



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

December 15, 2025 | Day 349

### Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
NIBE	1189.1	1102.2	+7.88%
RELINFRA	142.53	135.75	+4.99%
SWANDEF	1259.2	1199.3	+4.99%
BEML	1740.4	1690.4	+2.96%
TECHERA	220.75	216.65	+1.89%

### Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
ROSSELLIND	52.08	55.05	-5.4%
DRONACHRYA	48.56	51.11	-4.99%
SUNITATOOL	752.1	786.5	-4.37%
KRISHNADEF	724.0	745.0	-2.82%
SIKA	906.85	926.6	-2.13%

## Defense Business and Industry

### Indian Navy to commission second MH-60R squadron on December 17.

SHARE

15-Dec-25

The Indian Navy will significantly boost its aviation and underwater operations this week with the commissioning of its second MH-60R Seahawk helicopter squadron, INAS 335 (Ospreys), on 17 December 2025 at INS Hansa in Goa, and the induction of its first indigenous Diving Support Craft, DSC A20, at Kochi on 16 December 2025. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi will officiate the INAS 335 ceremony, which marks a major step in the Navy's aviation modernisation, with the MH-60R's advanced sensors, weapons, and avionics enhancing anti-submarine, anti-surface, surveillance, and search-and-rescue roles across the Indian Ocean Region. The squadron follows the earlier induction of INAS 334 and comes as the MH-60R fleet has already been integrated into frontline operations. A day earlier, Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, will preside over the commissioning of DSC A20 at Kochi, adding a specialised platform for diving support, underwater inspection, salvage assistance, and coastal deployment. Designed and built indigenously with a catamaran hull and modern diving systems, DSC A20 underscores Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India in the maritime domain while strengthening the Navy's underwater support infrastructure.

### Indian Army to receive final three AH-64E Apaches, enhancing combat readiness.

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15-Dec-25

The Indian Army is set to receive the final three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters from the United States, a significant advancement in its rotary-wing combat capabilities that will enhance operational readiness, particularly along the western front with Pakistan. The helicopters, which are currently en route to India, are part of a broader procurement deal valued at approximately ₹5,691 crore, with the delivery having faced delays due to global supply chain issues. Equipped with advanced weaponry, including Hellfire Longbow missiles and Stinger air-to-air missiles, these Apaches will significantly bolster the Army Aviation Corps' offensive capabilities and integrate seamlessly with existing fleets. Additionally, the Indian Navy is also set to commission its second squadron of MH-60R Seahawk helicopters, marking a comprehensive enhancement in India's maritime and aerial combat capabilities. The induction of these state-of-the-art platforms is crucial for addressing operational gaps and positions India to better respond to evolving regional security challenges, thus reinforcing its layered defense posture on both northern and western fronts.

### Sagar Defence to establish world's first autonomous shipyard in Andhra Pradesh.

SHARE

15-Dec-25

The Andhra Pradesh government approved Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd's proposal on December 14, 2025, to establish India's first dedicated autonomous maritime shipyard at Juvvaladinne Fishing

Harbour in SPSR Nellore district, allotting 29.58 acres of land including 7.58 acres waterfront and 22 acres harbour area through the AP Maritime Board. This pioneering facility, touted as the world's first for autonomous maritime systems, will focus on designing, constructing, testing, and supporting unmanned surface and underwater vessels, sensors, and command technologies, bolstering India's self-reliance in defense and maritime domains. Construction begins December 2025, with machinery installation by June 2026, trial production in October 2026, and commercial operations from November 2026, expected to create 750 jobs (300 direct) and position Andhra Pradesh as a hub for next-generation maritime innovation.

