

Int News – OSINT (16-30 Jun 2025)*Compiled, researched & collated by @siflqb@I*

- **Trump's special envoy for the Middle East and Africa visited Paris**

After closing a tour of the Maghreb, reportedly the American president's adviser, businessman Massad Boulos, visited Paris to discuss the region's most pressing issues. Massad Boulos's upcoming visit to Paris marks a significant step in the Trump administration's renewed diplomatic push in North Africa and the broader Middle East. His efforts are aimed at reshaping the regional order, promoting U.S. interests, and addressing longstanding conflicts through a mix of direct engagement, humanitarian focus, and strategic alliance-building



- **Defense Priorities, the other think tank influencing US intelligence**

Several senior officials in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Pentagon hail from the Defense Priorities think tank. **Defense Priorities** is a libertarian-leaning think tank advocating an **anti-interventionist, restraint-based U.S. foreign policy** that emphasizes reducing unnecessary military engagements abroad and cutting wasteful defense spending. This approach is gaining influence within the Trump administration, particularly among senior officials in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and the Pentagon, many of whom have ties to Defense Priorities.

Key aspects of Defense Priorities' influence and policy stance include:

- **Advocacy for "Right-sizing" the Pentagon:** They propose competitive policy teams to cut and reallocate Pentagon budgets by \$50 billion annually over a decade, aligning spending with a more restrained grand strategy that avoids costly regime-change wars and endless overseas conflicts.
 - **Scepticism of U.S. Military Overreach:** The think tank critiques the two-decade-long U.S. interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Libya as strategic failures that drained resources without enhancing U.S. security. This scepticism resonates with Trump's long-standing criticism of "regime change wars" and his "America First" approach.
 - **Influence on Defense and Intelligence Leadership:** Several senior Pentagon and intelligence officials associated with Defense Priorities promote a more cautious use of military power, focusing on great power competition (notably with China) and urging allies to increase their own defence spending rather than relying heavily on U.S. forces.
 - **Budget and Modernization Focus:** While advocating restraint in overseas interventions, the administration under Defense Priorities' influence still supports modernizing the military and nuclear arsenal, emphasizing readiness and advanced capabilities like hypersonic and missile defence to address strategic competitors.
 - **Shaping Trump's Middle East and Global Policy:** Defense Priorities supports transforming U.S. Middle East policy away from interventionist wars toward diplomacy and regional partnerships, including expanding the Abraham Accords and ending ongoing conflicts like the war in Ukraine.
- Defense Priorities is a key intellectual driver behind the Trump administration's evolving defense and intelligence policies, promoting a shift from interventionism to strategic restraint, budget discipline, and prioritization of great power competition. Their growing presence in senior government roles signals a notable shift in U.S. national security thinking under Trump's leadership.

▪ **Unrest at the CIA**

- **Internal Challenges:** Reports indicate growing dissatisfaction within the CIA ranks, stemming from leadership disputes and morale issues. Concerns over operational priorities and resource allocation have sparked debates among senior officials.
- **Impact on Intelligence Operations:** The unrest may affect the agency's agility in handling emerging global threats, including cyber espionage and geopolitical hotspots.

▪ **Trump's Pick for US Domestic Intelligence Faces Congress Amid Iranian Threat Concerns**

Matthew Kozma, nominated by former President Trump to lead US domestic intelligence, is set to face a challenging confirmation hearing before Congress. Important and critical issues expected to dominate the session include:



- **Iranian Threats:** Lawmakers anticipate intense scrutiny over recent Iranian threats of reprisals against the US, with concerns about potential attacks on American soil. Kozma will need to address how the intelligence community plans to detect and prevent such threats.
- **Resource Cuts:** Kozma must also defend the Trump administration's controversial decisions to significantly reduce funding and personnel dedicated to combating domestic terrorism, which critics argue have weakened national security.
- **Policy and Preparedness:** The hearing will examine Kozma's strategies for balancing counterterrorism priorities amid evolving threats from both foreign actors like Iran and domestic extremist groups.

This confirmation hearing is pivotal for shaping the future direction of US domestic intelligence and its readiness to face complex security challenges.

