



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

December 30, 2025 | Day 364

Defense Business and Industry

DRDO conducts successful maiden flight test of 120-km Pinaka Guided Rocket in Odisha.



30-Dec-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the 120-km range Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) at the Integrated Test Range in Odisha. This launch coincided with the project's approval by the Defence Acquisition Council, indicating strong governmental support. The rocket demonstrated precise in-flight maneuvers, impacting its target with accuracy, and was launched from the existing Pinaka platform, showcasing its versatility. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hailed the achievement as a game-changer for the Armed Forces, emphasizing the LRGR's potential to enhance India's artillery capabilities in modern warfare, while also noting its success in the export market, particularly with interest from European nations.

IAF partners with IIT Madras to develop indigenous airborne communication systems.



30-Dec-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IIT Madras to develop an indigenous airborne digital communication system, marking a significant advancement towards self-reliance in defense technology. This collaboration aims to enhance strategic capabilities through advanced algorithms for networking and encryption, promoting technological sovereignty and operational efficiency. Air Vice Marshal R Guruhari emphasized that this partnership exemplifies the synergy between academic and defense institutions, contributing to the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The project focuses on creating robust solutions for secure data transmission

and resilience against threats, aligning with the government's push for indigenization in defense procurement and strengthening India's defense industrial base.

Israel's Iron Beam laser defense system and SIGMA howitzer enhance military capabilities and regional security.



30-Dec-25

On December 29, 2025, Israel's Ministry of Defense announced the operational status of the Iron Beam high-energy laser air defense system and the induction of the SIGMA 155 self-propelled howitzer, known as Ro'em, into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The Iron Beam, developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, effectively neutralizes aerial threats such as rockets and drones using a 100-kilowatt beam, significantly enhancing Israel's multi-layered defense architecture alongside existing systems like Iron Dome and David's Sling. The SIGMA howitzer, designed by Elbit Systems, features a modular 155mm cannon with a 40-kilometer range, enabling greater artillery precision and mobility with minimal crew requirements. From an Indian strategic perspective, these advancements in directed-energy and autonomous weapon systems highlight the need for India to bolster its own defense capabilities against similar threats from regional adversaries, thereby underscoring potential avenues for collaboration with Israel in defense technology and military modernization to enhance national security.

Defence Ministry signs Rs 4,666 crore deal for carbines and torpedoes.



30-Dec-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence has signed contracts worth Rs 4,666 crore for the procurement of Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbines and Heavy Weight Torpedoes, reinforcing the commitment to modernize the armed forces under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. The contract includes over 4.25 lakh CQB carbines from Bharat Forge Ltd and PLR Systems Pvt Ltd, aimed at enhancing the infantry's combat capabilities, while the procurement of 48 Heavy Weight

Torpedoes for Kalvari-class submarines from WASS Submarine Systems S.R.L. underscores the Navy's operational readiness. This move not only aims to replace outdated systems with indigenous technology but also significantly contributes to the economy by increasing employment and supporting local defense industries.

HAL Awards ₹26 Crore MRO Contract for THL 20 Turrets to Lotus Technologies



30-Dec-25

Lotus Advance Technologies Pvt Ltd has secured a significant contract worth ₹26.8 crore from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) of THL 20 turret guns fitted on the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) fleet, marking a pivotal development in India's defense sustainment ecosystem. This award underscores Lotus's role as the exclusive MRO partner for the THL 20 system, a capability strengthened through its collaboration with KNDS France. By fostering indigenous MRO capabilities, HAL is enhancing domestic expertise in maintaining crucial airborne weapon systems, thereby improving operational readiness and reducing reliance on overseas support. The THL 20 turret plays a vital role in various operational roles, including armed reconnaissance and counter-insurgency, making its reliability essential. This contract aligns with the Indian government's Make in India initiative, reflecting a broader shift towards integrating private-sector firms into long-term sustainment roles alongside public-sector entities like HAL. Such developments are critical for India's goal of achieving self-reliance in defense logistics, enhancing fleet availability, and managing costs across the lifecycle of complex defense platforms.

Su-57E Offers India Cost-Effective Rafale Alternative with Full ToT.



30-Dec-25

In a pivotal development for India's Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) acquisition, Russia's Rostec has proposed the Su-57E stealth fighter as a significantly more cost-effective alternative to the French Rafale, claiming potential procurement costs could be nearly half that of the Rafale package, which is valued at over \$24 billion for 114 jets. This offer includes full technology transfer and access to the aircraft's source code, allowing the Indian Air Force (IAF) enhanced operational autonomy to integrate indigenous weaponry and upgrade systems independently. The proposals

echo elements from the successful Su-30MKI program, suggesting a dual-track strategy for integrating advanced Su-57 technologies into the IAF's existing fleet. Additionally, the Su-57E's capabilities are said to have evolved substantially since India's withdrawal from the Fifth-Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) collaboration in 2018, with substantive advancements in aerodynamics, weaponry, and propulsion. As India navigates its long-term defense strategy, the choice between the proven Rafale and the promising Su-57E could significantly impact the IAF's future operational capabilities while reflecting broader geopolitical dynamics amidst shifting alliances and pressures.

