



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

December 29, 2025 | Day 363

## Defense Business and Industry

### DAC approves Rs 79,000 crore defense procurement to enhance military capabilities.



29-Dec-25

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved a substantial defence procurement proposal worth approximately Rs 79,000 crore (about \$8.8 billion) to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. This comprehensive package includes key acquisitions such as Astra Mk2 air-to-air missiles, loitering munitions for artillery regiments, low-level lightweight radars, long-range guided rockets for the Pinaka multiple launch rocket system, and integrated drone detection systems. The Indian Navy is set to receive high-frequency software-defined radios and high-altitude long-range remotely piloted aircraft systems, while the Indian Air Force will benefit from advanced training simulators and the SPICE-1000 long-range guidance kits. This initiative showcases the government's commitment to modernizing the armed forces, reinforcing national security, and promoting indigenous manufacturing within the defence sector. The DAC's frequent meetings and robust approvals reflect a strategic emphasis on enhancing military readiness and operational effectiveness in response to evolving geopolitical challenges.

### Adani Group to invest Rs 1.8 lakh crore in India's defense sector expansion.



29-Dec-25

Adani Group is set to invest Rs 1.8 lakh crore in 2024 to enhance India's defense manufacturing capabilities, focusing on unmanned and autonomous systems, advanced guided weapons, and AI-enabled operations. The company has established itself as India's largest private-sector defense entity, with successful deployments in military operations, including the

induction of Drishti 10 UAVs into the Navy and Army. Its developments in counter-drone technology and AWACS platforms position it as a key player in the defense sector. This investment underscores India's commitment to strengthening indigenous defense capabilities, fostering innovation, and ensuring military readiness in a rapidly evolving security landscape.

### BIS Launches India's First Standard for Bomb Disposal Systems to Boost Security



29-Dec-25

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has introduced IS 19445:2025, the first dedicated standard for bomb disposal systems, aimed at enhancing national security by addressing critical gaps in the country's security preparedness. Developed at the behest of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the standard establishes comprehensive evaluation guidelines for bomb disposal systems, which include bomb blankets, baskets, and inhibitors, essential for mitigating risks from explosives. It promotes uniformity in manufacturing and testing, ensuring that systems meet performance benchmarks tailored to Indian operational conditions. This initiative not only aligns with international best practices but also bolsters the competitiveness of Indian manufacturers in the global market, thereby reinforcing the overall effectiveness of security operations across various agencies.

### IAF halts Tejas Mk1A orders to prioritize current fleet and Mk2 development.



29-Dec-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has decided not to pursue additional orders for the Tejas Mk1A fighter jet beyond the recently contracted 97 units, focusing instead on the operationalization of its current fleet and the development of the more advanced Tejas Mk2, which is projected to become the backbone of the IAF's medium-weight fighter fleet by the 2030s. Senior IAF officials indicated that while there are no plans for further Mk1A orders due to delays in deliveries and

supply chain challenges, they remain committed to evaluating the performance of the current fleet before making future decisions. The Tejas Mk2 program, which is expected to see production ramp up significantly, potentially through private sector involvement to meet a demand for 220-250 aircraft, aims to address the immediate needs of the IAF as older aircraft phases out. The push for private sector production arises from HAL's current limitations, raising concerns about timely deliveries necessary for maintaining air combat readiness against evolving regional threats. This strategic pivot underscores the urgency for India to enhance its indigenous defense capabilities while fostering a competitive defense industrial base.

## **PLA Enhances AI Logistics to Strengthen Border Operations Against India**



29-Dec-25

On December 28, 2025, reports revealed that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is advancing its AI-driven military logistics through the Joint Logistic Support Force to enhance operational capabilities near India's borders. This system features real-time tracking via smart depots and multi-domain sensing, optimizing resource allocation for high-altitude exercises. The integration of civilian logistics firms and technologies such as drones and automated supply apps indicates a significant enhancement in PLA sustainment capabilities, potentially increasing risks for Indian defenses along the Line of Actual Control. This development underscores the PLA's commitment to improving logistics and resilience, particularly amid ongoing tensions related to Taiwan, raising concerns about the strategic balance in the region.

## **China enhances naval power with drones for Type 076 ship trials.**



29-Dec-25

Recent developments indicate that China is advancing its naval capabilities with the preparation of loyal wingman drones for trials aboard the Type 076 amphibious assault ship, Sichuan, following its initial sea trials. These low-observable drones, designed for enhanced combat operations, aim to augment the People's Liberation Army Navy's (PLAN) ability to project air power in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly concerning Taiwan and disputed maritime territories. The integration of advanced technologies like electromagnetic catapults signifies a significant leap in Chinese naval modernization, presenting new strategic challenges for India's Andaman and Nicobar Command and raising concerns about the regional security

balance. This progression underscores the imperative for India to strengthen its naval and aerial capabilities in response to evolving geopolitical threats.

## **Rolls-Royce sees India as a vital market for jet engines and naval propulsion.**



29-Dec-25

Rolls-Royce has identified India as a key 'home market' for its jet engines and naval propulsion systems, reflecting the country's growing defense-industrial ecosystem. The company plans to invest in local manufacturing, including two Memoranda of Understanding with Indian defense public sector undertakings for engine development for Arjun tanks and advanced combat vehicles, thereby enhancing indigenous capabilities in line with India's AMCA program. Rolls-Royce aims to leverage its expertise in aero-engine technology to contribute to India's naval propulsion needs, advocating for a comprehensive ecosystem that supports both air and naval applications. This strategic partnership underscores India's potential as a global power and aligns with its emphasis on self-reliance in defense.

## **Russia pitches Su-57E to India as a long-term strategic fighter with advanced upgrades.**



29-Dec-25

Russia has intensified its marketing efforts for the Su-57E stealth fighter to India, framing it as a long-term strategic platform capable of serving the Indian Air Force (IAF) for up to 50 years. The aircraft's modular design facilitates the integration of new weapons and technologies, potentially allowing Indian enterprises like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to customize systems independently through unprecedented access to source code. A senior official from Rostec indicated that the overall cost of acquiring the Su-57E could be nearly half that of the Rafale jets under India's Medium Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) program, suggesting that India could procure 200-230 Su-57Es for a similar investment. The potential for comprehensive technology transfer positions the Su-57E as not just a fighter acquisition but as a long-term industrial partnership, enabling India to enhance its operational sovereignty and adapt rapidly to evolving threats. This development is significant as it could influence India's strategic choices between a larger fleet of fifth-generation fighters with substantial customization rights versus a smaller number of advanced 4.5-generation aircraft with limited upgrade options.

## Indian Army achieves 91% ammunition self-reliance, enhancing firepower and operational readiness. SHARE

29-Dec-25

The Indian Army has achieved a remarkable 91% self-reliance in ammunition, successfully indigenizing 159 of 175 variants, significantly reducing dependency on foreign imports amidst global supply chain uncertainties. This pivotal development ensures sustained firepower during prolonged conflicts, bolstering operational readiness while insulating the Army from potential international sanctions. The Ministry of Defence is advancing the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative through collaboration with Defence Public Sector Undertakings and private entities, focusing on critical munitions like advanced rockets and missiles. With the impending production of complex munitions, India is enhancing its defense capabilities, securing supply chains, and establishing a resilient industrial base for independent military operations.

