabad-based Astra Microwave Products Limited (AMPL) on December 23, 2025, to jointly design, develop, and manufacture

advanced electronic modules, subsystems, and systems for defense electronics and aerospace. Exchanged between BEL's Director (Marketing) Suresh Kumar KV and AMPL's Joint Managing Director Dr. MV Reddy in the presence of BEL CMD Manoj Jain, the pact targets critical domains like Electronic Warfare (EW), radar systems, and satellites, leveraging BEL's system integration prowess and AMPL's RF/microwave expertise. From an Indian strategic perspective, this collaboration accelerates Atmanirbhar Bharat by curbing imports, fortifying indigenous innovation, and enhancing Armed Forces' capabilities amid escalating border tensions and regional threats, fostering a robust domestic defense ecosystem.

## **Rajnath Singh Chairs Crucial DAC Meet on December 26: MR-SAM, Astra Mk-2, T-90 Upgrades to Bolster India's Defence Edge**

25-Dec-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will chair the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting today, December 26, 2025, in New Delhi, marking the year's final and most critical session to fast-track emergency procurements amid border tensions and Operation Sindoor's lessons. Key attendees include Chief of Defence Staff, three service chiefs, Defence Secretary, and DRDO chief, focusing on Navy's Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MR-SAM, 70km range by Bharat Dynamics), IAF's Astra Mk-2 air-to-air missiles (200km range for Su-30MKI/Tejas), SPICE precision-guided bombs, T-90 tank overhauls, naval tugs, simulators, Embraer aircraft, and drones. From an Indian strategic lens, these approvals via Emergency Procurement powers bolster indigenisation, replenish depleted stocks, and enhance combat readiness against China-Pakistan threats, ensuring self-reliance and operational edge into 2026.

## **ALH Dhruv grounding severely hampers India's maritime surveillance capabilities, especially for the Coast Guard.**

25-Dec-25

India's maritime surveillance capabilities are facing a significant setback due to the prolonged grounding of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv fleet, impacting both the Indian Navy and Coast Guard. The Indian Coast Guard has reported a regression in operational capacity to 1980s levels, severely limiting its ability to conduct vital surveillance and rapid response missions. The situation escalated following a tragic crash of an ALH Mk-III, leading to a complete fleet grounding and raising concerns over helicopter

safety and maintenance practices. This crisis underscores India's vulnerabilities in maritime security amidst rising challenges in the Indian Ocean Region, emphasizing the urgent need for restoring confidence and operational readiness in naval aviation assets.

## **India Becomes Third-Largest Military Power; Defense Exports to Exceed Rs 30,000 Crore**

25-Dec-25

India has emerged as the world's third-largest military power in 2025, as per the Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index, trailing only behind the United States and China. This achievement is largely attributed to Operation Sindoor, which showcased indigenous weapon systems and anti-drone capabilities. The Indian government aims to increase defense exports to Rs 30,000 crore by March 2026, with a long-term target of Rs 50,000 crore by 2029, reflecting a significant shift from being an importer to an exporter in the defense sector. The country's defense production reached a record Rs 1.54 lakh crore in 2025, bolstered by the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and extensive reforms aimed at fostering self-reliance and technological advancements in military capabilities.

## **Indian Armed Forces to convert unused land for renewable energy projects.**

25-Dec-25

The Indian Armed Forces are set to optimize approximately 46,000 acres of unused defense land for green energy projects over the next three to five years, focusing on initiatives such as solar and biogas plants, afforestation, and floriculture. Collaborating primarily with NTPC Green, the first pilot project will establish a solar plant in a designated state, as part of a broader strategy to generate carbon credits and support sustainability efforts. The initiative aims to ensure the integrity of the land while exploring the potential for revenue generation to enhance infrastructure for the Defense Forces. This approach not only advances India's commitment to renewable energy but also addresses the challenge of land encroachment, thereby securing vital defense assets.