China tests YJ-20 hypersonic missile, raising Indo-Pacific defense concerns.



30-Dec-25

China's People's Liberation Army Navy successfully tested the YJ-20 hypersonic anti-ship missile from the Type 055 destroyer Wuxi, showcasing its advanced capabilities, including near-vertical descent and Mach 6 speeds. This missile significantly extends the PLA Navy's anti-access/area-denial range beyond 1,000 km, posing increased challenges to naval defenses in the Indo-Pacific, particularly for India amid China's assertive maritime expansion. The urgency for India to develop indigenous hypersonic countermeasures and enhance QUAD interoperability is underscored, as these advancements could threaten vital sea lanes and national security. This development highlights the critical need for India to bolster its defense strategies in response to China's rapidly modernizing military assets.

China advances military tech with mobile drone-launch catapult system.



30-Dec-25

Recent developments at Shanghai's Hudong-Zhonghua shipyard have revealed that China is advancing its military capabilities with a mobile electromagnetic catapult system designed for drone launches. This modular system, capable of deploying low-observable combat drones weighing up to 2 tons, enhances the People's Liberation Army's airpower projection in contested areas, particularly along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India and in the Pacific. The technology allows for rapid drone deployment without the need for fixed infrastructure, significantly increasing sortie rates and survivability. This innovation underscores China's strategic shift towards unmanned aerial superiority amid rising tensions with New Delhi,

presenting new challenges for India's air defense systems in high-altitude and remote regions.

Belrise and Plasan Sasa partner to enhance India's military mobility capabilities.



30-Dec-25

Belrise Industries and Israel's Plasan Sasa signed a three-year strategic agreement on December 18, 2025—publicly disclosed around December 22—to co-develop and localize the ATEMM (All-Terrain Electric Mission Module), a modular electric platform enhancing payload, survivability, and off-road mobility for Indian armed and paramilitary forces. This partnership, aligning with Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, shifts India-Israel defense ties from imports to co-production, integrating Belrise into Plasan's global supply chain for cost-effective exports. From an Indian strategic lens, it bolsters high-altitude and border operations amid tensions with China and Pakistan, fortifying self-reliance in electric military mobility while targeting MoD tenders

MMFD Radar Programme Completes Evaluation, Industry Partners Shortlisted



30-Dec-25

DRDO's Laboratory for Electro-Optics and Radar Development (LRDE) completed the techno-commercial evaluation of the Multi-Mode Firefinder (MMFD) radar programme on December 27, 2025, shortlisting key Indian partners Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Alpha Design Technologies, ICOMM Tele Limited, and AMPL for financial bidding and production phases. This milestone, confirmed via open-source reports and tied to recent LRDE/MMFD-PUR/25-26 tenders closing January 1, 2026, advances indigenous AESA radar tech for air defence, artillery fire control, and ALH Mk III integration. From India's strategic lens, it bolsters self-reliance amid border tensions, enhancing multi-domain surveillance against China-Pakistan threats and reducing import dependence, with contracts eyed for early 2026 to fortify Army, Air Force, and Navy capabilities.

ADE Seeks Indian Partner for Advancing Indigenous HALE-RPAS Development



30-Dec-25

In a significant advancement for India's defense capabilities, the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) has issued an Expression of

Interest for the development of a High-Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (HALE-RPAS). This initiative aims to identify an Indian Development Cum Production Partner, emphasizing the government's commitment to fostering indigenous unmanned aviation technology. The HALE-RPAS is envisioned as a crucial asset for persistent surveillance and intelligence gathering, enabling India to reduce reliance on foreign systems while maintaining control over sensitive mission data. This move reflects a strategic shift towards enhanced public-private partnerships in defense, aiming to streamline development timelines and bolster India's domestic aerospace sector.

Pakistan's arms export claims falter as Libya deal is denied.



30-Dec-25

Pakistan's foreign minister, Ishaq Dar, has dealt a significant blow to the country's arms export narrative by revealing that no binding arms sale deal was made with Libya, only a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This admission highlights a recurring issue in Pakistan's defense diplomacy, where an estimated 80% of announced MoUs fail to materialize into actual contracts. The fragmented political landscape in Libya complicates potential defense procurements further, underscoring the gap between political signaling and commercial realities in defense exports. The clarity on the distinction between an MoU and a binding agreement casts doubt on Pakistan's claims of rising influence in the global arms market, emphasizing the necessity for credible, executed agreements over speculative announcements.

India leases two MQ-9 drones, enhancing Navy's capabilities and US ties.



30-Dec-25

India has approved the lease of two additional MQ-9 drones from General Atomics for the Indian Navy, enhancing its intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities in strategically important regions. This decision, cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council, signifies a substantial boost to India-US defense cooperation, with significant contributions from aerospace expert Vivek Lall. The previous lease of two MQ-9 aircraft in 2020 has already proven critical for India's maritime and border security operations. This development reflects the ongoing commitment between India and the US to strengthen defense ties and advance technological collaboration,

reinforcing India's military capabilities while integrating domestic defense industries into global supply chains.