## India's defense industry poised for significant multi-year growth and expansion.



15-Dec-25

India's defense industry is poised for significant growth, underpinned by government-approved projects worth Rs. 7 trillion (approximately \$83 billion). This robust order book ensures steady workflow across various sectors, including missiles, aircraft, and naval vessels, while the anticipated increase in defense spending in the upcoming budget further enhances market opportunities. The trend of indigenization is notable, with domestic procurement rising from 54% pre-COVID to 75% in the FY26 budget, bolstering profit margins and reducing reliance on imports. Additionally, heightened export demand for Indian defense systems, such as BrahMos and Akash missiles, positions Indian manufacturers favorably in the international arena, particularly as European countries ramp up their defense budgets. The establishment of a Rs. 40,000 crore fund for expedited emergency procurement facilitates quicker order placements, strengthening near-term production capabilities. As Indian defense entities expand their capacities and align investments with a multi-year order visibility, the sector is transitioning into a production-led growth cycle, with projected earnings growth of approximately 37% for companies like Bharat Dynamics by FY28, marking a transformative phase for India's defense landscape.

## Sanlayan Group transfers high-voltage power supply technology to Indian Armed Forces, enhancing electronic warfare.



15-Dec-25

Versabyte Data Systems, a Sanlayan Group company, has transferred its indigenously developed high-voltage

power supply for active self-protection jammers to the Indian Armed Forces, marking a key advancement in electronic warfare capabilities. The handover occurred last week at DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi, where CEO R. Chandra Kumar presented the technology to Air Marshal Awdhesh Kumar Bharti, with DRDO Chairman Samir V. Kamat and Vice Admiral Vineet McCarthy present; it was showcased among seven technologies under DRDO's Technology Development Fund. Co-developed by DRDO scientists and Versabyte engineers, this airborne subsystem supports pulse and continuous-wave jammers on aircraft, enhancing survivability and mission success through the firm's four decades of power electronics expertise. The milestone aligns with Aatmanirbhar Bharat, bolstering public-private partnerships and self-reliance, following Sanlayan's Most Innovative Project Award two months prior at Samanvay 2025 for an airborne EW payload. Rahul Vamshidhar, Sanlayan's Co-founder and Chief Business Officer, emphasized the collaboration's role in accelerating indigenous defense innovation.

## HAL anticipates over 180 Tejas Mk1A orders amid MiG-21, Jaguar retirements.



15-Dec-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) anticipates that the Indian Air Force (IAF) will order more than the initially planned 180 units of the Tejas Mk1A fighter jet, driven by the urgent need to replace ageing MiG-21s and Jaguars. As the IAF's fleet faces significant retirements, including the iconic MiG-21 by 2025 and the Jaguar by 2035, the Mk1A is positioned as a vital interim solution until the more advanced Tejas Mk2 enters service, projected for 2032. HAL's optimism is supported by a stabilizing production ecosystem and enhanced capabilities of the Mk1A, which align with India's strategic objectives for maintaining combat readiness amid evolving regional threats. This expansion of the Tejas programme highlights India's commitment to indigenous defense manufacturing and self-reliance in military capabilities.

## HAL reduces HTT-40 deliveries to 3 units by FY26 due to engine supply issues.



15-Dec-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has revised its delivery targets for the HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft, forecasting only three units for the Indian Air Force (IAF) by March 2026 due to persistent supply chain issues with Honeywell's TPE331-12B engines. Initially, 12 aircraft were slated for delivery in the first year, but

delays have raised concerns about the IAF's pilot training schedules amid squadron shortages. Meanwhile, the development of the HLFT-42 trainer is progressing, with design finalization expected next year and a prototype rollout by 2031. The HLFT-42 aims to bridge the gap between basic and advanced fighter training, compensating for the absence of twin-seat variants in future combat aircraft like the Tejas Mk2 and AMCA. Both initiatives underscore India's commitment to self-reliance in defense, with HAL optimistic about stabilizing engine supplies and enhancing domestic production capabilities to empower the IAF and address critical training needs.

## **Russia introduces "Force" drone, resilient to electronic warfare threats.**

 **SHARE**

15-Dec-25

Russia has unveiled a new reconnaissance drone named "Force," designed specifically to counteract vulnerabilities to electronic warfare (EW). This advanced drone features enhanced control frequencies and proprietary software, which reportedly render it resilient even against Russian EW systems. Equipped with thermal imaging technology, the "Force" is now in mass production, with an impressive output of approximately 600 units per month. The introduction of this drone underscores the growing emphasis on overcoming EW challenges in modern warfare, highlighting a significant development in Russia's military capabilities that could have implications for regional security dynamics.