## **Hanwha to build nuclear submarines, bolstering U.S. naval capabilities.**

25-Dec-25

Hanwha Group's Philly Shipyard is set to play a crucial role in the construction of nuclear-powered submarines for the U.S. Navy, signaling a strategic alignment with

U.S. defense initiatives. This move is part of a broader effort by South Korea to support U.S. shipbuilding, highlighted by a recent trade agreement promising a \$150 billion investment and reduced tariffs on Korean car imports. Hanwha plans to enhance its capabilities by recruiting experts in Virginia-class submarine design and expanding its facilities, underscoring its ambitions in the naval defense sector. This development reflects significant cooperation in defense manufacturing and strengthens the U.S.-South Korea alliance amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### Pentagon report highlights oversight gaps in \$13.4 billion Israel military aid.

🔗 SHARE

25-Dec-25

A recent Pentagon report has uncovered significant oversight gaps in the monitoring of \$13.4 billion in military aid provided to Israel, raising concerns about the accountability of defense articles amid the ongoing conflict following Hamas's attack on October 7, 2023. The report indicates that only 44% of defense articles were adequately tracked, a drop from 69%, largely due to staffing shortages and the complex operational environment. This lack of oversight poses risks to U.S. national security and could enable adversaries to access sensitive military technology. Recommendations for improved oversight include an upcoming inspection of the Office of Defense Cooperation in Israel, highlighting the importance of maintaining a technological edge for U.S. allies.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### China's military activities persist near India despite diplomatic advances.

🔗 SHARE

25-Dec-25

Recent assessments by the U.S. Department of Defense indicate that despite tentative diplomatic progress, China continues its military preparations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India, viewing Arunachal Pradesh, particularly the Tawang sector, as a "core interest" akin to Taiwan. The report details China's military modernization, including live-fire drills and enhanced missile capabilities, which suggests a persistent intent to maintain pressure on India while seeking to stabilize relations to counteract deepening U.S.-India ties. In reaction, Indian defenses

have been fortified, emphasizing readiness against potential threats, particularly with the integration of advanced systems like the S-400 and BrahMos missiles. China's Foreign Ministry has dismissed U.S. claims, asserting that the border dispute is solely a bilateral issue and expressing concerns that U.S. interference could exacerbate tensions. The broader implications of this dynamic underscore the ongoing strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific region, raising challenges for India's security posture as it navigates its multi-aligned foreign policy amidst rising Sino-Pak cooperation and Chinese military expansion.

### Kim Jong Un oversees successful long-range missile tests amid rising tensions.

🔗 SHARE

25-Dec-25

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has been actively overseeing significant military advancements, including the test-firing of long-range surface-to-air missiles, which successfully destroyed airborne targets from distances of up to 200 kilometers. Concurrently, he visited a nuclear submarine factory and expressed strong opposition to South Korea's plans for developing nuclear-powered attack submarines, asserting that such developments pose a direct threat to North Korea's security and maritime sovereignty. This comes amid increasing collaboration between North Korea and Russia, with both nations reinforcing their military ties and Putin acknowledging the "invincible friendship" between the two countries. Additionally, Kim's military focus extends to the modernization of naval forces, illustrating North Korea's strategic ambitions amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula, further exacerbated by U.S. military activities in the region and Japan's potential nuclear aspirations. These developments underscore a volatile security environment, with North Korea emphasizing the necessity of bolstering its nuclear deterrent in response to perceived threats from its neighbors.

### Air Chief Marshal AP Singh Visits Egypt to Enhance IAF-EAF Cooperation

🔗 SHARE

25-Dec-25

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF), recently visited Egypt to enhance bilateral cooperation between the IAF and the Egyptian Air Force (EAF) at the invitation of EAF Commander AVM Amr Abdel Rahman Saqr. The visit, which underscores India's growing defense partnerships in the Middle East and North Africa, included briefings on EAF operations at Berghat Air Base, visits to Cairo West Air Base, and

interactions focused on tactical training and operational strategies. Notably, Air Chief Marshal Singh engaged in discussions regarding potential joint exercises, intelligence sharing, and co-development of unmanned systems, reflecting a mutual commitment to regional security amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics. Furthermore, the visit followed a meeting between India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Egyptian counterpart, reinforcing the political momentum behind defense collaborations. The IAF's outreach exemplifies India's strategic intent to leverage Egypt's geographical advantages and expertise, particularly in desert warfare and expeditionary operations, thereby strengthening operational readiness against shared threats in an increasingly complex security environment.