Russia announces active service of Oreshnik nuclear-capable missile amid Ukraine peace talks.



30-Dec-25

Russia has announced the active service deployment of its nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system, marking a significant development amid ongoing peace negotiations concerning the Ukraine conflict. The Oreshnik, which can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads, was first utilized against Ukraine in November 2024 and is touted by President Putin for its advanced capabilities, including multiple warheads that can travel at speeds reaching Mach 10. This announcement comes as U.S. President Trump engages with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, emphasizing the proximity of a potential peace settlement, while Putin insists on military advancements and buffer zones along the Russian border. The situation underscores the escalating tensions and complex dynamics of regional security in Europe.

Bangladesh finalizes Turkish deal for T129 helicopters, enhancing defense capabilities.



30-Dec-25

Bangladesh is finalizing a significant defense deal with Turkey, involving the acquisition of six T129 ATAK attack helicopters and the Hisar-O+ medium-range air defense system, as part of its Forces Goal 2030 modernization initiative. This agreement, aiming for completion by the 2025-26 fiscal year, enhances Bangladesh's tactical aviation and air defense capabilities while strategically diversifying its military partnerships. The deal includes comprehensive support such as training and technology transfer, potentially complicating India's air superiority in the region. Moreover, this procurement underscores Turkey's growing influence in South Asia, positioning it as a competitive arms supplier and reshaping local power dynamics amidst increasing military collaboration between Bangladesh and Turkey.

HAL Invests ₹18,000 Crore in R&D for Future Defense Aviation



30-Dec-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has announced an ambitious ₹18,000 crore investment in research and development aimed at enhancing India's self-reliance in

defense aviation over the next decade. This strategic commitment will focus on advancing aircraft programs like the Tejas Mk2 and the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), along with significant funding for indigenous jet engine development and unmanned aerial systems. Key elements include the integration of advanced materials, artificial intelligence, and green aviation technologies, supporting the Indian Air Force's modernization efforts amidst regional security challenges. This investment not only positions HAL as a leader in global aerospace but also promises to stimulate innovation within India's defense industrial base, benefiting MSMEs and start-ups in the sector.

Indian tri-services deploy indigenous ARKA MANPADS, enhancing air defense capabilities significantly.



30-Dec-25

The Indian tri-services have successfully deployed the indigenous ARKA man-portable air defence system (MANPADS), a significant upgrade in Very Short-Range Air Defence capabilities, replacing old Soviet-era units. Produced under a Transfer of Technology agreement with Russia's Rosoboronexport, the ARKA system emphasizes local assembly and aligns with the 'Make in India' initiative. Recent contracts, including a 260 crore deal for launchers and missiles, address urgent air defence needs against low-flying threats. This rapid deployment showcases Adani Defence's pivotal role in enhancing India's military industrial base, reflecting confidence in private-sector contributions to national security and resilience in the face of regional challenges.

India upgrades T-90 tanks and Mi-17 helicopters to boost readiness amid border tensions.



30-Dec-25

The Indian government has greenlit significant upgrades to its military assets, including the overhaul of T-90 Bhishma tanks and mid-life upgrades for Mi-17 helicopters, aimed at enhancing operational readiness amid ongoing border tensions. The T-90 overhaul will extend the life of four regiments by up to 20 years, utilizing domestic expertise, while Mi-17 upgrades will ensure combat readiness across various services. Key procurements include loitering munitions for precision strikes, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles for air defense, and Astra Mark-2 missiles to bolster air superiority. These initiatives reflect India's commitment to indigenisation under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, strengthening defense capabilities and

sustaining military effectiveness without straining budgets during 2025's defense reforms.

Indian Navy Seeks CCS Approval to Accelerate Indigenous TEDBF Development



30-Dec-25

The Indian Navy has reaffirmed its commitment to the indigenous Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF) programme, seeking Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approval to accelerate its development. This initiative, a "5-minus" generation fighter, will leverage advanced technologies from the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project and aims for a collaborative manufacturing approach with major private players and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. With plans for over 80 TEDBF jets, potentially expanding with future aircraft carriers, the Navy's strategic shift emphasizes the urgency of transitioning from planning to execution. Successful implementation of the TEDBF will significantly enhance India's maritime operational capabilities and strengthen its next-generation combat aircraft ecosystem.

Indian Army Plans More Ultra-Light Howitzers After M777 Success



30-Dec-25

Following the success of "Operation Sindoor," the Indian Army is considering acquiring additional Ultra-Light Howitzers (ULH) and modernizing its existing fleet of M777 artillery. The M777 155mm guns demonstrated exceptional mobility and precision in high-altitude combat, reinforcing the strategic need for lightweight artillery in mountainous regions. Plans include upgrading to 52-calibre barrels, enhancing range from 24 to 40 km and potentially exceeding 70 km with advanced projectiles. This initiative aligns with India's Field Artillery Rationalisation Plan, aiming to standardize artillery and ensure that the Army can outgun adversaries along the Line of Actual Control, thereby significantly boosting its operational capabilities in challenging terrains.