## Indian Coast Guard partners with L&T for six indigenous helicopter systems. SHARE

29-Dec-25

The Indian Coast Guard has formalized a contract with L&T Precision Engineering & Systems for six Rail-Less Helicopter Traversing Systems (RLHTS) to be installed on Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), aligning with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative to enhance indigenous defense production. This innovative RLHTS enables safe helicopter operations without fixed deck rails, utilizing advanced winches and sensors to facilitate movement in challenging maritime conditions. Designed for helicopters weighing up to 12.5 tonnes, the system significantly bolsters the Coast Guard's operational capabilities and underscores India's commitment to developing critical defense technologies domestically. This development is pivotal for improving maritime aviation efficiency and exemplifies the ongoing efforts towards self-reliance in defense manufacturing.

## India invests Rs 44,700 crore to enhance shipbuilding capabilities and global competitiveness. SHARE

29-Dec-25

The Indian government has launched a significant initiative with an outlay of Rs 44,700 crore to bolster the domestic shipbuilding sector and enhance global competitiveness. The initiative includes the

Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) and the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS), designed to provide financial assistance, develop shipbuilding clusters, and modernize existing shipyards. SBFAS aims to support projects worth approximately Rs 96,000 crore over the next decade, while SbDS focuses on infrastructure development and workforce skills, projecting a commercial shipbuilding capacity of 4.5 million gross tonnage annually by 2047. This comprehensive strategy not only aims to revitalize the domestic industry but also positions India as a formidable maritime nation, aligning with the goals of the Make in India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and Viksit Bharat initiatives.

## Indian Army Pursues Advanced Avalanche Rescue System for Troop Safety SHARE

29-Dec-25

The Indian Army issued a Request for Information (RFI) on December 22, 2025, for an advanced Avalanche Rescue System, including man-portable radar and reflectors, to detect and mark multiple buried personnel in real-time amid extreme high-altitude conditions down to -50°C. Published formally on December 23 via platforms like TenderTiger with bids due February 9, 2026, the modular system supports drone mounting and audio-visual alerts, targeting snow-bound frontiers in Ladakh, Siachen, Kashmir, Himachal, Uttarakhand, Arunachal, and Sikkim where avalanches claim numerous non-combat lives annually. From an Indian strategic viewpoint, this bolsters force protection against environmental perils amid LAC tensions with China, curbing casualties that outnumber combat losses—echoing past tragedies like the 2016 Siachen incident—and aligns with DRDO collaborations for AI-enhanced mitigation, ensuring operational continuity in world's harshest terrains.

## HAL to establish 20,000-ton forging press for advanced defense manufacturing. SHARE

29-Dec-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has received four competitive bids from Bharat Forge, Ramakrishna Forgings, Mishra Dhatu Nigam (MIDHANI) and PTC Industries to establish a 20,000-ton Isothermal Forging Press Facility at its Sukhoi Engine Division in Koraput, with the tendering milestone reported on 22–23 December 2025. The project follows an RFI issued in October 2025 and targets operationalisation around October 2025, creating a critical domestic source for large titanium and nickel-alloy compressor and turbine



discs needed for next-generation aero-engines and advanced fighters. By exceeding existing national capacities such as MIDHANI's 6,000-ton press, the facility will plug a major vulnerability in India's wartime supply chains, cut dependence on US-European and Russian forgings, and strengthen Aatmanirbhar Bharat in aerospace propulsion, supporting Tejas, Su-30MKI upgrades and future AMCA-class combat aircraft.

## **Unimech boosts Dheya Engineering stake to enhance India's micro gas turbine capabilities.**



29-Dec-25

Unimech Aerospace and Manufacturing Limited announced on December 23-24, 2025, that it has increased its equity stake in Bengaluru-based Dheya Engineering Technologies Private Limited to 30% from 17%, via compulsorily convertible preference shares under a share subscription agreement signed November 11, 2025, with completion targeted by December 31. This deepens their strategic partnership, positioning Unimech as the exclusive 10-year manufacturing partner for Dheya's indigenous micro gas turbines (MGTs) like DET-60 and DET-500, targeting UAVs, loitering munitions, and distributed energy applications. From an Indian strategic perspective, the integrated design-to-manufacturing pipeline accelerates Atmanirbhar Bharat goals, slashing import dependence on critical propulsion tech amid rising defense needs against border threats, bolstering technological sovereignty and supply chain resilience.

## **ALH DhruvNG's inaugural flight at HAL marks a key milestone in India's indigenous helicopter program.**



29-Dec-25

India's indigenous rotary-wing aviation programme marks a significant milestone with the scheduled inaugural flight of the ALH DhruvNG at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). This next-generation helicopter features advanced avionics and safety systems, including terrain awareness and collision avoidance systems, enhancing its operational capabilities in diverse environments. With a maximum cruise speed of approximately 250 kmph, the DhruvNG is versatile for various roles such as medical services, disaster relief, and VIP transport. The helicopter's integration of modern technologies positions it as a safer and more efficient platform, reinforcing India's commitment to self-reliance in defense and aviation sectors while catering to both civil and military demands.

## **Two SME defense stocks report over 75% profit growth amid rising security concerns.**



29-Dec-25

India's defense industry is experiencing significant growth, bolstered by rising national security concerns and the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, which promotes domestic manufacturing and exports. Notably, defense exports have skyrocketed over 34 times since 2014, reaching \$2.76 billion in FY25, with private sector contributions of approximately \$1.80 billion. Small-cap stocks such as Krishna Defence & Allied Industries and CFF Fluid Control have reported impressive profit growth, outpacing industry averages, with Krishna's net profits surging by 96% and CFF's by 77% in recent years. As these companies capitalize on strong order books and the push for indigenization, their performance reflects India's strategic pivot towards self-reliance in defense manufacturing, presenting both opportunities and challenges for investors in the SME sector.

## **Thales wins £10 million contract for Royal Navy autonomous command centres.**



29-Dec-25

Thales has secured a £10 million contract with the UK's Defence Equipment and Support to develop autonomous remote command centres for the Royal Navy's mine countermeasures, a project expected to expand to £100 million. This initiative is a key component of the UK's Strategic Defence vision, enhancing maritime capabilities through autonomous mine hunting technology. The command centres will integrate multiple unmanned systems and utilize advanced software, including AI-driven target recognition for improved operational efficiency. This investment not only bolsters the Royal Navy's capabilities in response to increasing global threats but also sustains over 200 skilled jobs across Thales' UK sites, reinforcing regional supply chains and industry partnerships.

## **Indian Army to establish a massive tactical drone force by 2027, deploying 8,000-10,000 UAVs per corps.**



29-Dec-25

The Indian Army is set to establish one of the world's largest tactical drone forces by 2027, aiming to deploy between 8,000 to 10,000 drones per corps, enhancing battlefield capabilities significantly. This initiative

focuses on integrating unmanned systems for surveillance, reconnaissance, and precision strike operations, ensuring soldiers remain out of harm's way. The plan emphasizes indigenous technology and self-reliance, fostering the development of domestically produced UAVs and counter-drone systems. Additionally, specialized training for all soldiers in drone operations is a key element, aimed at embedding drone proficiency as a core military skill, thereby transforming the Army's operational doctrine and capabilities for future warfare.