## US and Ukraine negotiate Donbas and nuclear plant resolution issues.



25-Dec-25

The United States and Ukraine are engaged in complex negotiations aimed at resolving the ongoing conflict, with a focus on contentious issues such as territorial control in the Donbas region and management of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has proposed a 20-point peace plan that seeks to address security guarantees and economic rebuilding while requiring a referendum for any territorial arrangement. However, Russia's maximalist demands, including the withdrawal of Ukrainian forces from Donetsk and Luhansk, remain a major obstacle, as Moscow continues to assert its claims over significant portions of these areas. Analysts suggest that Russia is unlikely to accept the new proposals, viewing them as a way for Ukraine to garner U.S. support while avoiding substantive compromises. This impasse not only underscores the difficulties in reaching a diplomatic resolution but also highlights the ongoing tensions between Ukraine and its Western allies, with potential repercussions for future security arrangements in Eastern Europe.

## US report warns of China's military readiness to seize Taiwan by 2027.



25-Dec-25

A U.S. Defence Department report indicates that China is rapidly advancing its military capabilities to potentially seize Taiwan by 2027, emphasizing a strategic shift towards coercing unification through constant pressure rather than mere deterrence. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has significantly increased its military activities, including thousands of

air incursions into Taiwan's airspace and extensive naval exercises that involved joint operations with the Coast Guard. The report outlines four potential options for China to enforce unification, including coercion, strikes, blockade, and amphibious invasion, while acknowledging Beijing's confidence issues regarding defeating U.S. intervention. The growing military assertiveness and modernization efforts by China pose significant implications for regional stability and security dynamics in Asia-Pacific.

## Pakistan Enhances Anti-Drone Units Amid India's Technological Advancements



25-Dec-25

Pakistan has urgently deployed 35 specialized anti-drone units across eight brigades along the Line of Control (LoC), particularly opposite Rawalakot, Kotli, and Bhimber, as reported in intelligence inputs from December 22-23, 2025. This escalation follows India's Operation Sindoor in May 2025, where precision drone strikes and loitering munitions crippled Pakistani air defenses, exposing vulnerabilities in counter-unmanned aerial systems. Islamabad is fast-tracking procurements of advanced air defenses from China and drones from Turkey, including command vehicles and Fatah rockets, to build a Drone Air Defence Grid amid fears of AI-enhanced Indian warfare. From an Indian strategic viewpoint, these moves underscore Pakistan's reactive posture and technological lag in electronic warfare, reinforcing Delhi's edge in real-time intelligence and rapid strikes, while deepening regional tensions through external dependencies.

## China's J-10C Jets for Pakistan Equal India's Rafale Fleet, US Report States



25-Dec-25

China's provision of 36 advanced J-10C fighter jets to Pakistan has been noted in a US Department of Defense report, mirroring India's fleet of Rafale multirole fighters. This strategic procurement, which began in 2020 alongside India's initial Rafale deliveries, highlights the intensifying aerial modernization race in South Asia. Analysts suggest Pakistan's acquisition is a direct counter to India's advanced capabilities, particularly the Rafale's Meteor missiles and electronic warfare systems. The report also mentions China's broader military support to Pakistan, indicating a deepening defense collaboration that seeks to enhance Pakistan's air power amid regional tensions, ultimately impacting the delicate aerial balance in the region and



underscoring the importance of maintaining deterrence between the two nations.

## **IIPE warns of rising Russia-West conflict risk in Europe.**



25-Dec-25

The Institute of International Politics and Economics (IIPE) warns of an escalating risk of military conflict between Russia and Western nations, projecting a 58% probability of clash by 2027, rising to 71% by 2028. Analysts describe Europe as entering a pre-conflict phase characterized by hybrid warfare and cyberattacks, suggesting that avoiding direct confrontation is increasingly unrealistic. Russian President Vladimir Putin, however, asserts that Russia does not intend to attack NATO and urges Western nations to reconsider their approach, emphasizing the importance of dialogue. This evolving landscape highlights the growing complexity of international relations and the urgent need for strategic reassessment to prevent a catastrophic escalation in Europe.