▪ **US Deploys Top-Secret 'Seabed Sentry' Acoustic Network to Track Russian and Chinese Submarines**

The United States is deploying an advanced, highly classified underwater acoustic sensor network called Seabed Sentry, developed by California-based defence technology firm Anduril. This autonomous system is designed to detect and monitor Russian and Chinese nuclear ballistic missile submarines operating in strategic maritime zones and marks a significant advancement in undersea warfare and intelligence gathering, reinforcing US efforts to maintain maritime superiority amid rising great power competition. Its main features include:

- **Autonomous Sensors:** The network consists of seabed-deployed sensors capable of long-duration, covert acoustic surveillance.
- **Strategic Purpose:** Tracking nuclear ballistic missile submarines enhances US early-warning capabilities and strengthens deterrence by improving situational awareness of potential underwater threats.
- **Technological Edge:** Leveraging cutting-edge AI and acoustic processing, Seabed Sentry can distinguish between different submarine classes and track their movements with high precision.
- **Operational Scope:** The system is being installed in key choke points and oceanic regions critical to monitoring Russian and Chinese naval activities.

▪ **Washington's China Hawks Demand Intelligence Agencies Unveil Beijing's Corruption with Hard Evidence**

Florida Republican Senator Rick Scott and other US lawmakers are pressing the intelligence community to intensify efforts in exposing corruption within the Chinese Communist Party's

leadership. After a disappointing initial report that failed to fully document the personal wealth of Chinese officials, there is a growing call for a more comprehensive and impactful follow-up. The demands include:

- Utilizing non-public intelligence sources to gather deeper insights.
- Providing photographic and documentary evidence to substantiate claims.
- Producing a spectacular, detailed report that clearly exposes the extent of corruption at the highest levels in Beijing.

This push reflects heightened bipartisan concern in Washington over Beijing's opaque governance and the strategic imperative to hold Chinese leaders accountable on the global stage.

▪ **ODNI Establishes Cyber Intelligence Centre to Counter Growing Threats**

- The US Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) has inaugurated a dedicated Cyber Intelligence Centre to centralize and accelerate cyber threat analysis.
- The centre aims to enhance coordination across intelligence agencies and improve response times to cyber incidents.

▪ **Ukrainian E-300 Drone's Success Against Russia Attracts US Special Forces Interest**

The E-300 Enterprise drone, developed by Ukrainian company AeroDrone, has demonstrated remarkable autonomous capabilities by conducting successful strikes on Russian industrial sites located over 2,500 km away. This impressive performance has captured the significant attention of US special operations circles.



- **Proven Autonomy:** The E-300 has shown its ability to operate independently over long distances, hitting strategic targets deep within Russian territory.
- **Manufacturer's Expansion:** AeroDrone, the Ukrainian manufacturer, is establishing a subsidiary in the United States, indicating a move to facilitate collaboration and potential supply to the US military.
- **US Interest:** The drone's long-range strike capability and autonomous features are particularly appealing to US special forces, who are always seeking advanced technologies to enhance their operational effectiveness and reduce risk to personnel.
- **Impact on Modern Warfare:** The E-300's success highlights the growing importance of long-range, autonomous drone warfare in modern conflicts.

▪ **US Controls Satellite Imagery Release: Public Access to Iranian Nuclear Sites, Restricted Views of Strait of Hormuz**

The United States strategically manages the release of satellite imagery to shape narratives and control sensitive information. While the Pentagon permits contractor Maxar Technologies to publicly share images of Iranian nuclear sites, it simultaneously enforces a discreet licensing system that restricts the publication of imagery covering the highly strategic Strait of Hormuz. This selective dissemination ensures that critical locations remain shielded from public exposure, balancing transparency with operational security and geopolitical considerations.

▪ **Chinese Intelligence Sees Leadership Overhaul with Focus on Technology**

- Recent high-level promotions within China's intelligence apparatus signal a generational shift and possible strategic realignment.

- New leaders are expected to focus on integrating AI and cyber capabilities into intelligence operations.

▪ **Xi Jinping's health concerns: a political transition may be underway in China**

Recent developments suggest that Chinese President Xi Jinping's political position is weakening amid health concerns and internal party dynamics, fueling speculation about an imminent political transition. The leader may step down from one of his three roles as early as this summer, according to sources close to Beijing. Although Xi appears outwardly strong, several signals point to a potential shift:

- **Health Speculations:** Observers have noted Xi's unusual head tilt, leading to rumors he may have suffered a stroke or other serious neurological issues. While no official confirmation exists, these reports have circulated widely and are taken seriously by analysts.
- **Political Maneuvering:** Xi's public appearances have become less prominent and more subdued, with notable absences such as a two-week disappearance from public view in late May to early June 2025. His personal security detail has reportedly been reduced, and official media have occasionally omitted his titles, indicating possible cracks in his authority.
- **Power Shift Within CCP:** Reports indicate that real power may be shifting to General Zhang Youxia, First Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission, who is backed by senior CCP figures aligned with former leader Hu Jintao. Purges and reshuffles have targeted Xi loyalists, further suggesting a rebalancing of influence within the party.
- **Calls for Resignation:** High-ranking CCP officials have reportedly pressured Xi to step down from his party, government, and military roles, retaining only a ceremonial position temporarily before full retirement. This is supported by open letters criticizing Xi's governance and demanding political change.
- **Historical Context:** China has a precedent of sidelining leaders by keeping them nominally in power while transferring real authority elsewhere. Analysts see current events as following this pattern, with a political transition possibly underway ahead of the 21st National Congress later in 2025.