## **IAF and IIT Madras collaborate to develop indigenous airborne communication system.**



29-Dec-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has partnered with IIT Madras through a Memorandum of Understanding to develop an indigenous digital communication system for airborne applications, marking a significant advancement in India's defense technology capabilities. This collaboration aims to create advanced algorithms for networking and encryption, which are crucial for secure and efficient data exchange in modern military operations. By focusing on self-reliance and reducing dependency on imported systems, this initiative aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision, promoting technological sovereignty and enhancing operational effectiveness within the IAF. The project is expected to yield deployable prototypes, reinforcing India's commitment to indigenization in defense procurement and contributing to the growth of the national defense industrial base.

## **NTH and DMSRDE sign MoU to enhance India's defense research and testing capabilities.**



29-Dec-25

On December 29, 2025, the National Test House (NTH), under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, and DRDO's Kanpur-based Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to bolster collaboration in research, testing, and training, advancing India's defence self-reliance. This pact enables sharing of advanced laboratory facilities and instrumentation, mutual support for specialised testing where in-house capabilities are limited, and knowledge exchange among scientific personnel through seminars, workshops, and training programs. Established in 1912, NABL-accredited NTH complements DMSRDE's expertise in non-metallic materials like polymers,

composites, and elastomers vital for defence applications, streamlining certification, enhancing resource efficiency, and aligning with Atmanirbhar Bharat to fortify national security and technological sovereignty.

## **India Negotiates ToT for Javelin Missiles After US Sale Approval**



29-Dec-25

India is engaging in negotiations for the Transfer of Technology (ToT) and local production of the Javelin Anti-Tank Missile System following the US Department of State's approval of a \$45.7 million Foreign Military Sale. The deal includes 100 missiles and 25 launch units, with a focus on establishing domestic manufacturing capabilities through a partnership between Bharat Dynamics Limited and the Javelin Joint Venture, comprising Lockheed Martin and Raytheon. This strategic move aims to modernize India's anti-tank arsenal while enhancing self-reliance in defense production, aligning with the "Make in India" initiative. Successfully concluding these discussions could set a precedent for future defense contracts, highlighting India's capacity to integrate advanced technologies through international collaborations.

## **DRDO accelerates development of sub-15-ton ATAGS variant for 2026 trials.**



29-Dec-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is advancing the development of a sub-15-ton variant of the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), named the Advanced Light Towed Artillery Gun System (ALTGS), with internal trials expected by late 2026. This new design aims to provide the Indian Army with a high-mobility artillery solution suited for challenging terrains, featuring a reduced chamber size and a lighter barrel while retaining all-electric drive technology for enhanced reliability. The Indian Army may require up to 1,200 units over the next 15 years, which would replace outdated artillery systems. If successful, the ALTGS could establish India as a leader in lightweight artillery technology, surpassing existing global competitors.

## **MoD aims for 2026 Dry Kaveri certification to boost Ghatak UCAV project.**



29-Dec-25

The Ministry of Defence has set a firm 2026 deadline for the Gas Turbine Research Establishment to certify the indigenous Dry Kaveri engine, crucial for the Ghatak UCAV project. This initiative aims to establish a self-

reliant defense manufacturing ecosystem, avoiding foreign engine reliance and ensuring timely project execution. The Dry Kaveri, capable of 49 kN thrust, will undergo high-altitude trials in Russia, with the first Ghatak prototype anticipated by late 2029 or early 2030, followed by maiden flights in 2030 or early 2031. This strategic move, including partnerships with private firms like Larsen & Toubro, emphasizes India's commitment to advancing its autonomous aviation capabilities while mitigating historical delays in defense projects.

## **DSA Holding and Innogress Ventures to invest \$2 billion in India's quantum tech ecosystem.**



SHARE

29-Dec-25

DSA Holding has signed a \$2 billion Letter of Intent with Innogress Ventures to develop a quantum and deep-tech ecosystem in India, highlighting growing international collaboration in advanced technologies. This initiative includes the establishment of major facilities like the Greater Karnavati Quantum Computing Technology Park and the Indraprastha Quantum Data Center, aimed at fostering innovation in quantum computing, AI, and robotics. The project's significance lies in its potential to enhance India's technological leadership and support the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision by localizing production and reducing dependency on traditional powers. Challenges such as talent retention and intellectual property protection remain, yet the partnership is poised to accelerate India's position in the global tech landscape while promoting sustainable infrastructure.

## **Politics**

### **Kumar Vishwas lauds Rajnath Singh's steady leadership in defense sector.**



SHARE

29-Dec-25

Kumar Vishwas recently commended Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, highlighting his calm and composed demeanor as crucial throughout his political career. Vishwas' praise underscores Singh's ability to maintain stability and effective leadership in the tumultuous landscape of Indian politics, particularly in the defense sector. This acknowledgment reflects broader sentiments regarding Singh's role in enhancing national security and fostering a sense of trust among the public and military personnel alike. Such recognition of

leadership qualities is significant as India navigates complex geopolitical challenges, emphasizing the importance of steady governance in the defense arena.

## **Geopolitics and Security Alliances**

### **Trump and Zelenskyy discuss peace efforts amid ongoing Ukraine conflict.**



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29-Dec-25

President Donald Trump hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at his Mar-a-Lago resort, emphasizing both leaders' desire for peace in Ukraine amid ongoing Russian aggression. They discussed potential territorial concessions, with Zelenskyy indicating his negotiators are close to finalizing a 20-point peace proposal, which includes U.S. security guarantees akin to NATO protections. Despite intensified Russian attacks in Ukraine, Trump and Zelenskyy expressed a commitment to continued dialogue, with Trump suggesting that compromises on land could pave the way for peace. The situation remains complex, as Russia insists on retaining captured territories and Ukraine firmly rejects these demands, highlighting the broader geopolitical tensions at play.

### **India diversifies maritime strategy by utilizing Oman's Duqm port over Iran's Chabahar.**



SHARE

29-Dec-25

India is strategically diversifying its maritime options by leveraging Oman's Duqm port, as reported by The National Interest. This initiative aims to reduce over-reliance on Iran's Chabahar port, which has faced diplomatic volatility and sanctions risks. While Chabahar remains significant for continental access, Duqm enhances India's operational flexibility in the western Indian Ocean, particularly against Pakistan, by shortening logistical distances. Oman's decision to open Duqm to multiple international partners underscores its commitment to strategic autonomy, allowing India to engage without imposing political conditions. This shift reflects India's broader strategy to bolster maritime capabilities while navigating complex geopolitical landscapes.

## Thailand and Cambodia agree to reinforce ceasefire amid tensions. SHARE

29-Dec-25

Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to consolidate a ceasefire following recent border clashes that resulted in significant casualties and displacement. Talks held in southwestern China involved their foreign ministers and defense officials, with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasizing the importance of maintaining the ceasefire and rebuilding mutual trust. Despite this diplomatic progress, tensions escalated as Cambodia reported Thai airstrikes on its territory, which Thailand justified as self-defense operations aimed at protecting its border claims. Both nations have suffered military and civilian casualties since the resurgence of conflict in early December, underscoring the precarious situation along their shared border. The ongoing negotiations, influenced by international mediation efforts, including those from the United States, highlight the broader implications of regional stability in Southeast Asia and the need for effective conflict resolution mechanisms to prevent further violence and humanitarian crises.