India-US talks stall over 50% price hike for P-8I aircraft.



30-Dec-25

Negotiations between India and the United States for acquiring six additional Boeing P-8I maritime surveillance aircraft stalled on December 29, 2025, over a nearly 50% price escalation from the 2021 approval of \$2.42 billion to approximately \$3.6 billion. The US attributes the hike to global supply chain disruptions,

inflation, and trade tensions including new tariffs on Indian exports, but Indian officials have rejected the terms, prioritizing cost-effective deals amid budgetary constraints and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. Vital for countering China's expanding naval footprint in the Indian Ocean Region, where the existing 12 P-8I aircraft have logged over 40,000 flight hours, the impasse underscores India's resolve for fair pricing to sustain strategic Indo-Pacific partnerships without compromising fiscal prudence. Despite US delegations' efforts earlier in 2025, no consensus emerged, prompting reviews of indigenous alternatives like HAL platforms.

ADA Invites Industry Partners for AMCA Rear Fuselage Design Phase



30-Dec-25

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has advanced the development of India's fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) by initiating the critical design phase for its rear fuselage, inviting capable industry partners for collaboration. This move signifies a pivotal transition to detailed engineering, wherein selected partners will undertake comprehensive design responsibilities, including structural layout and stress analyses, while ensuring stealth integration and low observability. The project emphasizes national interest, as all intellectual property generated will remain with the Indian government, reinforcing confidence in domestic capabilities. This collaborative model is expected to expedite the timeline towards prototype manufacturing, marking a significant step in enhancing India's indigenous defense production capabilities.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Iran labels Royal Canadian Navy a terrorist group in retaliation.



30-Dec-25

Iran's foreign ministry has designated the Royal Canadian Navy a terrorist organization in retaliation for Canada's 2024 designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terror group. This decision follows Canada's accusations of the IRGC's human rights violations and its role in destabilizing international order, particularly highlighted by the downing of Flight PS752, which killed 176 people, including 85 Canadians. Iran's response marks a significant escalation in tensions, reflecting broader geopolitical conflicts and the increasing polarization

over military and ideological alignments. This development underscores the complexities of international relations and the potential ramifications for diplomatic engagements involving both nations.

Trump confirms U.S. strike on Venezuelan drug facility amid tensions.



30-Dec-25

In a significant escalation of military operations against drug trafficking, U.S. President Donald Trump confirmed the first land strike on a Venezuelan drug dock, targeting a facility pivotal to narcotics transportation to the United States. This operation, part of the broader "Operation Southern Spear," involved a precision drone strike executed by the CIA with support from U.S. Special Operations Forces, reportedly causing no casualties while significantly disrupting narco-terrorist networks associated with the Maduro regime. Following a series of maritime strikes that neutralized dozens of drug vessels and a naval blockade on Venezuelan oil tankers, this development underscores the ongoing U.S. strategy to combat state-sponsored drug cartels that pose global security threats. From an Indian strategic viewpoint, the U.S. actions highlight the necessity for robust international cooperation against narco-trafficking, which can destabilize global oil markets and maritime routes, thereby affecting India's energy interests linked to Venezuelan heavy crude imports essential for its refineries.

Taiwan condemns China's military drills as a threat to regional peace.



30-Dec-25

China has initiated extensive military drills around Taiwan, labelled "Justice Mission 2025," aimed at demonstrating its blockade capabilities and deterring external support for the island. These exercises, characterized by live-fire demonstrations and the involvement of both naval and air forces, have raised regional tensions, with China's People's Liberation Army asserting that they serve as a stern warning against Taiwan's independence and foreign interference. The Taiwanese Mainland Affairs Council condemned these actions, accusing Beijing of hypocrisy for claiming to advocate global peace while simultaneously threatening regional stability. They highlighted the timing of the military maneuvers, which followed the Taipei-Shanghai Twin-City Forum, as indicative of a two-pronged strategy to promote dialogue while resorting to intimidation. The situation underscores the precarious balance of power in the Taiwan Strait and invites

scrutiny from the international community regarding China's intentions and military assertiveness.

Saudi Arabia criticizes UAE's actions in Yemen as a security threat.



30-Dec-25

Saudi Arabia condemned the United Arab Emirates' recent military actions in Yemen, labeling them a dangerous threat to its national security. This came after Saudi-led coalition airstrikes targeted Emirati-backed separatist forces, which had expanded territorial control in southern Yemen. Riyadh's foreign ministry expressed disappointment over the UAE's support for the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and demanded an immediate withdrawal of Emirati forces. The escalating tensions between these former allies illustrate the complexities of regional power dynamics, as Riyadh seeks to reassert its influence amid a fractious Yemeni political landscape and the ongoing conflict with Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

Russia claims Ukraine launched a drone attack on Putin's residence, which Ukraine strongly denies.