▪ **Taiwan and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)**

- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Intelligence assessments highlight escalating CCP pressure on Taiwan, with increased military maneuvers and diplomatic coercion.
- **Strategic Implications:** Western intelligence agencies are closely monitoring CCP activities, preparing for potential crises that could destabilize regional security.

▪ **Beijing Seeks Tourist Visas to Increase Chinese Presence in Taiwan**

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is intensifying efforts to expand its influence in Taiwan by encouraging more mainland Chinese tourists to visit Taiwan's provincial cities. This strategy aims to subtly increase Beijing's presence and sway within Taiwan through people-to-people exchanges and economic engagement. Details are elicited below:

- **Tourist Visa Push:** Beijing is actively seeking to facilitate and increase the issuance of tourist visas for Chinese citizens traveling to Taiwan. This move is part of a broader campaign to normalize and deepen cross-strait interactions under the guise of tourism.

- **Political Driver:** Fu Kun-chi, a prominent member of Taiwan's Kuomintang (KMT) party, has emerged as a key figure advocating for this policy. His role signals a shift in Taiwan's internal politics, with some factions favoring closer ties with the mainland.
- **Strategic Goal:** By boosting the number of mainland visitors, the CCP hopes to strengthen economic ties and cultural influence, potentially softening Taiwanese public opinion and increasing pro-Beijing sentiment in provincial cities.
- **Implications:** This approach complements Beijing's broader political and military pressure on Taiwan, representing a multifaceted strategy to assert influence without direct confrontation.

■ **China Launches 'Modernisation' from Fujian Province to Accelerate Taiwan Integration**

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has unveiled a refined strategy centered on modernizing Fujian province as a key step toward integrating Taiwan, which remains under Taipei's control. This initiative is part of a broader political and ideological campaign to reinforce the narrative of "one country, one system" and lay the groundwork for eventual unification. Key elements of the strategy:

- **Fujian Province as a Launchpad:** Given its geographical proximity to Taiwan, Fujian is being developed into a showcase of economic, technological, and infrastructural modernization. This includes upgrading transport links, boosting cross-strait trade, and enhancing military readiness.
- **Economic and Social Integration:** The CCP is promoting policies that encourage closer economic ties, cultural exchanges, and social integration between Fujian and Taiwan's provincial cities, aiming to create interdependence that favors Beijing's unification agenda.
- **Official Narrative:** The campaign emphasizes the "one country, one system" principle, a variant of the Hong Kong "one country, two systems" model, but tailored to assert stronger central control over Taiwan.
- **Propaganda and Messaging:** State media and official channels are intensifying messaging to normalize the idea of Taiwan's eventual return to mainland governance, framing it as a historical inevitability and beneficial for all Chinese people.

Strategic Implications:

- This modernisation drive signals a multifaceted approach combining economic development, political messaging, and military posturing to prepare for Taiwan's integration.
- Reflects Beijing's long-term vision of reunification, leveraging both soft power and hard power tools.
- The emphasis on Fujian highlights the province's critical role as a gateway for influence and potential military operations targeting Taiwan.

■ **China Launches Ambitious Recruitment Drive Offering €255,000 Salaries and Free Education to Top Global Researchers**

China has unveiled a new campaign aimed at attracting the world's leading scientific researchers by offering highly competitive incentives, including annual salaries of up to €255,000 and free schooling for their children. This initiative is part of Beijing's broader strategy to boost innovation and technological self-reliance amid global competition.

- **Generous Compensation:** Researchers recruited under this program can expect salaries significantly above international averages, designed to lure top talent from abroad; fast-track academic appointments, including doctoral supervision rights and graduate enrolment quotas; housing subsidies and access to top-tier medical facilities near universities and research centres.

- **Family Benefits:** Free, high-quality education for researchers' children is included, addressing a critical concern for expatriate scientists relocating with families. Free, high-quality schooling for researchers' children and comprehensive healthcare.
- **Strategic Goals:** The campaign supports China's ambitions in cutting-edge fields such as AI, biotechnology, quantum computing, and advanced manufacturing.
- **Global Impact:** This aggressive talent acquisition effort is likely to intensify competition among countries vying for scientific leadership.