## China's extensive military exercises around Taiwan signify rising tensions and assertive posturing. SHARE

29-Dec-25

China has launched its most extensive military exercises around Taiwan, dubbed "Justice Mission 2025," showcasing its ability to potentially isolate the island from external support in a conflict. This series of drills involves a comprehensive deployment of army, naval, air force, and artillery units, including live-fire exercises, signaling an escalation in military posturing following increased tensions catalyzed by U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and rhetoric from Japanese officials concerning a potential military response to a Chinese attack. China's Eastern Theatre Command has framed these exercises as a warning against what it terms "Taiwan Independence" forces and foreign interference, marking a significant shift towards a more aggressive stance aimed at deterrence. Taiwan's government has condemned the drills, affirming its commitment to defend democracy and freedom, while its military remains on high alert for any sudden changes in China's actions. The broader implications of these developments highlight the increasing military tensions in the Taiwan Strait, underscoring the critical geopolitical stakes involved as regional and global powers respond to China's assertiveness.

## Pakistan's \$4 billion arms deal with Libya violates UN embargo, raising global concerns. SHARE

29-Dec-25

Pakistan's recent \$4 billion arms deal with the Libyan National Army (LNA), led by Khalifa Haftar, has raised significant concerns as it violates the United Nations arms embargo imposed in 2011. This agreement, reportedly the largest in Pakistan's history, includes the supply of advanced weaponry, showcasing Islamabad's prioritization of profit over peace in a conflict-ridden region. Critics argue that this move risks Pakistan's global credibility, invites potential sanctions, and aligns the country with autocratic regimes, thereby deepening its international isolation. As the deal perpetuates the ongoing civil war in Libya, it reflects a critical miscalculation by Pakistan, potentially jeopardizing its diplomatic relations and stability in the region.

## India greenlights Dulhasti Stage-II project amid Indus Treaty suspension. SHARE

29-Dec-25

The Indian government has approved the 260-megawatt Dulhasti Stage-II hydropower project on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, following the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan. This decision allows India to advance multiple hydroelectric projects in the Indus basin, as the treaty, which previously governed water sharing, is now in abeyance. The Dulhasti Stage-II project, which builds upon the existing Stage-I facility, involves significant infrastructure, including a lengthy tunnel for water diversion and an underground powerhouse. This initiative underscores India's commitment to enhancing its energy capacity while navigating complex geopolitical dynamics in the region.

## Bangladesh claims minority violence is isolated, dismissing India's concerns as exaggerated. SHARE

29-Dec-25

Bangladesh has rejected India's concerns regarding the treatment of minority communities, particularly Hindus, describing the allegations as exaggerated and misleading. The Bangladesh foreign ministry emphasized that incidents of violence are isolated criminal acts rather than indicative of systemic persecution, accusing certain Indian factions of misrepresenting facts to incite anti-Bangladesh sentiments. In response to India's Ministry of External Affairs' call for action over a recent lynching incident,



Dhaka clarified that the deceased was a listed criminal involved in extortion, arguing that portraying such cases as minority oppression is factually incorrect. This diplomatic exchange occurs against a backdrop of political instability in Bangladesh, particularly with the return of opposition leader Tarique Rahman and ongoing electoral tensions. Both countries are urged to maintain dialogue; India stresses the importance of democratic processes while advocating for minority rights, reflecting broader implications for regional stability and bilateral relations. The situation highlights the potential risks to cooperation on critical issues such as trade and security, underscoring the need for mutual trust and inclusive governance in Bangladesh amid growing scrutiny from international observers.

### **Neglect in Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan leads to civic unrest and basic facility shortages.** **SHARE**

29-Dec-25

Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan (PoGB) is grappling with severe civic challenges due to decades of neglect, lacking basic health facilities, infrastructure, and local governance. A recent report highlights the region's growing unrest, exacerbated by inadequate responses to public grievances, including mass protests against tax imposition and governmental reforms perceived as detrimental. Despite a limited budget, efforts to create additional districts have further strained resources, leading to dissatisfaction among residents and local authorities. This unrest culminated in significant demonstrations, including police protests over delayed salaries, signaling deepening tensions and governance issues that need urgent addressing to restore stability and improve living conditions in the region.

### **Russia to deploy hypersonic missiles in Belarus, extending European reach.** **SHARE**

29-Dec-25

Russia has deployed nuclear-capable Oreshnik hypersonic missiles in Belarus, confirmed by Minsk's Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin on December 26, 2025, with systems entering combat duty by month-end at the Krichev airbase, as revealed by U.S. satellite imagery analyzed December 27. Putin announced production and Belarus placement in August 2025, first tested against Ukraine in November 2024, extending Moscow's reach across Europe amid NATO buildup. From India's strategic lens, this escalation—pairing with tactical nukes since 2024—bolsters Russia's deterrence against Western arms to Kyiv, risks New START expiry

in 2026, and heightens Eurasian flashpoints, compelling Delhi to recalibrate multi-alignment amid global nuclear brinkmanship.

### **Iran's Handala group targets Israel through cyber infiltration and disinformation tactics.** **SHARE**

29-Dec-25

Iran's cyber warfare group, Handala, has evolved from hacktivism to state-sponsored attacks, targeting Israeli officials' personal devices to extract sensitive information and execute disinformation campaigns. Recent breaches, including access to former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's computer and the manipulation of public address systems, have aimed to undermine Israeli public security and instill psychological fear. Handala's branding, using a symbol of Palestinian resistance, provides a façade of legitimacy, complicating potential military responses from Israel and enabling Iran to exploit vulnerabilities while obscuring its involvement. This development underscores the growing significance of cyber operations as a potent tool in geopolitical conflicts, particularly in influencing public perception and political dynamics within Israel.

### **India's oil imports diversify due to changing geopolitical dynamics.** **SHARE**

29-Dec-25

India's oil import strategy has undergone significant transformation due to shifting geopolitical dynamics, particularly following the reimposition of U.S. sanctions on Iran in 2017. After a brief revival of energy ties with Iran post-2016, India sharply reduced its crude imports from the country by 91.8% by 2019-20, reflecting both sanctions pressure and a strategic pivot towards diversification. Currently, India sources its oil from a more varied portfolio, with notable increases from the United Arab Emirates and the United States, positioning itself to mitigate risks associated with reliance on a single supplier. This diversification not only enhances energy security but also aligns with India's broader geopolitical interests in strengthening ties with key global players.

### **Quad partnership faces challenges amid U.S.-India trade tensions and warming India-China ties.** **SHARE**

29-Dec-25

The Quad partnership, comprising the U.S., India, Australia, and Japan, has faced stagnation due to rising U.S.-India trade tensions and India's evolving



relationship with China. Following the imposition of significant tariffs by the Trump administration, India has signaled a strategic recalibration, exemplified by its participation in BRICS, which the U.S. views unfavorably. Despite these challenges, both nations maintain a commitment to the Quad, recognizing its importance in shaping the economic future of Asia. Meanwhile, Japan and Australia are actively seeking to sustain collaboration through initiatives in security and health, indicating a potential path forward if trade relations can stabilize.

## **North Korea tests long-range cruise missiles, enhancing nuclear deterrence amid external threats.**

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29-Dec-25

North Korea recently conducted tests of long-range strategic cruise missiles, asserting its commitment to enhancing its nuclear deterrence capabilities amid perceived external threats. These missile launches, observed by leader Kim Jong Un, are part of a broader strategy to develop advanced military assets, including a nuclear-powered submarine, which North Korea aims to equip with nuclear missiles. While UN Security Council resolutions prohibit ballistic missile tests, cruise missile launches remain unregulated but pose significant threats to the U.S. and South Korea due to their maneuverability. This escalation in military demonstrations may be linked to North Korea's alliances with Russia, as it seeks to bolster its negotiating position in any future diplomatic engagements concerning its nuclear arsenal.