## **Army chief Gen Dwivedi, Ambassador P Harish discuss India's UN peacekeeping role.**



25-Dec-25

Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi recently engaged with Ambassador P Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, to discuss India's evolving role in UN peacekeeping operations amid shifting geostrategic dynamics in South Asia. General Dwivedi emphasized the unprecedented challenges faced by peacekeeping missions, noting over 56 active conflicts globally involving 19 nations, and the need for unified responses in the face of disruptive technologies and hybrid warfare. He highlighted India's significant contributions to global peacekeeping, having deployed approximately 300,000 personnel across 51 missions, reinforcing the importance of peacekeepers as both security providers and diplomats in conflict zones. This dialogue underscores India's commitment to enhancing international stability and its proactive stance in global peacekeeping efforts.

## **US Navy cargo ship arrives in Puerto Rico amid Caribbean military buildup.**



25-Dec-25

A U.S. Navy cargo ship has docked in Puerto Rico as part of a significant military buildup in the Caribbean region. This development signals the United States'

strategic intent to enhance its military presence in response to increasing geopolitical tensions. The deployment aims to bolster regional security and readiness, potentially impacting the dynamics of U.S. relations with neighboring nations, including those in Central and South America. The ongoing military activities highlight the U.S. commitment to maintaining influence in the Caribbean, which is crucial for safeguarding its interests and countering rival powers in the area.

## **Pentagon report reveals deepening China-Pakistan military and space collaboration, impacting regional security.**



25-Dec-25

A recent Pentagon report underscores the growing military and space collaboration between China and Pakistan, highlighting China's ambition to enhance its global military presence through potential bases in strategic locations, including Pakistan. The report details China's production and export of advanced combat aircraft and drones, with Pakistan emerging as a significant recipient of the J-10C fighter jets and other military hardware. Furthermore, China's efforts in space cooperation emphasize its objective to challenge U.S. dominance while fostering partnerships with developing nations, including Pakistan's participation in the International Lunar Research Station. These developments pose considerable implications for regional security in the Indian Ocean, where increased Chinese access could alter the strategic balance, prompting vigilance from India and its allies.

## **MEA condemns demolition of Hindu statue amid Thailand-Cambodia border clashes.**



25-Dec-25

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has expressed grave concerns regarding the demolition of a Hindu deity statue amid ongoing border clashes between Thailand and Cambodia, which have resulted in significant casualties. The act, which has drawn widespread condemnation across regions sharing civilizational ties, underscores the sensitivities surrounding religious heritage. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized the importance of mutual respect in the face of territorial disputes, urging both nations to return to dialogue to prevent further violence and preserve cultural heritage. This incident highlights the need for diplomatic engagement in resolving conflicts that not only threaten lives but also cultural identities.

## Tarique Rahman returns to Bangladesh after 17 years, aiming for prime minister candidacy.



25-Dec-25

Bangladesh's opposition leader Tarique Rahman returned to Dhaka on December 25, 2025, after 17 years in exile, rallying substantial support as he promised to build a secure and inclusive nation ahead of the February elections. His return, facilitated by the recent political upheaval and the overturning of his criminal convictions, positions him as a frontrunner for prime minister, potentially revitalizing the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The country, currently under an interim government, faces challenges including threats of voter boycotts and concerns over violence during the upcoming polls. Rahman's emergence amidst a shifting political landscape raises crucial questions regarding democratic stability and governance in Bangladesh, with implications for regional dynamics in South Asia.