The main sectors include:

Sectors	Description
Semiconductors & Chip Design	Addressing a severe shortage of skilled professionals, China is aggressively recruiting experts in semiconductor manufacturing and chip design to build a high-end technical workforce.
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	AI research and development is a core focus, with efforts to lead globally in machine learning, large language models, and related technologies.
Biotechnology & Life Sciences	Attracting researchers to advance medical sciences, pharmaceuticals, and biotech innovations, supported by generous funding and facilities.
Quantum Computing & Advanced Physics	Recruiting talent to develop quantum technologies and fundamental physics research critical for future tech dominance.
Smart Manufacturing & Digitalization	Emphasis on integrating AI, robotics, and digital technologies into manufacturing processes to boost productivity and innovation.
Natural Sciences & Engineering	Broad support for fundamental research in physics, chemistry, materials science, and engineering disciplines.

■ France Intensifies Middle East SIGINT Operations Amid Israel-Iran Conflict

France is significantly stepping up its signals intelligence (SIGINT) deployment in the Middle East amid escalating Israeli strikes on Iranian military targets. Central to this effort is the 21.054 ground electronic squadron (EES), a discreet unit of the French Air and Space Force specializing in electromagnetic surveillance. Important details are:

- **Enhanced SIGINT Capabilities:** France is bolstering its electromagnetic surveillance assets to monitor and gather intelligence on the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict, focusing on Iranian military and nuclear sites targeted by Israeli strikes.
- **21.054 Ground Electronic Squadron (EES):** This specialized French Air and Space Force unit is at the forefront of the deployment, providing advanced ground-based electronic intelligence collection.
- **Strategic Coordination:** France's increased SIGINT presence complements its broader military engagement in the region, including the deployment of Rafale fighter jets aligned with US and Israeli forces, highlighting deepening cooperation among Western allies.
- **Regional Security Role:** This move underscores France's commitment to maintaining situational awareness and influence in the Middle East amid heightened tensions, contributing to coalition intelligence efforts.

■ DGSI (France's Domestic Intelligence Service)

- **Appointments and Reforms:** The DGSI is undergoing leadership changes aimed at enhancing counterterrorism and cyber intelligence capabilities. New appointments reflect a push for modernization and improved inter-agency coordination.

- **Operational Focus:** Increased emphasis on domestic threats linked to foreign influence and radicalization, amid evolving geopolitical tensions.
- **OSINT at Quai d'Orsay (French Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**
 - **Open-Source Intelligence Expansion:** The Quai d'Orsay is ramping up its OSINT capabilities to better analyze global political developments, social media trends, and emerging threats.
 - **Integration with Diplomatic Strategy:** Enhanced OSINT supports France's foreign policy decision-making, providing timely insights on international affairs.
- **Alta Ares names former DGSE executive to pilot its AI Defense Club**

Alta Ares, a French start-up focused on leveraging artificial intelligence for military applications, has appointed General Corentin Lancrenon to lead its AI Defense Club. General Lancrenon, currently working at Société Générale, previously served as an executive at the DGSE (France's external intelligence agency). Important details are elicited below:

 - **Alta Ares:** A French company specializing in military AI technology.
 - **General Corentin Lancrenon:** Former DGSE executive, now at Société Générale, chosen to pilot the AI Defense Club.
 - **AI Defense Club:** A miniclust initiative designed to facilitate the exchange of insights and lessons learned among combat units, particularly focusing on the conflict in Ukraine.
 - **Purpose:** To enhance military effectiveness by sharing AI-driven intelligence and operational experiences in real-time.

This move highlights the growing intersection of AI technology, military strategy, and intelligence expertise, aiming to support frontline units through advanced data sharing and collaboration.
- **i2k Defense, Kyiv's secret inflatable army to dupe Russian satellites**

Behind Kyiv's innovative "Ghost Army" strategy to mislead Russian satellite surveillance is the US-based company i2k Defense. This firm specializes in creating inflatable military decoys that serve as convincing visual and thermal replicas of real military assets. This approach exemplifies modern warfare's increasing reliance on deception and technological innovation. Inflatable decoys provide a cost-effective, low-risk method to safeguard troops and equipment while undermining enemy situational awareness. Important details are elicited below:

 - **Company:** i2k Defense, a US firm focused on inflatable military decoys.
 - **Purpose:** To produce realistic inflatable replicas of tanks, artillery, and other military equipment.
 - **Tactical Use:** These decoys are deployed by Ukrainian forces to confuse and misdirect Russian satellite reconnaissance and targeting systems.
 - **Technology:** The decoys mimic not only the visual appearance but also thermal signatures, making them effective against infrared and thermal imaging satellites.
 - **Strategic Impact:** By creating false targets, the "Ghost Army" helps protect real military assets, conserve resources, and complicate enemy intelligence efforts.
- **French Military Revamps Spy Training Amid Emerging Threats**
 - The French military is enhancing its espionage training programs to better prepare operatives for modern intelligence challenges, including cyber threats and hybrid warfare.