## **Pakistan's Foreign Minister laments lack of progress in Saudi talks with Afghanistan on counterterrorism.**

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29-Dec-25

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar expressed concerns over the lack of progress in Saudi-hosted talks with Afghanistan, emphasizing that Pakistan's cooperation depends on Afghanistan's commitment to counterterrorism. While Dar welcomed a recent fatwa prohibiting cross-border conflict and assurances from Taliban leaders, he reiterated that Pakistan requires concrete actions to prevent attacks from Afghan territory, particularly by groups like Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan. Despite a fragile ceasefire and calls for improved relations, ongoing cross-border incidents continue to strain ties. The persistence of mutual distrust and the absence of effective diplomatic breakthroughs highlight the complexities of regional security dynamics as both nations navigate a

precarious relationship amid economic challenges and militant threats.

## **India Intensifies Diplomatic Pressure Amid PoK Unrest and Water Disputes.**

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29-Dec-25

India's diplomatic pressure on Pakistan has intensified amid escalating unrest in Pakistan-administered Kashmir (PoK), where protests against economic hardships are growing. Prime Minister Modi's recent address highlighted India's military readiness, particularly in light of the successful Operation Sindoor, and reinforced the message that there can be no dialogue while terrorism persists. Additionally, India has taken steps to restrict water flows under the Indus Waters Treaty, further exacerbating Pakistan's economic and environmental challenges. As Islamabad grapples with internal dissent and international scrutiny over its governance, India's strategic posture seeks to reshape the regional balance, compelling Pakistan to address its domestic issues while facing external pressures.

## **Khalistani Activities Shift to Australia Amid Crackdowns in Canada, UK**

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29-Dec-25

Intelligence agencies in India have reported a concerning shift of Khalistani activities to Australia, amid increased crackdowns in Canada and the UK. Recent months have seen a rise in anti-India vandalism and protests, with Khalistani groups targeting the substantial Indian diaspora of around 800,000 people in Australia. While these groups have faced resistance from the Indian community, incidents such as the tearing of the Indian flag and provocative slogans have heightened tensions. Officials emphasize the need for the Australian government to take a firmer stance against these activities, as unchecked actions could escalate further and impact bilateral relations.

## **Former ISI chief's downfall reveals tensions in Pakistan's civil-military relations.**

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29-Dec-25

The sentencing of former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief, Lt General Faiz Hameed, to 14 years in prison signifies a critical juncture in Pakistan's civil-military dynamics, as it underscores the persistent imbalance between civilian authority and military power. His rise, intertwined with Imran Khan's political ascent, turned tumultuous following Khan's ouster, culminating in protests that targeted military institutions. This case

illustrates the complexities of loyalty within Pakistan's political landscape, where personal allegiances can quickly shift into liabilities. Hameed's downfall reflects broader systemic issues, highlighting the military's attempt to reassert authority and reshape narratives amid political volatility, thereby illuminating the delicate interplay between civilian governance and military influence in Pakistan.

## Direct Flights Between Dhaka and Karachi Set to Launch in January

29-Dec-25

The Pakistani envoy, Haider, announced that direct flights between Dhaka and Karachi are set to launch in January, marking a significant development in bilateral relations. During discussions with Professor Yunus, both leaders emphasized enhancing cooperation through trade, investment, and cultural exchanges, highlighting a 20% year-on-year growth in trade. The growing interest among Bangladeshi students in pursuing higher education in Pakistan, alongside an increase in medical tourism for advanced treatments, underscores the potential for deeper integration. This thaw in relations is seen as a strategic move towards fostering regional connectivity and cooperation amid South Asia's evolving geopolitical landscape, paving the way for new opportunities in trade and investment.

## US condemns Hindu worker's killing, urges Bangladesh to safeguard minorities.

29-Dec-25

The US State Department has condemned the recent killing of Dipu Chandra Das, a Hindu garment worker in Bangladesh, following a brutal attack by a mob allegedly motivated by blasphemy. This incident has raised concerns over the safety of religious minorities in Bangladesh, particularly Hindus, amidst a backdrop of increasing religious violence and political instability. Prominent US lawmakers, including Congressman Ro Khanna, have urged for a strong denunciation of such acts of hatred and emphasized the importance of protecting minority rights as a core aspect of American foreign policy. The situation underscores the urgent need for measures to ensure the security of all communities to foster long-term stability in Bangladesh.

## Trump calls recent talks with Putin 'very productive' ahead of meeting Zelenskyy.

29-Dec-25

In a recent update shared on Truth Social, former President Donald Trump described his latest discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin as "very productive." This 75-minute call was the first direct communication between the two leaders since October and came just before Trump's meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov confirmed the positive nature of the dialogue, with envoy Kirill Dmitriev also highlighting the constructive tone. Following these discussions, both leaders plan to engage in further talks, underscoring the ongoing geopolitical dynamics and the significance of U.S.-Russia relations amid heightened tensions in Eastern Europe.

## India's Diplomatic Shift: Balancing Restraint and Assertiveness in Foreign Policy

29-Dec-25

Ambassador Satish Chandra, a veteran Indian diplomat, reflects on India's foreign policy, emphasizing its aim for a peaceful and cooperative neighborhood without hegemonic ambitions. He highlights India's significant contributions to regional stability, notably in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, while maintaining a firm stance on national security. Chandra critiques India's historical accommodation towards Pakistan, particularly concerning the Kashmir issue, and argues for a balanced approach that combines restraint with assertiveness. His insights underscore a shift in India's diplomatic strategy towards a firmer response to provocations, advocating for support based on mutual respect and emphasizing India's role as a responsible leader in the Global South.

## Military Operations

## President Murmu showcases India's defense prowess with submarine sortie.

29-Dec-25

President Droupadi Murmu recently undertook significant sorties showcasing India's defense capabilities, making her the first head of state to fly in two different Indian Air Force fighter aircraft, including the Rafale and Sukhoi-30 MKI, earlier this year. On a

noteworthy occasion, she embarked on a dived sortie aboard the indigenous Kalvari-class submarine INS Vaghsheer at Karwar Naval Base, where she was briefed on the submarine's operational role and capabilities in India's maritime strategy. This historic moment marks only the second time an Indian President has participated in a submarine sortie, following former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Additionally, President Murmu is scheduled to embark on another submarine sortie on December 28, further highlighting the Indian Navy's advancements and commitment to national security. These events underscore the growing focus on indigenous military capabilities and the importance of strong leadership in promoting the country's defense preparedness.

### **Zardari reveals military advice to hide during India's Operation Sindoor.**

29-Dec-25

In a recent revelation, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari disclosed that during India's Operation Sindoor in May, he was advised by his Military Secretary to take shelter in a bunker due to the escalating conflict. Zardari's comments reflect the intense fear gripping Pakistan's leadership following India's targeted retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians. India's armed forces executed strategic precision strikes against military installations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant display of military capability. The subsequent four-day conflict, which included heightened cross-border shelling, concluded with a ceasefire agreement facilitated by communication between the Directors General of Military Operations from both nations. Zardari's insistence on remaining above ground has sparked discussions on leadership during crises, while claims of Pakistan downing seven Indian jets remain unsubstantiated. This episode underscores the fragile security dynamics in South Asia, highlighting the need for sustained dialogue and conflict resolution efforts to address underlying tensions, particularly regarding the Kashmir dispute.