30-Dec-25

Russia has accused Ukraine of launching a drone attack involving 91 long-range drones aimed at President Putin's residence in the Novgorod region, an assertion that Kyiv categorically denies, labeling it a fabricated excuse for further military aggression. Russian officials, including Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, have termed the alleged strike as "state terrorism" and announced a tougher negotiating stance in ongoing peace talks, although they maintain that dialogue will continue. Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha criticized the accusations as without evidence, arguing they are designed to collapse the negotiation process and justify more attacks on Ukraine. The incident highlights the escalating tensions between the two nations, with both sides blaming each other for prolonging the conflict, while broader geopolitical implications are anticipated, especially regarding international mediation roles and the stability of global energy markets. The lack of credible evidence from Russia concerning the alleged drone attack raises questions about the veracity of its claims, as mutual distrust continues to complicate efforts toward a peaceful resolution.

Defence Secretary Discusses Enhanced India-Vietnam Defence Cooperation Initiatives



30-Dec-25

India and Vietnam have significantly advanced their defense cooperation, marked by a meeting between Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Thanh Hai in New Delhi. The discussions focused on initiatives under the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, emphasizing defense as a key element amid shared regional security challenges. Concurrently, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan congratulated Vietnamese trainees during a Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy in Dundigal, highlighting the strengthened trust and friendship between the nations. His remarks underscored the importance of operational readiness in modern warfare, asserting that conflicts allow no margin for error and calling for a culture of victory through actionable efforts. This confluence of high-level talks and military training underscores a multifaceted collaboration that not only enhances military interoperability but also fortifies regional stability against common threats, particularly in the context of maritime security challenges in the South China Sea. As both nations navigate complex geopolitical dynamics, their commitment to mutual capacity enhancement through training, joint exercises, and strategic dialogues bodes well for their long-term defense relationship.

PLA conducts drills near Taiwan, showcasing military assertiveness and regional tensions.



30-Dec-25

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theater Command has conducted significant military exercises in proximity to Taiwan, highlighting China's increasing assertiveness in the region. Dubbed 'Justice Mission 2025', these drills, which occurred around December 29 and 30, involved coordinated operations across air, sea, and missile platforms, simulating a comprehensive blockade of Taiwan and testing the capabilities of various military assets, including destroyers, fighters, and drones. These maneuvers are positioned by Beijing as a stern warning against Taiwan's independence movements and external interference, particularly following U.S. approval of a substantial arms package to Taipei. From an Indian strategic perspective, this aggressive show of force underscores China's expanding naval capabilities, posing potential risks to maritime security routes vital to India's Act East Policy

and QUAD partnerships, while complicating the regional security environment and testing the resolve of nations in the Indo-Pacific.

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia dies at 80, impacting BNP's future leadership and politics.



30-Dec-25

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia passed away at the age of 80, as announced by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on December 30, 2025. She had been in critical condition due to multiple health issues and had recently returned from London for advanced treatment. In response to her death, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus declared a three-day state mourning and a general holiday for her funeral, set for December 31. Zia's demise occurs against the backdrop of Bangladesh's political turbulence following the July Uprising that ousted Sheikh Hasina's government, with the upcoming national elections in February 2026 intensifying the political stakes. Her passing significantly impacts the BNP, thrusting her son Tarique Rahman into a central leadership role, as he returns from exile amidst the mourning of a leader who was a resilient figure in Bangladeshi politics. This moment of loss also poses questions about the future of the BNP and its challenge to the ruling Awami League, while regional dynamics, particularly India's relationship with Bangladesh, may see recalibrations influenced by the changing political landscape.

MEA criticizes Pakistan's hypocritical comments on Indian minorities amidst its own persecution issues.



30-Dec-25

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has condemned Pakistan's recent comments on the treatment of minorities in India, labeling them as hypocritical given Pakistan's own record of systemic persecution against various faith communities. Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized that Pakistan's history of victimization is well-documented and cannot be obscured by its criticisms. The remarks from Pakistan's foreign office, which referenced incidents of vandalism during Christmas celebrations in India, were dismissed by India as an attempt to divert attention from its own abysmal human rights conditions. This exchange underscores the ongoing geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan, particularly regarding human rights narratives, which are pivotal in shaping international perceptions and diplomatic relations.

Kim Jong Un inspects nearly finished nuclear submarine, raising regional security concerns. SHARE

30-Dec-25

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently inspected the near-completion of an 8,700-ton nuclear-powered submarine, showcasing significant advancements in the nation's naval capabilities, as reported by KCNA. This development is seen as a vital enhancement of North Korea's nuclear deterrent amid escalating regional tensions, particularly with South Korea and the United States. India's defense analysts express concern over the implications of Pyongyang's military modernization and its ties with adversarial nations, which could destabilize the security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region. The strategic advancements in submarine-launched ballistic missile technology pose potential risks to India's maritime interests and necessitate vigilant monitoring to maintain regional stability.