- New curricula emphasize advanced tradecraft, digital surveillance, and counterintelligence techniques.

▪ **Tracfin Reforms Target Enhanced Financial Intelligence**

- France's financial intelligence unit, Tracfin, is implementing reforms to improve its efficiency in combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
- Changes include expanded data-sharing protocols and increased inter-agency cooperation.

▪ **Blaise Metreweli: Cambridge-Educated Anthropologist and Trailblazing First Female MI6 Chief with Deep Middle East Expertise**

Unlike previous MI6 chiefs who often had backgrounds centered on Russia or China, Metreweli is an accomplished Arabist with extensive frontline experience in the Middle East, particularly in relation to Iran. Her low-down has been compiled and attached as **Annexure A**.



▪ **India: OSINT and National Security**

India continues to leverage OSINT extensively for national security and strategic analysis, especially in monitoring border tensions and influence operations. OSINT played a key role in analyzing events like the 2020 Galwan clash with China through commercial satellite imagery and social media monitoring. OSINT is also critical in tracking online narratives and countering disinformation campaigns, including those targeting India-Pakistan relations.

- OSINT provides over 80% of intelligence for policymaking, according to US CIA Director cited in research.
- Indian strategic discourse benefits from commercial satellite imagery and social media analysis.
- OSINT helps identify radicalization, terrorist propaganda, and influence operations

▪ **India's R&AW Chief Appointment**

The new chief of India's Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) was appointed on 28 June 2025. This leadership change is significant for India's external intelligence operations amid heightened regional security challenges. His lowdown has been compiled and attached as **Annexure B**.



▪ **Ahmed al-Dalati: Syria's Mastermind Negotiator and Rising Political Power**

Ahmed al-Dalati has rapidly risen to prominence in post-revolutionary Syria, now serving as a governor and trusted confidant of the new president, Ahmed al-Sharaa. Once an adversary, al-Dalati has become a key figure due to his reputation as a shrewd strategist and expert secret negotiator. President al-Sharaa has assigned him the most delicate and sensitive secret diplomatic missions, highlighting his crucial role in navigating Syria's complex internal and external political landscape. Al-Dalati's ascent reflects both his tactical acumen and ability to build alliances, marking him as a pivotal player in Syria's ongoing efforts to stabilize and reposition itself regionally after years of upheaval.



Corporate/ Business Intelligence

▪ BGD Expands Operations in Kyrgyzstan

- BGD, a leading intelligence and security solutions provider, has announced the opening of a new regional office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- This move aims to strengthen BGD's footprint in Central Asia, offering enhanced cybersecurity, SIGINT, and risk analysis services amid growing regional security concerns.
- The Kyrgyzstan office will focus on supporting local governments and multinational corporations navigating complex geopolitical risks.

▪ Axis Middle East Secures Major Contract

- Axis Middle East, a defense and intelligence technology firm, has secured a multi-million-dollar contract with a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) country.
- The contract involves deploying advanced electronic warfare and surveillance systems to bolster national security capabilities.
- This deal underscores Axis's growing influence and strategic partnerships in the Middle East intelligence market.

▪ Cicommunication Deepens Ties with Iran

- Cicommunication, a global telecommunications and intelligence solutions company, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iranian state agencies.
- The partnership focuses on developing secure communication infrastructure and intelligence-sharing frameworks.
- This collaboration reflects Iran's ongoing efforts to modernize its intelligence capabilities amid international sanctions.

▪ CDSE Rebrands with New Name

- The Centre for Defence and Security Electronics (CDSE) has officially changed its name to the National Centre for Defence Innovation (NCDI).
- The rebranding aligns with its expanded mission to foster innovation in defense technologies, including AI, cyber defense, and autonomous systems.
- NCDI will enhance collaboration between government, industry, and academia to accelerate cutting-edge defense research and development.

▪ Shadowy French NGO with Russian Links Expands Operations to the US

The Comité International pour la Protection des Droits de l'Homme (International Human Rights Defence Committee), a Paris-based NGO, has recently announced plans to expand its activities into the United States, specifically by organizing charity events in Los Angeles.

- **Controversial Ties:** The NGO has been under scrutiny due to its alleged connections with Russian interests. Intelligence and security analysts suspect that the organization may serve as a front for advancing Russian geopolitical influence under the guise of humanitarian work.
- **Opaque Operations:** The Comité International's activities have often been shrouded in secrecy, with limited transparency regarding funding sources, leadership, and operational goals.
- **Charity Events in LA:** Members claim to be hosting events aimed at promoting human rights causes, but US authorities and watchdogs remain cautious, given the NGO's murky background.