### **Ukrainian forces successfully destroyed Russian artillery and electronic systems in Northern Slobzhansky.**

29-Dec-25

Operators of Ukraine's "Prime" UAV unit successfully targeted and destroyed a D-30 cannon, an electronic warfare complex, and communication equipment belonging to Russian forces in the Northern Slobzhansky direction, as reported by the State Border

Guard Service of Ukraine. This strategic operation not only eliminated significant enemy assets but also contributed to Russian personnel losses. Additionally, the 78th separate Airborne Assault Brigade reportedly struck a Russian self-propelled artillery unit in the Kursk region, further showcasing the effectiveness of Ukrainian drone and air assault capabilities. These developments highlight the evolving nature of warfare, where drone operations play a crucial role in the battlefield dynamics and operational effectiveness of forces engaged in ongoing conflicts.

### **Explosion at UP firing range injures four Army personnel; safety inquiry initiated.**

29-Dec-25

An explosion rocked the Badkala firing range in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, on Saturday evening, December 27, 2025, during routine drone training with explosives, injuring four Indian Army personnel: Suresh (45), Pavitra (35), Deepak (27), and Praveen (30). Police from Mirzapur and Behat swiftly evacuated the wounded to Behat Primary Health Centre, with Deepak and Suresh transferred to the district hospital for critical care; all remain stable under Army medical supervision, as confirmed by SP (Rural) Sagar Jain on December 28. An official inquiry probes potential technical malfunctions or munitions issues at this Shivalik forest facility, vital for operational readiness amid India's border tensions with China and Pakistan. From a strategic lens, such mishaps highlight urgent needs for enhanced safety protocols and indigenous drone tech to bolster force modernization without compromising troop welfare.

## **Terrorism and Counterterrorism**

### **Terrorists adapt winter tactics in J&K, prompting intensified Indian operations.**

29-Dec-25

Indian security forces are intensifying operations in Jammu and Kashmir to counter a notable shift in terrorist activity, as around 30-35 Jaish-e-Mohammad operatives have opted to operate in harsh winter conditions, a departure from their usual behavior. The terrorists' decision to isolate themselves at higher altitudes, away from local support, reflects a desperate strategy amidst heightened military pressure and a crippling of their infrastructure due to Operation

Sindoor. Despite challenging weather, the Indian Army has adopted a proactive stance, establishing snowbound bases and maintaining vigilance against infiltration from Pakistan. This change in tactics highlights the ongoing complexities in counter-terrorism efforts in the region, underscoring the need for persistent alertness and adaptive strategies by Indian forces.

## **511 arrested in Uttarakhand's Operation Kalnemi, including 19 Bangladeshis.**



29-Dec-25

Under Operation Kalnemi, a significant law enforcement initiative launched by the Uttarakhand Government in July 2025, authorities have arrested 511 individuals, including 19 Bangladeshis, across three districts—Haridwar, Dehradun, and Udham Singh Nagar. The operation aims to combat illegal activities disguised as religious practices, with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami emphasizing that the campaign is not directed against any community but seeks to uphold law and order. Among those arrested, ten Bangladeshis have already been deported, while action is pending for the remaining nine. This operation highlights the government's commitment to maintaining societal integrity and addressing illegal immigration and associated criminal activities effectively.

## **Shopian Police detains three OGWs under PSA to safeguard regional security.**



29-Dec-25

In a significant move to enhance regional security, police in Shopian district, Jammu and Kashmir, have detained three overground workers (OGWs) of terrorists under the Public Safety Act (PSA). The individuals, identified as Owais Ahmad Lone, Mashooq Ahmad Shah, and Subzar Ahmad Gani, were found to be repeatedly involved in activities detrimental to state security, continuing their unlawful actions despite preventive measures. Following the completion of legal formalities, detention orders were issued by the District Magistrate, leading to their custody and subsequent lodging at Central Jail Kot Bhalwal in Jammu. The Shopian police emphasized their commitment to maintaining peace and security in the region, highlighting ongoing coordinated operations against terrorists, their supporters, and associated criminal activities, including drug smuggling and hawala transactions. This proactive approach aims to dismantle the support networks for terrorism and underscores the state's determination to combat

elements that threaten stability and safety in Jammu and Kashmir.

## **HM Shah: Red Fort blast used 40 kg explosives, highlights anti-terror strategy.**



29-Dec-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah reported that a recent car bomb explosion near the Red Fort utilized 40 kg of explosives, resulting in 11 fatalities. At the Anti-Terror Conference organized by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), he emphasized the importance of enhancing coordination among various agencies to combat terrorism effectively. The NIA is currently investigating the case, having arrested Yasir Ahmad Dar, who played a significant role in the conspiracy. The conference aims to formulate strategies to address national security challenges and emerging threats from terrorism, reflecting the government's commitment to a comprehensive approach in safeguarding the nation.

## **J&K Police Enhance Readiness Against Suicide Attacks in Kathua District**



29-Dec-25

Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted extensive mock drills in Kathua district to enhance their preparedness against potential fidayeen (suicide) attacks. Under the supervision of Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma, the exercise involved various police stations and border posts along the international border, aiming to test operational readiness and improve response efficiency. Personnel were trained in tactical approaches, including leveraging dominating heights and utilizing heavy firepower, while remaining vigilant with their arms. This initiative underscores the commitment of the police to counter hostile activities, particularly from Pakistan, thereby ensuring the safety and security of the local population in a region facing persistent threats.

## **Six Bangladeshi women, aided by a local man, arrested in Nashik.**



29-Dec-25

Six Bangladeshi women were apprehended in Nashik, Maharashtra, for illegal residency in India, alongside a local man accused of aiding their stay. The arrests occurred following a police operation based on credible information regarding the women's presence in the Kavthekarwadi area near the Pandavleni caves. The women, aged between 25 and 41, highlight ongoing concerns regarding illegal immigration and border security in India. This incident underscores the



challenges faced by Indian authorities in managing cross-border movement and ensuring national security, emphasizing the need for enhanced vigilance and robust enforcement measures.

## UP Police detains two suspected Kashmiris for suspicious activities in Bareilly.



29-Dec-25

Uttar Pradesh Police detained two suspected Kashmiri men, Shaukat Ali and Sajjad from Poonch district, Jammu and Kashmir, in Bareilly's Dhimri village on December 27, 2025, following villagers' complaints on December 26 about their suspicious begging and evasive behavior, including blending into crowds during namaz. The duo, who arrived in Bareilly on December 10 and resided at a local mosque, prompted swift action from Izzatnagar SHO Bijendra Singh and the Local Intelligence Unit (LIU), with photos and Aadhaar details forwarded to J&K Police for verification as of December 28-29. From an Indian strategic lens, this incident underscores heightened vigilance against potential infiltration amid Poonch's border volatility, reinforcing community-driven security to counter terror threats and ensure internal stability.