## US Envoy Gor and Indian Counterpart Kwatra Discuss Trade Amid Festivities



25-Dec-25

US Envoy Sergio Gor met with Indian counterpart Kwatra at the Palm Beach estate to discuss enhancing trade ties and the bilateral partnership during the festive season. Their talks are timely, aligning with ongoing negotiations aimed at finalizing a trade deal amidst US tariffs on Indian imports, with the goal of increasing bilateral trade from USD 191 billion to USD 500 billion by 2030. The discussions reflect a commitment to addressing remaining differences following India's recent final proposal and underscore the strengthening diplomatic relations between the two nations. Additionally, the US Embassy announced closures for the holidays, coinciding with President Trump's announcement of a 'warrior dividend' bonus for military service members, highlighting the intersection of domestic policy and international diplomacy.

## Military Operations

## Bomb threat email leads to extensive search at Itarsi Ordnance Factory, ensuring security for defense.



25-Dec-25

On December 22, 2025, the Ordnance Factory in Itarsi, Madhya Pradesh—a key Ministry of Defence unit producing ammunition, propellants, and missile

components for the Indian Army—received a bomb threat email claiming three RDX explosives were planted on-site and at Tamil Nadu residences of two personalities, warning of detonation by noon December 23. Factory management alerted Narmadapuram police, prompting immediate evacuation, area cordon, and deployment of two bomb disposal squads with sniffer dogs from Chhindwara, supervised by Additional SP Abhishek Rajan and SP Sai Krishna Thota; thorough searches till late evening found no suspicious items. Cyber teams trace the sender amid heightened security. This second hoax in 2025, after April 17, exposes vulnerabilities in India's defense infrastructure, demanding advanced cyber defenses and AI surveillance to counter hybrid threats amid border tensions with China and Pakistan, safeguarding strategic self-reliance.

## Army deployed in Assam's West Karbi Anglong to restore order after violent clashes.



25-Dec-25

The Indian Army deployed columns in West Karbi Anglong, Assam, on December 23, 2025, following violent clashes between Karbi tribals and Bihari settlers in Kheroni, triggered by a hunger strike since December 6 demanding eviction of alleged encroachers from protected grazing reserves, per a 2011 Supreme Court order. Two fatalities—Suresh Dey, burned alive in arson, and Athik Timung—plus over 70 injuries, including 60+ police personnel like DGP Harmeet Singh and IGP Akhilesh Kumar Singh, ensued amid arrows, bombs, and arson, prompting curfew under BNSS Section 163 and internet suspension. DGP Singh affirmed control by December 24-25, with flag marches restoring uneasy calm; CM Himanta Biswa Sarma urged dialogue. From India's security lens, this exposes vulnerabilities in Sixth Schedule tribal lands, risking insurgent exploitation and ethnic polarization in strategic Northeast frontiers.

## Indian Army JCO Subedar Surjeet Singh killed in Samba firing incident.



25-Dec-25

A junior commissioned officer (JCO) of the Indian Army, Subedar Surjeet Singh, was killed in a firing incident at a military camp in Samba district, Jammu and Kashmir. The Army has stated that a terror angle has been ruled out and is currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. The Rising Star Corps has paid tribute to Singh, emphasizing his sacrifice while on operational duty and offering support to his bereaved family. The Samba region, previously highlighted for

infiltration attempts and operational activities against Pakistan, remains strategically significant, underscoring the ongoing challenges faced by Indian security forces in safeguarding the border.

networks, and the urgency for vigilant cyber monitoring to thwart urban terror threats amid rising subcontinental extremism.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### Security forces eliminate Maoist leader Ganesh Uike and five others in Odisha operation. [SHARE](#)

25-Dec-25

In a significant anti-Naxal operation, security forces in Odisha's Kandhamal district eliminated six Maoists, including a prominent leader, Ganesh Uike, who had a bounty of Rs 1.1 crore. The encounters, which took place in dense forest terrain, are hailed as a decisive step in the Indian government's campaign against Left-wing extremism, with the Union Home Ministry affirming its commitment to achieving a Naxal-free Bharat by March 2026. Uike, a central committee member of the CPI (Maoist), was known for coordinating attacks across Odisha and neighbouring states, and his death is expected to disrupt the organizational hierarchy of the Maoist outfit. This operation reflects the intensified efforts of security forces, bolstered by improved intelligence and coordination, to compress Naxal safe havens and enhance community engagement in combating insurgency. The success not only demonstrates a tactical victory but also paves the way for potential economic development and infrastructure growth in previously Naxal-dominated areas, highlighting the broader impacts of sustained anti-insurgency measures in the region.