## **Pakistan Navy successfully tests FM-90(N) missile, enhancing maritime security readiness.**

 **SHARE**

15-Dec-25

The Pakistan Navy has successfully conducted a Live Weapon Firing operation, demonstrating the FM-90(N) ER Surface-to-Air Missile in the North Arabian Sea, as confirmed by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). This exercise, overseen by the Commander of the Pakistan Fleet, involved the interception of agile aerial targets, highlighting the Navy's operational readiness and commitment to maritime security. This event is part of a broader trend of increased military preparedness in Pakistan, underscored by recent visits from high-ranking officials to frontline units, emphasizing agility, precision, and quick decision-making in modern warfare.

## **Eutelsat and Airtel enhance OneWeb connectivity for Indian Army's Sri Lanka relief efforts.**

 **SHARE**

15-Dec-25

Eutelsat, in collaboration with Bharti Airtel, has expanded OneWeb's low-Earth orbit satellite connectivity to support the Indian Army's relief operations in flood-stricken Sri Lanka following the catastrophic Ditwah cyclone. The initiative aims to restore reliable communications in areas where traditional networks have been compromised, enabling the delivery of essential healthcare and emergency services through telemedicine consultations. This move underscores the critical role of advanced satellite technology in crisis management, reinforcing the Indian Army's capability to provide timely assistance and safeguard lives in humanitarian crises. The partnership highlights India's commitment to regional stability and humanitarian support in South Asia.

## **DRDO Chief urges increased investment in India's defense R&D for future warfare readiness.**

 **SHARE**

15-Dec-25

DRDO Chairman Samir V. Kamat emphasized the urgent need for increased investment in defense Research and Development (R&D) during a recent lecture, highlighting that India allocates only 0.65% of its defense budget to R&D compared to over 2% by competitors. Kamat called for enhanced participation from industries, startups, and academia to foster innovation, citing challenges like supply chain control and talent scarcity. He outlined DRDO's focus on next-generation capabilities, including missile defense and cyber security, with plans to introduce several advanced systems in the next few years. Kamat concluded with optimism about achieving self-reliance and technological leadership in defense by 2047, aligning with the national goals of Aatmnirbhar Bharat and Make in India.

## **Vayuvya Defence launches Garuda Mk1 MALE UAV for enhanced ISR capabilities.**

 **SHARE**

15-Dec-25

Vayuvya Defence, a Bangalore-based firm founded by former DRDO engineers, unveiled the Garuda Mk1 Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAV on December 14, 2025, at the Bengaluru Tech Summit, advancing India's Atmanirbhar Bharat push in defense aviation. This indigenous platform, featuring a lightweight composite airframe of carbon fibre

reinforced polymers, enables over 24-hour endurance flights at 15,000-25,000 feet, ideal for persistent ISR missions along the LAC with China and LoC with Pakistan. Equipped with modular payloads up to 150 kg—including EO/IR gimbals, SAR for all-weather mapping, and AI-driven data fusion via secure SATCOM—its fly-by-wire system with anti-jamming tech ensures reliability in GPS-denied environments, reducing import dependence and supporting border security, counter-insurgency, and maritime surveillance. Initial trials occurred at Chitradurga's Aeronautical Test Range, with serial production eyed for 2027 through HAL partnerships, rivaling global peers at lower costs.

### **AMCA Mk2 induction delayed to 2040 due to engine validation issues.**



15-Dec-25

India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Mk2 program faces delays, with induction now projected for 2040 due to extended timelines for the indigenous 120 kN engine, developed in collaboration with France's Safran. The initial ground run of the engine is now scheduled for 2032, delaying subsequent aerial trials and certification. To mitigate potential gaps in the Indian Air Force's capabilities, options such as increasing AMCA Mk1 procurement and retrofitting Mk2 airframes with the existing GE F414 engine are under consideration. The situation underscores the critical role of propulsion in fifth-generation fighter development, highlighting that successful integration and validation of the new engine are essential for realizing the AMCA Mk2's full capabilities.