## Bihar declares victory over Naxalism, significantly reducing serious crimes.



29-Dec-25

Bihar has declared itself free from Naxalism, achieving a significant reduction in serious crimes such as murder and robbery, according to the annual performance report from the state's police. The Bihar Police reported a 24.87% decline in robbery cases and emphasized successful strategies involving strict policing, technological advancements, and the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) to prevent criminal activities. In total, 220 Maoists were arrested this year, with a focus on dismantling organized crime networks through asset confiscation. Additionally, the establishment of the "Abhaya Brigade" aims to enhance women's safety, reflecting the state's commitment to public security and effective law enforcement moving forward.

## Three senior Chinese military officials expelled amid anti-corruption efforts by the Communist Party.



29-Dec-25

China's National People's Congress Standing Committee expelled three senior PLA officers—Wang Renhua (CMC Political and Legal Affairs head), Zhang

Hongbing (People's Armed Police commissar), and Wang Peng (CMC training director)—on December 27, 2025, amid Xi Jinping's intensifying anti-corruption purge. Absent from key events since July's PLA anniversary and October's party plenum, the trio retains Central Committee membership, signaling selective political maneuvering over full ouster. From India's strategic lens, this upheaval—following October expulsions of nine generals including ex-CMC vice chairman He Weidong—exposes PLA command fractures, potentially degrading operational readiness along the LAC and offering Delhi tactical windows amid Beijing's internal instability.

## Union Home Secretary stresses vigilance against radicalization and terrorism threats.



29-Dec-25

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan emphasized the urgent need for vigilance against radicalization and the exploitation of vulnerable youth during the Anti-Terrorism Conference 2025, organized by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). He highlighted the importance of a uniform Anti-Terror Squad structure for improving India's counter-terrorism capabilities and praised the NIA's high conviction rate. The conference addressed emerging security threats, including cybersecurity challenges and hybrid warfare, while also lauding the operational success of Indian security forces in countering recent terror attacks. Union Home Minister Amit Shah called for unified efforts across central and state agencies to enhance intelligence sharing and operational readiness, underscoring the need to confront terrorism both domestically and in its international dimensions.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

## J&K Police Launches AI Security Grid to Combat Terrorism and Enhance Defense



29-Dec-25

Jammu and Kashmir Police has launched an advanced AI-enabled security grid aimed at bolstering internal security against persistent threats from Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. This innovative system promises to enhance surveillance, intelligence gathering, and rapid response in border and hinterland areas, reflecting the government's commitment to integrating cutting-edge technology in law enforcement while adhering to

ethical standards. The initiative was discussed at the recent Pan-India DGP/IGP Conference and includes applications in forensics, where AI tools are expected to significantly reduce investigation timelines by automating evidence analysis. This development marks a crucial step in transforming operational capabilities within one of India's most challenging security environments.

## **Identity Shield Summit 2026 to Gather 5,000 Cybersecurity Experts in Pune**



29-Dec-25

The Identity Shield Summit 2026, scheduled for January 16-17 in Pune, is set to gather over 5,000 cybersecurity professionals, including key leaders from government and industry, to discuss pressing issues in identity security and digital trust. Led by Anirban Mukherjee of miniOrange, the summit will explore frameworks such as Zero Trust and the implications of AI-driven cyber threats on enterprises. With prominent figures, including the CEO of the Data Security Council of India and officials from the Maharashtra police, participating, the summit underscores India's commitment to becoming a global leader in cybersecurity. This initiative reflects the urgent need for a skilled cybersecurity workforce to address the rising complexities of digital threats.

## **OpenAI strengthens cybersecurity by appointing 'Head of Preparedness' amid rising AI threats.**



29-Dec-25

OpenAI has responded to escalating AI-related cybersecurity threats by appointing a 'Head of Preparedness', a role aimed at addressing the dual-use potential of AI technologies. This proactive move reflects growing concerns about the misuse of AI in cyber intrusions, particularly following incidents like the abuse of Anthropic's Claude. The appointment underscores the urgent need for regulatory frameworks that can harmonize innovation with critical safety measures, as the sophistication of AI-enhanced cyber threats continues to rise. As nations grapple with the implications of AI, such industry responses are vital for safeguarding against the dual-use dilemma, enhancing overall cybersecurity resilience.

## **Amazon disrupts GRU-linked cyber operations targeting cloud infrastructure since 2021.**



29-Dec-25

Amazon has reported significant disruptions to cyber operations linked to Russia's GRU, targeting organizations utilizing its cloud infrastructure since 2021. The attackers primarily focused on critical sectors, especially energy, exploiting both newly discovered and known vulnerabilities to gain unauthorized access. By 2025, their tactics evolved, with an increasing emphasis on misconfigured customer network devices rather than direct vulnerability exploitation. This development underscores the persistent threat posed by state-sponsored cyber activities, highlighting the critical need for robust cybersecurity measures in protecting vital infrastructure and safeguarding sensitive data against such sophisticated attacks.

## **Viral deepfake misrepresents NDTV journalist on Indian Army resignations.**



29-Dec-25

A viral video falsely claims to show NDTV journalist Aditya Raj Kaul reporting that 15 Indian Army officers resigned due to alleged extra-judicial operations in Jammu and Kashmir. Investigations confirmed that the video is a deepfake, with AI-generated audio manipulated to misrepresent Kaul's statements. Notably, the original video features a discussion on terrorism and security concerns, with no mention of resignations. Kaul himself has labeled the video as a product of a "Pakistani Fake News Factory," emphasizing the importance of verifying information to counteract disinformation tactics aimed at undermining the credibility of Indian forces. This incident highlights ongoing challenges in the information domain, particularly the use of technology to spread false narratives.

### **Mil Personnel & Veterans**

## **Parliamentary panel addresses healthcare and resettlement for ex-servicemen.**



29-Dec-25

A parliamentary panel on defense, led by Radha Mohan Singh, recently addressed the pressing issues of resettlement and healthcare for ex-servicemen.

Concerns were raised about the alarmingly low recruitment rate of just 1.9% of ex-servicemen in government jobs, despite policies allowing for a 10-25% absorption rate. Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi highlighted challenges faced by ex-servicemen in accessing military healthcare and criticized the inadequate financial provisions for serious medical treatments, suggesting an increase from the current limit of Rs 75,000 for cancer and kidney treatments. The committee's discussions reflect a critical need for improved rehabilitation and employment opportunities for the approximately 60,000 soldiers retiring annually.

symbol of Santhali identity. The President underscored the significance of education in one's mother tongue for the holistic development of the Santhali community and announced the release of the Indian Constitution in Santhali, written in the Ol Chiki script. She called for greater literary exchange and accessibility of Santhali literature to foster community bonding and promote environmental conservation, encouraging writers to awaken tribal communities through their work. This initiative reflects a broader commitment to cultural preservation and inclusivity within India's diverse linguistic landscape.

## Miscellaneous

### Meghalaya Police and BSF refute claims of murder suspects' entry. SHARE

29-Dec-25

Meghalaya Police and the Border Security Force (BSF) have refuted claims from Bangladesh media asserting that two suspects in the murder of Sharif Osman Hadi, a youth leader of the Inquilab Mancha group, fled to India and were arrested. The Meghalaya DGP, Idashisha Nongrang, labeled these reports as false narratives aimed at inciting public confusion and undermining regional stability, while BSF officials also dismissed the allegations as fabricated propaganda. In contrast, Bangladeshi authorities maintain that the suspects, Faisal Karim Masud and Alamgir Sheikh, crossed into India with local assistance and are actively coordinating with Indian officials for their apprehension and extradition. The murder of Hadi, which is believed to be politically motivated, has sparked unrest in Bangladesh amidst concerns regarding safety and communal harmony under the current interim government. As investigations proceed, Bangladesh police report multiple arrests related to the case, highlighting a significant deterioration in law and order in the region.