### ATS regains custody of engineer linked to terrorism in Pune. [SHARE](#)

25-Dec-25

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on December 24, 2025, regained custody of Pune software engineer Zubair Hangargekar until January 3, 2026, after his initial arrest on October 27 under UAPA for alleged ties to Al-Qaeda and its Indian affiliate. Investigations uncovered a Pakistani number alongside contacts from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Oman on his old phone, plus extremist materials like an Osama bin Laden speech translation and bomb-making guides, with recent probes tracing Telegram IDs to Afghanistan and Hong Kong IP addresses. From an Indian security lens, this case exposes radicalization risks among tech professionals, potential cross-border Pakistan-linked

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### Iranian cyberattacks reveal critical vulnerabilities in Israel's cybersecurity defenses. [SHARE](#)

25-Dec-25

Iranian cyberattacks have revealed significant vulnerabilities in Israel's cybersecurity framework, particularly in non-military institutions, which lack the stringent protections applied to critical infrastructure. Recent breaches have targeted sensitive data across various sectors, including hospitals and government agencies, with notable incidents involving the leak of personal information from military officials and high-profile figures. Experts suggest that Iran's cyber strategy is shifting towards psychological warfare, aiming to undermine public confidence rather than solely disrupting services. This trend has sparked calls for comprehensive cyber legislation in Israel to better safeguard its civilian landscape, highlighting the growing risks of cyber operations escalating into physical conflict amid regional tensions.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Indian Army updates social media rules for personnel engagement. [SHARE](#)

25-Dec-25

In a notable shift, the Indian Army has revised its social media guidelines, allowing soldiers limited access to platforms like WhatsApp and Instagram, reversing a five-year ban aimed at enhancing digital security amidst rising border tensions with Pakistan and China. The updated protocols permit soldiers to share non-confidential personal messages on WhatsApp and view content on Instagram while prohibiting comments, likes, or posts to mitigate data trails and potential security risks. This change reflects a balancing act between maintaining operational security and improving troop morale, particularly during prolonged deployments. General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff, emphasized the need for disciplined digital behavior, noting the importance of managing impulsive reactions on social media. The revisions underscore the Indian Army's commitment to evolving with modern

communication challenges while prioritizing national security, ultimately fostering a more connected and resilient military force in the face of digital threats.

## ADA's Low Salary Offers Raise Concerns Over Aerospace Talent Retention



25-Dec-25

The recent recruitment advertisement by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has sparked significant debate within India's defense community regarding the low salary offers for critical aerospace positions, highlighting challenges in attracting and retaining top talent amid a competitive landscape. With gross emoluments ranging from approximately ₹35,220 to ₹59,276, critics argue these figures are insufficient compared to private sector opportunities, potentially hindering India's self-reliance goals in defense technology. The disparity in compensation compared to organizations like ISRO raises questions about the perceived value placed on defense R&D roles, particularly as India aims to advance projects like the LCA and AMCA. This situation underscores systemic issues in the defense sector that could lead to delays and capability gaps if not addressed effectively.

global market. These developments not only underline India's strategic ambitions in space exploration but also bolster its self-reliance and technological advancements in defense and other critical sectors, paving the way for future interplanetary missions.

## Nayara delays Vadinar refinery maintenance to April 2026 amid sanctions.



25-Dec-25

Nayara Energy Ltd., partially owned by Russia's Rosneft with a nearly 50% stake, has delayed major maintenance at its 400,000 barrels-per-day Vadinar refinery in Gujarat from February to April 2026. The postponement stems from European contractors' reluctance to engage due to EU sanctions imposed in July 2025 over Russia's war in Ukraine, which targeted the refinery for allegedly funding the conflict. Previously reliant on suppliers like Germany's Siemens AG and Denmark's Topsoe A/S, Nayara now struggles to secure alternatives, heightening safety and operational risks since the last overhaul in November 2022. The sanctions have also halted the refinery's petrochemical expansion plans after firms such as France's Technip Energies and Japan's Toyo Engineering withdrew. Rosneft deems the measures "unjustified and illegal," while the facility continues processing Russian Urals crude.