- **Potential Influence Campaign:** Experts warn that such NGOs can be used to subtly sway public opinion, influence diaspora communities, or gather intelligence, especially in politically sensitive environments like the US.

US intelligence and law enforcement agencies are reportedly monitoring the NGO's expansion closely to assess any risks related to foreign influence or covert activities. This development fits into a broader pattern of foreign-linked NGOs attempting to establish footholds in Western countries, often blurring the lines between genuine humanitarian efforts and strategic influence operations, and interestingly it is very much true in the case of Third World countries where imperial powers have adopted similar modus operandi. The use of NGOs by intelligence agencies, while not explicitly detailed for the "Comité International pour la Protection des Droits de l'Homme" case, is a known tactic. Covert actions, which include attempts to influence political, economic, or military conditions abroad, are designed to remain untraceable to the US government and can involve funding or using various organizations. Thus, the concern over foreign NGOs with potential intelligence ties operating within the US could be viewed as a situation where the US is "tasting its own medicine," encountering methods it has historically employed in other nations.

Annexure ALowdown – MI6 Chief “C”○ **Personal Information**

- **Full Name:** Blaise Florence Metreweli, CMG
- **Date of Birth:** 30 July 1977 (Age 47 as of 2025)
- **Place of Birth:** London, United Kingdom
- **Nationality:** British
- **Ethnicity:** Georgian ancestry (surname is a German spelling of the Georgian name Metreveli)
- **Religion:** Christianity
- **Height:** Approximately 5'7" (170 cm)
- **Eye Color:** Lavender Gray
- **Hair Color:** Light Blonde
- **Family:** She is a twin and has three siblings. Her father, Constantine Metreweli, was a physician and radiologist who worked internationally, including as chair of diagnostic radiology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He also trained with the British Army and completed a medical residency in Riyadh. Her paternal grandfather, Constantine Dobrowolski, was born in 1906 in the Chernigov Governorate (Russia) and had a controversial history during WWII.
- **Marital Status:** Married, yet public details about her husband or marriage date are not available.

○ **Education and Early Life**

- Blaise spent part of her childhood in Hong Kong due to her father's medical career.
- She attended **Westminster School** in London, where she was captain of the school.
- She studied **Anthropology** at **Pembroke College, University of Cambridge**, graduating in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.
- At Cambridge, she was a talented rower and a member of the Cambridge University Women's Boat Club 1997 Blue Boat crew that won the Women's Boat Race, alongside future Olympians.

○ **Professional Career**

- Joined **MI6** (Secret Intelligence Service) in 1999 as a junior intelligence officer.
- Early postings included operational roles across Europe and the Middle East, focusing on human intelligence and building partnerships with local agencies.
- Served in senior roles within **MI5** (UK domestic intelligence), including as director of state threats and counterterrorism operations.
- Currently Director General "Q" at MI6, leading the technology and innovation division responsible for advancing espionage technologies, countering biometric surveillance, and addressing cyber threats from adversaries like China and Russia. This role has positioned her as one of MI6's foremost thinkers on technology and innovation, preparing her to lead the agency through a period of escalating cyber and geopolitical threats.
- As head of the technology and innovation division, Metreweli has led efforts to modernize MI6's technical capabilities, focusing on emerging technologies in espionage, including countering adversaries' biometric surveillance and cyber operations.