### **Super Sukhoi Upgrade May Outperform Global Fighters Like F-15EX**



15-Dec-25

The Indian Air Force's "Super Sukhoi" upgrade program for the Su-30MKI fleet, cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council, targets 84 jets initially with a ₹65,000 crore budget, awaiting final Cabinet Committee on Security approval as of December 2025. Key enhancements feature the indigenous Virupaksha GaN-based AESA radar with nearly 2,400 T/R modules for over 250 km detection range, including stealth targets like China's J-20, alongside next-generation electronic warfare suites, advanced countermeasures, digital cockpits, IR sensors, and AL-41F-1S engines offering 18% more thrust. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, with DRDO support, plans first delivery by 2028, extending service life to 2055 and boosting indigenous content to 78%, integrating weapons like Astra Mk1/Mk2 and BrahMos-A for 4.5+ generation capabilities rivaling the

F-15EX amid regional threats. This modernization reduces Russian dependency, enhancing operational readiness and self-reliance.

## **Defense Policy and Budgeting**

### **General Chauhan stresses jointness, self-reliance, and innovation in transforming Indian armed forces.**



15-Dec-25

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan emphasized the transformation of the Indian armed forces, driven by the principles of jointness, Atmanirbharta (self-reliance), and innovation, collectively termed JAI, during the Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad. He noted that India's future combat capabilities will be shaped by these pillars, promoting integrated operational planning and a national commitment to defense self-reliance. While acknowledging a reduction in the intensity of military operations, he confirmed that Operation Sindoor remains ongoing, underscoring the necessity for constant readiness against evolving security challenges, including threats in cyber, space, and cognitive domains. Furthermore, Gen Chauhan highlighted the complexities of the current security environment, marked by contested borders and asymmetric tactics, requiring the armed forces to be agile and prepared for rapid decision-making. This commitment to innovation and operational readiness is critical for maintaining India's defense posture amidst a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.

## **Geopolitics and Security Alliances**

### **India reaffirms strong ties with Bangladesh amid political tensions.**



15-Dec-25

Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma reaffirmed the enduring nature of India-Bangladesh relations amid rising tensions following the extradition demands for deposed Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who remains in India after fleeing her country. Verma emphasized the historical bonds forged during Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War, highlighting India's commitment to supporting a democratic and stable Bangladesh. In response to concerns raised by the Bangladeshi foreign office regarding incendiary



statements made by Hasina and the alleged activities of other Awami League members in India, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs asserted that India has never permitted its territory to be used for actions against Bangladesh's interests and advocated for peaceful parliamentary elections in Bangladesh set for February 12. The Awami League has criticized the interim government for its perceived bias, jeopardizing the election's integrity. This situation underscores the complexities in India-Bangladesh relations, as India navigates its diplomatic support for Bangladesh while addressing the implications of internal political turmoil on regional stability.

## **PM Modi visits Jordan for talks on bilateral ties and cooperation.**



15-Dec-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has embarked on a significant two-day visit to Jordan, marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations. Welcomed by Jordanian Prime Minister Jafar Hassan, Modi's discussions with King Abdullah II will cover a range of bilateral relations and regional issues, reinforcing the strong leadership understanding between India and Jordan. Highlighting robust economic ties, with bilateral trade valued at approximately \$2.8 billion, the visit aims to explore further collaboration, particularly in investment and counter-terrorism efforts. The Indian community in Jordan, comprising around 18,000 individuals, eagerly anticipates Modi's engagement, reflecting their vital role in enhancing India-Jordan relations. This visit is part of a three-nation tour that will also take Modi to Ethiopia and Oman, underscoring India's proactive diplomatic endeavors across the Middle East and Africa. The establishment of direct flights between Amman and Mumbai, along with visa facilitation for Indian tourists, exemplifies the strengthening connectivity between the two countries, promising to enhance people-to-people exchanges and mutual economic growth.