### Miscellaneous

## India's 2026 space agenda: Gaganyaan flight, Oceansat launch, quantum tech.



25-Dec-25

India's space sector is poised for significant advancements in 2026, highlighted by the uncrewed Gaganyaan mission, which represents the country's first human spaceflight initiative. This mission will utilize the human-rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3) to deploy the humanoid robot Vyommitra into low Earth orbit, testing critical life support systems. Additionally, ISRO plans to launch the Oceansat-3A satellite, enhancing maritime surveillance capabilities, and will debut the privately manufactured PSLV-N1, marking a shift towards increased private sector involvement in space endeavors. Furthermore, the successful completion of various tests for the Gaganyaan mission, alongside the anticipated launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission, showcases India's growing prowess in both human spaceflight and satellite technology. The collaboration with private companies, such as Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 rocket, signifies a robust evolution of India's space economy, aiming to capture a substantial share of the

## VPN usage banned in Kathua for two months over security concerns.



25-Dec-25

Authorities in Kathua district, Jammu and Kashmir, have imposed a two-month ban on the use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), citing national security concerns related to their misuse by individuals and groups to bypass cyber restrictions. District Magistrate Rajesh Sharma issued the order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, mandating compliance from all entities, including Internet Service Providers, with exceptions granted only through specific government permissions. The district's senior superintendent of police is tasked with strict enforcement, emphasizing that violations will face legal repercussions. This measure underscores the government's commitment to safeguarding cybersecurity and maintaining order amid ongoing challenges in the region.



## IAF Contingent Exhibits Precision and Discipline in Republic Day Rehearsal



25-Dec-25

During the Republic Day rehearsal in New Delhi, an impressive contingent of the Indian Air Force (IAF) showcased its precision and discipline, exemplifying India's military might and commitment to national defense. This event not only serves as a crucial preparatory exercise for the Republic Day celebrations but also highlights the collaborative efforts between the armed forces and the government in promoting a sense of patriotism and unity among the citizens. The IAF's participation underscores its readiness to defend the nation while reflecting the strategic importance of aerial capabilities in contemporary warfare. Such displays are vital for boosting morale and reinforcing public confidence in India's defense preparedness amid evolving geopolitical challenges.

## ISRO seeks proposals for new launch pad to boost NGLV by 2029.



25-Dec-25

ISRO has issued a Request for Proposal (RfP) for the design of a new Third Launch Pad (TLP), aiming for operational readiness by March 2029 to support Next Generation Launch Vehicles (NGLV) and other advanced missions. The TLP will enhance India's launch capabilities by accommodating heavier payloads and fostering increased launch frequency, addressing the limitations of the existing facilities. Key features include a Jet Deflector Duct, a Tilttable Umbilical Tower, and Lightning Protection Towers, facilitating the seamless transport and integration of

fully assembled vehicles. This initiative, with an estimated cost of around 4,000 crore, reflects India's commitment to bolstering its aerospace capabilities and reducing reliance on aging infrastructure, while promoting extensive participation from the private sector and MSMEs.

## President Murmu launches Constitution in Santhali language, promoting indigenous rights.



25-Dec-25

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, unveiled the Constitution of India in the Santhali language, written in the Ol Chiki script, during a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on December 25, 2025. This landmark event marks a significant milestone for the Santhali community, enabling them to engage with the Constitution in their native language, thus enhancing their understanding of their rights and duties. The release coincides with the centenary celebration of the Ol Chiki script, emphasizing the government's commitment to preserving and promoting indigenous languages. The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, including the Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, and Union Minister of State for Law and Justice, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal. The inclusion of Santhali in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution through the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003, reflects India's dedication to recognizing and supporting its diverse linguistic heritage, which is crucial for fostering unity and social cohesion among its tribal populations across various states.

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