- Set to become the 18th Chief of MI6 on 1 October 2025, succeeding Sir Richard Moore, and will be the first woman to hold this historic position.
- **Professional Training and Qualifications**
 - Holds a degree in social anthropology, which has enhanced her ability to analyze social networks and ideological motivations.
 - Has undergone extensive intelligence and security training within MI6 and MI5, including operational tradecraft, counterterrorism tactics, and technology-driven espionage methods.
 - Known for blending cultural insight with technical innovation in intelligence work.
- **Interests, Hobbies, and Personal Traits**
 - A passionate rower during her university years, indicating a commitment to physical fitness and teamwork.
 - Enjoys physical exercise and sports, though specific current activities are not publicly detailed.
 - Known for analytical rigor, cultural sensitivity, and operational acumen.
 - Highly regarded for fostering collaboration across allied intelligence agencies.
 - Personal likes and dislikes are not publicly disclosed, reflecting the secrecy typical of intelligence professionals.
- **Social and Professional Network**
 - Maintains strong connections within the British intelligence community and international partners.
 - Praised for her leadership skills and merit-based rise within MI6.
 - Recognized for her ability to modernize intelligence practices in an era of digital warfare and hybrid threats.
- **Personal Attributes:**
 - Known for her analytical rigor, cultural sensitivity, and operational acumen, Metreweli is widely respected within intelligence circles.
 - She is also recognized for her ability to foster collaboration across allied intelligence agencies, which will be vital in coordinating responses to shared threats.
- **Career Highlights – Operational Background and Foreign Assignments:**
 - **Middle East Expertise:** Has held numerous operational roles primarily in the Middle East and Europe, with a focus on counterterrorism and state threats during periods of British military involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq. Served in key postings (including diplomatic and intelligence roles) in countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Iraq. Her deep understanding of Arab culture, politics, and security dynamics positions her uniquely to address the complex challenges in the region. Her fluency in Arabic and deep regional experience reflects her specialization in Middle Eastern affairs, particularly concerning Iran and its regional influence.
 - **Iran Threat Specialist:** Having worked closely on countering Iranian influence and proxy activities, Metreweli has firsthand knowledge of Tehran's regional strategies, including its nuclear ambitions and covert operations. This expertise is critical as the UK seeks to recalibrate its intelligence priorities amid rising tensions in the Middle East.

- **Diplomatic and Intelligence Blend:** Her career combines traditional intelligence work with diplomatic engagement, enabling her to navigate the delicate balance of covert operations and international relations.
 - **Strategic Shift for MI6:** Metreweli's appointment signals a strategic pivot for MI6 under Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government, emphasizing the Middle East and the Iran threat alongside the longstanding focus on Russia and China.
 - She has also held senior roles in MI5, the UK's domestic intelligence service, including as head of hostile states counterintelligence, which involved countering threats from foreign intelligence services.
 - While her expertise is strong in the Middle East, there is no public evidence of specific postings or deep expertise on India and Pakistan, though as a senior MI6 officer she likely has familiarity with South Asia through broader intelligence operations.
- **Links with Other Intelligence Agencies**
- There is *no publicly available evidence* that Metreweli has direct or formal ties with Mossad or other foreign intelligence agencies. However, as a senior MI6 official and soon-to-be chief, she will maintain close working relationships with allied intelligence partners, including the Five Eyes alliance (US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand) and other international agencies such as Israel's Mossad, through intelligence sharing and joint operations.
 - Such collaboration is standard practice in Western intelligence communities to counter shared threats like terrorism, cyberattacks, and hostile state activities.

○ **Notable Aspects**

Aspects	Details
Current MI6 Role	Director General "Q" (Technology and Innovation Division)
Operational Experience	Middle East and Europe, counterterrorism, hostile states counterintelligence
Expertise on India & Pakistan	No specific public expertise or postings documented
Links to Mossad/Other Intel	No direct ties; collaborates with allied agencies including Mossad as part of intelligence sharing
Language Skills	Fluent in Arabic
Notable Skills	Technology innovation, cyber defense, biometric surveillance countermeasures

○ **Significance:**

- **Broadening MI6's Focus:** By appointing an Arabist with frontline Middle East experience, the UK acknowledges the growing importance of the region in global security and intelligence.
- **Enhanced Regional Engagement:** Metreweli's leadership is expected to strengthen MI6's capabilities in intelligence gathering, counterterrorism, and diplomatic liaison in the Middle East.
- **Addressing Emerging Threats:** Her expertise is particularly relevant given the evolving geopolitical landscape, including Iran's nuclear program, proxy conflicts, and the shifting alliances in the Gulf.

Annexure B**Lowdown – R&AW Chief, Secretary (Research)**○ **Personal Information**

- **Full Name:** Parag Jain
- **Age:** 1966 (Age 59 as of 2025); 1989-batch IPS officer
- **Place of Origin:** Born and raised in Amritsar, Punjab and his family roots are from Amritsar.
- **Family:** Married to Seema Jain, a 1991-batch IAS officer from Punjab cadre and a senior bureaucrat empanelled as a central secretary. They have two children.
- **Personal Traits:** Described as approachable, valuing humility, sincerity, and justice in both personal and professional life. The family hosts cultural events celebrating Punjabi folk music and Indian traditions.
- **Residence:** Presumed New Delhi, the headquarters of R&AW, typical for senior intelligence officials.

○ **Education and Training**

- **Academic Background:** Not publicly detailed; standard IPS education and training at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), Hyderabad. Belongs to AGMUT cadre (*AGMUT Cadre stands for Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories cadre*); it is distinct from other state cadres and allows officers to be assigned to multiple Union Territories and regions. *Officers from AGMUT are known for serving across different states/territories during their careers, which can sometimes involve working in remote or challenging environments.*
- **Specialized Training:** Intelligence tradecraft including HUMINT, SIGINT, IMINT, and TECHINT.
- **Foreign Training:** Attended courses on imagery intelligence (IMINT) and technical intelligence (TECHINT) in Israel, facilitated by Mossad. Maintains close professional ties with Mossad's Deputy Chief. Played a critical role in acquisition of Israeli drones for India.