## **India and Maldives enhance defense ties, focus on drug trafficking.**



15-Dec-25

India and the Maldives are intensifying their defense cooperation, highlighted by a recent meeting between Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, and Major General Ibrahim Hilmy, Chief of Defence Force of the Maldives. Discussions centered on enhancing maritime security, addressing drug trafficking, and improving information sharing between the two navies. Vice Admiral Sobti's visit coincided with

the closing ceremony of Exercise Ekatha, a joint military exercise aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and collaborative efforts in tackling maritime challenges. This engagement reflects India's commitment to regional partnerships and emphasizes defense as a crucial pillar in the India-Maldives strategic alliance, which is vital for stability in the Indian Ocean Region.

## **India and UAE enhance defense ties, emphasizing strategic cooperation.**



15-Dec-25

India and the UAE are actively enhancing their defense cooperation, as highlighted during a meeting between Amitabh Prasad, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) at the Ministry of Defence, and Ali Al Ahmed, UAE's Assistant Under Secretary of Defence Affairs, on the sidelines of the 16th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, co-chairing the commission alongside UAE Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, emphasized the importance of deepening bilateral ties amid discussions on broader regional and global issues. This initiative reflects India's strategic pivot towards strengthening alliances in the Gulf region, fostering collaborative security measures, and advancing mutual interests in defense as both nations navigate a complex geopolitical landscape.

## **Zelenskyy willing to drop NATO bid for security, rejects territory ceding.**



15-Dec-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has expressed willingness to abandon Ukraine's NATO membership bid in exchange for Western security guarantees, while firmly rejecting US proposals to cede territory to Russia. During talks with US envoys, he emphasized the need for legally binding assurances and criticized the notion of creating a demilitarized economic zone in the Donetsk region, calling it impractical. Zelenskyy's stance reflects the complexities of ongoing negotiations amid Russia's continuous military aggression, which has devastated Ukraine's infrastructure. This situation underscores the broader geopolitical tensions as Zelenskyy and European leaders seek a robust framework for Ukraine's security and sovereignty against the backdrop of potential territorial compromises demanded by Russia.

## Kremlin criticizes NATO's Rutte for irresponsible war rhetoric against Russia. SHARE

15-Dec-25

The Kremlin has criticized NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte for his remarks suggesting readiness for war with Russia, labeling them as irresponsible and indicative of a lack of historical understanding regarding World War Two. Rutte asserted that NATO must prepare for a confrontation reminiscent of past global conflicts, claiming that Europe could be Russia's next target. In response, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed such claims as unfounded, emphasizing that Russia does not intend to attack NATO while contending that NATO's eastward expansion poses a threat. This exchange underscores the heightened tensions between Russia and the West, raising concerns over potential conflicts in Europe and the implications for regional security dynamics.

## Indian envoy and US Congressman discuss defense cooperation and AI priorities. SHARE

15-Dec-25

India's Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, held key meetings on December 13-14, 2025, with Congressman Ted Lieu (House Democrats Caucus Vice Chair), Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (House Black Caucus Chair), and others, focusing on defense cooperation, AI advancements, trade, and data security. Discussions on December 12 with Clarke emphasized AI privacy, while earlier talks with Representative Dina Titus covered technology and tourism. These engagements build on the December 9 India-US Foreign Office Consultations, advancing the COMPACT initiative for military-tech partnerships and a free Indo-Pacific. From an Indian strategic lens, they counter China's regional assertiveness, bolstering India's defense capabilities and tech sovereignty amid escalating border tensions.

## Indian Navy chief discusses maritime cooperation with Brazil's naval leadership. SHARE

15-Dec-25

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi recently concluded an official visit to Brazil, where he held strategic discussions with Brazil's Naval Commander Adm Claudio Henrique Mello de Almeida. The talks focused on the strategic security environment in the Atlantic Ocean, the future of maritime warfare, and

enhancing interoperability between the Indian Navy and Brazil's Marinha Do Brasil. Admiral Tripathi's engagements included a visit to the Itaguai Naval Complex, emphasizing India's commitment to strengthening maritime industrial ties and cooperation in shipbuilding, self-reliance, and secure supply chains. This collaboration underscores the growing strategic partnership between India and Brazil, particularly in addressing non-traditional maritime threats and advancing shared security goals.