Iran's President announces war against US, Israel, and Europe amid regional tensions. SHARE

30-Dec-25

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has declared a full-scale war against the United States, Israel, and Europe, citing a multidimensional siege involving economic sanctions and political isolation. He emphasized the current conflict's complexity surpasses that of the Iran-Iraq War, as Western powers aim to destabilize Iran amid rising domestic challenges. For India, this escalation poses risks to regional stability and could disrupt critical energy supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, impacting oil imports. Additionally, it complicates India's diplomatic balancing act with both Tehran and Washington, necessitating close observation of Iran's military advancements and potential retaliatory threats during upcoming negotiations between American and Israeli leaders.

NATO Allies Concerned Over US-Ukraine Peace Framework's Impact SHARE

30-Dec-25

US officials and NATO planners have expressed alarm over a proposed 20-point peace framework for Ukraine, which seeks to cap its military at 800,000 troops, a significant reduction from its current strength, while imposing no limits on Russian forces amid ongoing hostilities. The plan, criticized for potentially benefiting Russia by constraining Ukraine's defense capabilities,

lacks robust enforcement mechanisms, raising concerns about its efficacy. From an Indian strategic perspective, this arrangement could embolden authoritarian aggression globally, highlighting the necessity for strong deterrence and sustained support from Western allies to prevent territorial freezes reminiscent of past Minsk agreements. This situation underscores the importance of vigilance against expansionist threats in unstable regions, particularly for nations like India, which may face similar challenges.

Modi expresses concern over Ukraine drones targeting Putin's residence, calls for diplomacy. SHARE

30-Dec-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 30, 2025, expressed deep concern over Russian claims that Ukraine launched 91 long-range drones at President Vladimir Putin's state residence in Novgorod region on the night of December 28-29, all intercepted without damage or casualties, as stated by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. In an X post, Modi urged all parties to prioritize ongoing diplomatic efforts for peace, avoiding escalatory actions amid fragile talks influenced by recent US President Donald Trump-Zelenskyy discussions. From India's strategic lens, this underscores New Delhi's balanced ties with Moscow—vital for defense imports like S-400 systems—while advocating restraint to prevent broader instability that could spike energy prices and disrupt Indo-Pacific security amid China-Pakistan pressures. Ukraine dismissed the allegations as baseless propaganda to sabotage negotiations.

Iran's Handala group infiltrates Israel's leadership through cyber tactics and manipulation. SHARE

30-Dec-25

The Iranian hacking group Handala has emerged as a formidable element in cyber warfare, targeting Israeli officials and their aides to extract sensitive information and spread disinformation. Utilizing methods that bypass heavily protected military devices, Handala has successfully breached personal channels, leading to psychological impacts on Israeli leadership amid an election year. Its operations, characterized by the blend of technical capability and psychological manipulation, aim to undermine public trust and security within Israel. The group's use of the cultural symbol Handala highlights a calculated strategy of framing its cyber activities as grassroots resistance, complicating

potential retaliatory responses from Israel and reinforcing the Iranian narrative in the region.

UK praises 2025 as pivotal year in India-UK defence collaboration. SHARE

30-Dec-25

In a landmark year for the UK-India defence partnership, 2025 saw significant advancements in military collaboration, highlighted by historic naval exercises such as Exercise Konkan, where HMS Prince of Wales and INS Vikrant operated together. The establishment of the Defence Partnership - India (DP-I) at Aero India 2025 marked a commitment to enhance bilateral cooperation, with notable contracts signed between Thales and Bharat Dynamics Limited for MANPADs, and development efforts for Integrated Full Electric Propulsion systems for India's new Landing Platform Dock fleet. The eighth edition of the Indo-UK Army exercise 'Ajeya Warrior VIII' focused on complex counter-terrorism operations, reinforcing shared security goals. This collaboration not only strengthens defence capabilities but also contributes to economic growth, aligning with India's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

Russia intensifies attacks on Ukraine's Black Sea ports, damaging civilian vessels. SHARE

30-Dec-25

Russia has intensified its attacks on Ukraine's Black Sea ports, specifically targeting Odesa, Pivdennyi, and Chornomorsk, resulting in significant damage to infrastructure and a civilian ship. Deputy Prime Minister Oleksiy Kuleba reported that a Panama-flagged ship carrying grains was hit, alongside oil storage facilities, though port operations continued despite the assault. This escalation in maritime conflict reflects a broader strategy by Russia to disrupt Ukraine's vital trading capabilities, particularly as Odesa remains essential for the country's agricultural exports amidst ongoing war conditions. The increase in attacks on both naval and commercial vessels signifies a critical juncture in the maritime warfare aspect of the conflict, with implications for global food security and regional stability.

Lavrov asserts Taiwan is part of China, criticizing Western support for independence. SHARE

30-Dec-25

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has reiterated that Taiwan is an integral part of China, asserting that

the issue is an internal matter for Beijing. He criticized international discussions around Taiwan for being detached from reality and highlighted how Western nations, while publicly supporting the One-China policy, engage in practices that undermine it, particularly through military support for Taiwan. Lavrov's remarks reflect Russia's strategic partnership with China, aimed at countering perceived Western hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region. For India, these developments underscore the complexity of maintaining relations with both Russia and key players in the Indo-Pacific, amid rising tensions in cross-strait relations.