### President Murmu celebrates Parsi Maha and Ol Chiki centenary in Jamshedpur. SHARE

29-Dec-25

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, attended the closing ceremony of the 22nd Parsi Maha and centenary celebrations of the Ol Chiki script in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, on December 29, 2025. During her address, she emphasized the importance of the Santhali language and culture, particularly highlighting the role of the Ol Chiki script, created by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925, which serves as a vital

### President Murmu emphasizes technology's role in nation-building at NIT Jamshedpur convocation. SHARE

29-Dec-25

President Droupadi Murmu attended the convocation ceremony of NIT Jamshedpur, emphasizing the unprecedented pace of technological change and its dual impact of creating opportunities while also posing challenges like cybercrime and environmental issues. She highlighted the role of educational institutions in shaping the future of the nation, asserting that engineers must act as nation-builders who leverage technology for human welfare. Murmu reiterated the government's commitment to fostering a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 through enhanced research, innovation, and a vibrant startup culture, particularly in sectors such as defense, space, and atomic energy, which offer vast opportunities for youth. She called for a societal transformation where benefits of education reach the most marginalized, advocating for innovation driven by compassion rather than mere invention, thus reinforcing the importance of aligning technological advancements with societal welfare.

### Pune Airport parking expansion delayed due to IAF land transfer issues. SHARE

29-Dec-25

The expansion of Pune Airport's parking capacity is facing delays due to the postponed transfer of 13 acres of Indian Air Force (IAF) land to the Airports Authority of India (AAI), now expected by the end of January. Initially anticipated by October, this delay could push the completion of five additional parking bays and three remote bays beyond 2026. The IAF has appointed officers to expedite the land transfer process, but documentation delays persist. The current infrastructure constraints were highlighted during a recent operational meltdown, emphasizing the urgent need for improvements as a second airport project in

Purandar gains momentum, with enhanced compensation packages for affected residents announced by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

## Graphite's rise in the US highlights India's key export role in EVs. SHARE

29-Dec-25

Graphite has emerged as a critical mineral due to its essential role in electric vehicle (EV) batteries and renewable energy storage, prompting renewed mining initiatives in the US aimed at reducing dependence on Chinese imports. India, equipped with commercially viable graphite reserves and an established manufacturing base, is positioned as a key exporter; in 2023, it exported approximately \$24.3 million worth of artificial graphite to the US, which accounted for 41% of total exports. The US government's tariff concessions for Indian graphite and its strategic focus on securing critical mineral supplies underscore the growing importance of India in the global graphite market. As the demand for EVs accelerates, India's role as an emerging exporter could significantly influence supply chains and geopolitical dynamics.

## 2025 challenges India's oil and gas sector amid imports and geopolitics. SHARE

29-Dec-25

India's oil and gas sector faced significant challenges in 2025, marked by slower consumption growth and heightened dependence on imported crude. The revival of pressure on gas infrastructure coincided with strategic policy initiatives, including the implementation of a unified gas tariff, indicating a shift towards more streamlined regulation. Industry experts, such as Prashant Vasisht from ICRA, emphasized the need for adaptive measures to navigate these complexities as the sector approaches 2026. This situation underscores the broader implications for India's energy security and economic stability, necessitating a balanced approach to domestic resource management and import dependencies amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics.

## UPSC announces CDS Exam-I 2026 for Indian Army, Navy, Air Force recruitment. SHARE

29-Dec-25

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has announced the official notification for the Combined Defence Services (CDS) Exam-I 2026, presenting an opportunity for aspiring candidates to join the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force as officers. A total of 451 vacancies are available across esteemed defense

academies, highlighting the Indian government's commitment to strengthening its armed forces through the recruitment of young talent. Interested candidates can apply online via the UPSC official website, with the application process expected to attract a significant number of applicants eager to serve the nation. This initiative is crucial for maintaining the operational readiness and modernization of India's defense capabilities amidst evolving geopolitical challenges.

## PM Modi Declares 2025 a Milestone Year for India's Security and Progress SHARE

29-Dec-25

In his latest 'Mann Ki Baat' address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared 2025 as a landmark year for India, celebrating significant achievements in national security, sports, and scientific advancements. He highlighted Operation Sindoor, which successfully targeted and dismantled terror infrastructure in Pakistan, underscoring India's commitment to national security. Modi also lauded the Indian cricket teams for their historic victories, including the men's ICC Champions Trophy and the women's World Cup, as well as notable achievements by para-athletes. Additionally, he noted India's advancements in space exploration, marked by Shubhanshu Shukla's journey to the International Space Station, reflecting India's growing influence on global platforms.

## Two dead in Mexican Navy plane crash during medical mission near Galveston. SHARE

29-Dec-25

A small aircraft operated by the Mexican Navy crashed near Galveston, Texas, leading to the deaths of at least two individuals, including a one-year-old patient. The flight, carrying eight people, was on a medical mission when it encountered difficulties. Four passengers were rescued, while the search continues for two individuals still unaccounted for. The incident, characterized as an accident, is under thorough investigation by local authorities and aviation safety boards, with weather conditions—specifically dense fog—potentially contributing to the mishap. This tragedy underscores the inherent risks of medical transport missions and the importance of evaluating environmental factors in operational protocols.



## India to launch first quantum communication satellite by 2026 for enhanced national security. SHARE

29-Dec-25

India's Department of Space, through ISRO, plans to launch the first quantum communication satellite, SAQTI—Secured Applications using Quantum and optical Technologies—around 2026 as part of the National Quantum Mission approved in April 2023 with a ₹6,003.65 crore budget until 2030-31. This initiative targets satellite-based quantum key distribution over 2000 km to provide unhackable links for national security, protecting military and government communications from quantum computing threats. Building on ground trials like DRDO-IIT Delhi's 1 km free-space demonstration in 2025 at 240 bits/s, earlier 100 km fibre QKD in 2022, and collaborations with Raman Research Institute funded over ₹15 crore since 2017, SAQTI extends these to orbit using PSLV from Satish Dhawan Space Centre. Complementary private efforts by Space TS and Synergy Quantum focus on post-quantum cryptography satellites by early 2030,

enhancing hybrid networks amid global races like China's Micius since 2016.

## DGCA transfers Ravinder Jamwal amid IndiGo flight disruption scrutiny. SHARE

29-Dec-25

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on December 23 transferred Ravinder Jamwal, head of the Flight Standards Directorate (FSD) overseeing FDTL norms, to the Air Navigation Services section, replacing him with Ashish Dubey. This move, reported December 27, precedes a four-member panel's confidential report—submitted December 26 and formed December 5 under Joint DG Sanjay K. Bramhane—into IndiGo's late November meltdown, which axed over 4,200 flights by December 9 due to crew shortages and FDTL lapses. From India's strategic lens, the reshuffle signals robust regulatory resolve to avert aviation vulnerabilities that could cascade into national security risks during peak operations, bolstering oversight amid rising air traffic demands.

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