○ **Languages:** Hindi, English, Punjabi; may have working knowledge of other regional languages.○ **Professional Career**

- **Service:** 1989-batch IPS officer of Punjab cadre with over 15 years in R&AW.
- **Early Field Experience:** Extensive counterterrorism work during Punjab militancy; postings in Bhatinda, Mansa, Hoshiarpur, Chandigarh (Senior Superintendent of Police), Ludhiana (Deputy Inspector General), and Jammu & Kashmir during critical periods including the abrogation of Article 370 and Operation Balakot.
- **Foreign Assignments:** Served in diplomatic intelligence roles in Canada and Sri Lanka, actively countering extremist networks such as the Khalistan movement.
- **Technical Leadership:** Former head of the Aviation Research Centre (ARC), R&AW's technical wing specializing in aerial surveillance, SIGINT, photo reconnaissance (PHOTINT), imagery intelligence (IMINT), and border monitoring.
- Prior to becoming chief, served as Special Secretary in R&AW, overseeing critical operational and analytical divisions.

○ Key Achievements

- **Expertise in Foreign Intelligence Operations:** Jain's known foreign assignments include postings in Canada and Sri Lanka, where he tackled Khalistani extremist networks and contributed to India's soft-power security outreach. These overseas assignments reflect his experience in foreign intelligence operations.
- **Operation Sindoor (May 2025):** Mastermind behind this operation targeting nine 'terror camps' across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, including purported Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba headquarters. Integrated HUMINT and TECHINT to provide actionable intelligence for precision strikes.
- **Collaboration with NSA Ajit Doval:** Maintains a close professional relationship with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, the National Security Advisor (NSA) of India, characterized by operational coordination. During the planning and execution of Operation Sindoor in May 2025, which involved precision strikes on 'terror camps' in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Ajit Doval monitored and coordinated the operation closely with Parag Jain, who was then heading the Aviation Research Centre (ARC) under R&AW and provided critical intelligence inputs. This indicates a direct working relationship where Doval, as NSA, oversaw and guided intelligence and security operations, while Jain supplied actionable intelligence.
- **Reputation:** Known as a "super sleuth" for his ability to blend human and technical intelligence to dismantle terror infrastructure and monitor Pakistan's military movements.
- **Strengthening R&AW:** Credited with enhancing India's external intelligence and counterterrorism capabilities.

○ Links with Intelligence Agencies

- **International Collaboration:** Worked extensively with foreign intelligence agencies including Mossad, CIA, and MI6.
- **Mossad Affiliation:** Close ties with Mossad's Deputy Chief, 'A'; instrumental in technology transfer and drone acquisitions from Israel.

○ Interests, Hobbies, and Personal Traits

- **Personal Interests:** Enjoys Punjabi folk music and Indian cultural traditions; family is known for hosting cultural gatherings
- **Sports/Games:** Not publicly disclosed, but likely values physical fitness due to professional demands
- **Traits:** Approachable, humble, values justice and sincerity; respected for operational acumen and discretion

○ Appointment as R&AW Chief

- **Date of Appointment:** 28 June 2025
- **Assumed Office:** 1 July 2025
- **Tenure:** Fixed two-year term
- **Predecessor:** Ravi Sinha
- **Official Title:** Secretary (Research), Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India
- **Reporting:** Directly to the Prime Minister and National Security Advisor

○ Notable Aspects

Aspects	Details
Full Name	Parag Jain
Age	59 years
Family	Married to Seema Jain (1991-batch IAS, Punjab cadre), two children
Residence	Likely New Delhi
Service Cadre	1989-batch IPS, Punjab cadre
Key Expertise	Counterterrorism, HUMINT, TECHINT, SIGINT, IMINT, border security
Foreign Postings	Canada, Sri Lanka
Leadership Roles	Former head of Aviation Research Centre (ARC), R&AW
Major Operations	Mastermind of Operation Sindoor (May 2025)
Collaboration	Close operational coordination with NSA Ajit Doval
Foreign Intelligence Links	Mossad (training and drone acquisition), CIA, MI6
Languages	Hindi, English, regional languages
Appointment Date	28 June 2025 (assumed office 1 July 2025)
Tenure	Two years
Reporting	Prime Minister and National Security Advisor
Personal Traits	Approachable, values humility, sincerity, justice; culturally engaged family