Bangladesh recalls envoy amid rising tensions and violence with India. SHARE

30-Dec-25

Bangladesh's envoy, Hamidullah, has been recalled to Dhaka amid escalating tensions with India following a surge in violence against minorities, particularly Hindus, in Bangladesh. Recent incidents, including the lynching of Amrit Mondal and the brutal killing of Dipu Chandra Das, have prompted India to express serious concerns regarding the safety of these communities and to demand justice. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs condemned the sustained hostility and criticized the interim government for failing to provide adequate investigations. As Bangladesh approaches its February elections, the interim government's ability to stabilize domestic security and mend diplomatic relations with India will be crucial for restoring trust between the two nations sharing a 4,096-kilometre border.

India and Russia to establish joint ground stations for NavIC and GLONASS systems. SHARE

30-Dec-25

India and Russia are advancing their strategic partnership by planning mutual ground stations for the NavIC and GLONASS satellite systems, as confirmed by Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov. This joint initiative aims to enhance positional accuracy and reduce reliance on Western GPS systems. Russia will establish a GLONASS station in Bangalore, while India will set up a NavIC station in Novosibirsk, building on previous collaborations since 2016. The partnership extends beyond navigation, encompassing advancements in quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, and biomedicine, underscoring a deepening alignment amid shifting global geopolitics. These developments not only bolster defense capabilities but also promote innovation in emerging technologies, reflecting a robust bilateral relationship.

Chinese Media Criticizes 'Battle of Galwan' for Misrepresenting 2020 Clash SHARE

30-Dec-25

Chinese state media, led by the Global Times, has sharply criticized the teaser of Salman Khan's upcoming film Battle of Galwan, released on December 27, 2025, accusing Bollywood of distorting the facts of the June 15-16, 2020, Galwan Valley clash where Indian troops heroically defended their territory against PLA aggression. The film honors Colonel Bikkumalla Santosh Babu, who led the response to Chinese incursions across the Line of Actual Control, resulting in 20 Indian soldiers martyred versus China's belated admission of four fatalities amid independent estimates of higher PLA losses. This predictable backlash from Beijing, which falsely claims Indian provocation and territorial rights over Galwan, exposes China's discomfort with truthful depictions of its border violations, even as filmmakers exercise artistic freedom amid fragile bilateral ties ahead of the movie's April 2026 release.

Bangladesh's political crisis escalates as students reject Jamaat's Pakistan-like ambitions. SHARE

30-Dec-25

The political crisis in Bangladesh intensifies as the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government prepares for elections on February 12. The National Citizens Party (NCP), initially aligned with Jamaat-e-Islami, is fracturing due to internal discord and dissatisfaction with Jamaat's control. Many NCP members are rejecting ties with Jamaat, fearing it would turn Bangladesh into a puppet state of Pakistan and hinder progress. As the NCP grapples with seat allocations and leadership disputes, some factions are considering alliances with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which distanced itself from Jamaat's violent ideology. The evolving landscape suggests the potential dissolution of the NCP before the elections, significantly impacting the country's political dynamics and electoral outcomes.

Military Operations

Abandoned drone found in J&K's Poonch highlights security concerns. SHARE

30-Dec-25

On December 29, 2025, Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operations Group recovered an unidentified

drone abandoned in a field at Gohled village in Poonch's sensitive Mendhar sector near the LoC, prompting probes into potential espionage links despite claims it might be civilian gear used for events. Concurrently, security forces found an AK assault rifle magazine with seven rounds in an open field at Sudhmahadev, Chenani area of Udhampur district, with no arrests yet, while the Indian Army seized a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA)-marked aircraft-shaped balloon in Gurah Manhasa village, Akhnoor sector's Pragwal area, likely wind-drifted from across the border. These incidents within 24 hours heighten India's border vigilance, signaling Pakistan-backed cross-LoC drone incursions and arms smuggling threats amid ongoing proxy activities, demanding enhanced counter-drone tech and intelligence coordination.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Forces intensify search operations in Kishtwar, Poonch to thwart possible terrorist movements. SHARE

30-Dec-25

Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have intensified anti-terror operations in the Kishtwar and Poonch districts following credible intelligence regarding the presence of two groups of Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists. Utilizing drones and aerial surveillance, troops conducted searches in the Keshwan-Chatroo valley and at Khanetar Top along the Indo-Pak border. In addition to these operations, vehicle checks have been enhanced along the Pathankot-Jammu-Srinagar national highway as part of a broader security alert ahead of the New Year. This proactive approach underscores the commitment of Indian security forces to counter potential infiltration threats and maintain stability in the region, reflecting the ongoing challenges posed by terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Ukrainian firms are installing electronic warfare systems for critical infrastructure protection. SHARE

30-Dec-25

Ukrainian enterprises in the energy and defense-industrial sectors have begun acquiring and installing electronic warfare (EW) systems to bolster the protection of critical infrastructure, as announced by

Defense Minister Denys Shmyhal. This initiative allows businesses to procure EW equipment through their own or attracted funds, while the Ministry of Defense facilitates the process by conducting threat assessments and coordinating with military units to integrate these systems into the national air defense network. This collaboration exemplifies a concerted effort among the state, private sector, and military to enhance Ukraine's defense capabilities amid ongoing conflicts, reflecting a strategic response to emerging security challenges.

Europe enhances satellite security amid rising cyber threats from adversaries. SHARE

30-Dec-25

The European Commission has heightened security measures for satellites in response to increasing cyber threats, particularly from Russian and Chinese entities, following a significant cyberattack on the Viasat satellite network amid the Ukraine conflict. Policymakers are now recognizing satellite infrastructure as a strategic asset rather than merely a technical utility, prompting EU governments to invest in critical infrastructure and reduce reliance on foreign technology. A key issue highlighted is the vulnerability of the main Arctic ground station in Svalbard, which relies on a single undersea cable, making it susceptible to disruption that could compromise access to vital geo-intelligence satellites. This shift underscores the urgent need for resilience in space operations amidst a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

India may appoint its first woman admiral in Navy soon, says Chief of Naval Staff. SHARE

30-Dec-25

In a recent address, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi expressed optimism that India could see its first woman admiral in the Navy within a few years, reflecting the increasing gender inclusion within naval ranks. The Navy has opened all branches to women, who have been serving in various capacities since the 1990s, including as fighter pilots and commanding officers. Furthermore, Admiral Tripathi highlighted India's strides towards self-reliance in shipbuilding, noting that all naval vessels are now constructed domestically, and emphasized India's

growing role in global maritime trade, contributing significantly to the world's maritime workforce. This evolving landscape underscores the transformative changes taking place within the Indian Navy, enhancing both its capabilities and representation.

Miscellaneous

PM Modi praises INSV Kaundinya's maiden voyage, celebrating India's shipbuilding heritage. SHARE

30-Dec-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has commended the INSV Kaundinya as it embarks on its maiden voyage from Porbandar to Muscat, Oman, showcasing India's ancient stitched-shipbuilding technique. This vessel, named after the legendary mariner Kaundinya, symbolizes India's historical maritime connections and craftsmanship, constructed entirely using traditional methods with wooden planks stitched together using coconut coir rope. The project, a collaboration between the Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy, aims to revive indigenous knowledge systems and celebrates India's shipbuilding heritage, reflecting its role as a significant maritime nation. The successful launch of INSV Kaundinya reaffirms India's commitment to preserving its rich cultural traditions while enhancing its naval capabilities.

ISRO to build third launch pad at Shriharikota in four years. SHARE

30-Dec-25

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to commission a third launch pad at its Shriharikota spaceport within four years, aimed at enhancing its capabilities to launch heavier satellites in the 12,000-14,000 kg class and support future human and robotic missions. This new facility will serve both crewed and uncrewed missions, aligning with India's long-term goals such as developing the Bharatiya Antariksh Station. The initiative signifies India's strategic intention to expand its presence in the global launch market, improve scheduling flexibility, and accommodate a growing range of domestic and international missions while leveraging existing infrastructure to manage costs and risks effectively.

Indian Army builds homestay in Arunachal to boost tourism and livelihoods.



SHARE

30-Dec-25

The Indian Army has constructed a double-storey homestay in the remote border village of Taksing, Arunachal Pradesh, as part of the Vibrant Village Program under Operation Sadbhavna. This initiative aims to enhance community welfare by generating sustainable livelihood opportunities and promoting border tourism in a strategically significant area. The project, executed by the Spearhead Division, has received positive feedback from local villagers, who appreciated the Army's commitment to inclusive development and civil-military cooperation. This effort underscores India's dedication to securing its borders while simultaneously fostering socio-economic growth in border communities, aligning with the ethos of "security of borders along with development for all."

President Murmu highlights tribal heritage at Gumla cultural event.



SHARE

30-Dec-25

President Droupadi Murmu attended the Antarrajyiy Jansanskritik Samagam Samaroh Kartik Jatra in Gumla, Jharkhand, on December 30, 2025, emphasizing the significance of tribal identity and heritage. In her address, she highlighted the contributions of tribal leaders like Bhagwan Birsa Munda and Pankhraj Saheb Kartik Oraon, who dedicated their lives to the upliftment of tribal communities and the promotion of social justice and education. The President called for greater awareness of tribal heroes and urged individuals and institutions to play a role in preserving and promoting their legacies for future generations. She underscored the importance of connecting youth with tribal traditions while encouraging them to embrace modern development, thereby ensuring that progress and heritage go hand in hand. This initiative reflects the government's ongoing commitment to advancing social unity and recognition of diverse cultural contributions to India's national identity.

Disclaimer: This newsletter provides an independent analysis of news articles and reports published across various media outlets over the past 24 hours. The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the publishers or any affiliated organizations. The publishers are not responsible for the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of the content analyzed and make no representations regarding the information contained herein. Readers are encouraged to consult original sources for verification and further context; access to the list of original sources analysed can be made available upon request via email.

Subscribe to DefenceProfessionals Whatsapp Channel