## India considers retaliation after Mexico's 50% tariff on imports. SHARE

15-Dec-25

India is contemplating retaliatory measures in response to Mexico's recent decision to impose a 50% tariff on imports, effective January 1, 2026. The tariffs target non-FTA partners and are seen as a move to protect local industries, drawing parallels to U.S. trade actions, particularly against Chinese goods. With Indian exports to Mexico significantly outpacing imports, concerns have been raised about potential disruptions to established supply chains in sectors like pharmaceuticals and textiles. As negotiations for a bilateral free trade agreement progress, India aims to mitigate tariff impacts while maintaining a diplomatic approach to foster stable trade relations and promote its "Make in India" initiative amidst increasing global protectionism.

## Military Operations

## Indian Army showcases downed Turkish Yiha drone, highlighting air defense strength. SHARE

15-Dec-25

In a significant demonstration of India's air defense capabilities, the Indian Army displayed the wreckage of the Turkish-origin Yiha drone, which was shot down during Operation Sindoor on May 10, 2025, near Amritsar. This drone, part of a large-scale deployment by Pakistan, posed a threat to military and civilian targets but was effectively neutralized by India's advanced counter-drone systems. The display at the Chief of Army Staff's residence coincides with Vijay Diwas, commemorating India's victory in the 1971 war, serving as both a morale booster for the forces and a clear message of India's technological superiority and vigilance in protecting its borders. This incident underscores the effectiveness of India's layered air defense strategy and highlights the broader

implications for Turkey's defense exports amid rising competition and India's commitment to enhancing indigenous defense capabilities under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The symbolic showcase of the downed drone reinforces national pride and the strategic narrative of India's preparedness in the face of aerial threats.

## **Over 1,000 new members join Village Defence Guards to strengthen Reasi's security.**

 SHARE

15-Dec-25

In a significant move to enhance security in hilly and remote areas, Reasi district officials have established 97 new Village Defence Guard (VDG) groups, incorporating 1,164 new members into the security framework. The initiative aims to bolster local security measures and address any suspicious activities, with a total of 1,902 additional members added to existing groups. Authorities have also replaced 726 over-aged VDG personnel with younger, fit members to maintain operational effectiveness. This development underscores the proactive approach by local law enforcement to empower communities in safeguarding their regions, reflecting a broader strategy to enhance grassroots security in India.

## **IDF eliminates senior Hezbollah terrorist and two operatives in Lebanon strikes.**

 SHARE

15-Dec-25

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) recently confirmed the elimination of a senior Hezbollah terrorist, Zakaria Yahya al-Hajj, in an airstrike in southern Lebanon, along with two other operatives involved in re-establishing the group's infrastructure. The IDF stated that al-Hajj played a significant role in suppressing dissent against Hezbollah and activating agents within Lebanon's security apparatus. Since the beginning of October, the IDF has reportedly targeted around 40 Hezbollah terrorists across 30 locations, amid claims that Hezbollah has breached a ceasefire agreement over 1,900 times. These developments underscore the ongoing tensions in the region and highlight Israel's proactive military strategy to counter perceived threats from Hezbollah.

## **India starts second Nicobar airfield to enhance military readiness and monitor critical shipping routes.**

 SHARE

15-Dec-25

India has commenced groundwork for a second airfield at Chingen, near Galathea Bay in the Nicobar Islands, strategically located to monitor the critical shipping routes between the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia. This dual-use facility, estimated at ₹8,573 crore, will bolster military readiness alongside civilian connectivity, enhancing India's geopolitical presence amid China's expanding influence. The project will integrate with the existing INS Baaz naval base, allowing for improved surveillance and rapid response capabilities. Environmental safeguards have been implemented to address potential ecological concerns, ensuring that national security imperatives are balanced with sustainability efforts. This initiative not only reflects India's commitment to military modernization but also strengthens its position in the Indo-Pacific, promoting regional stability and deterrence.

## **Pinaka's 120 km rockets will significantly enhance India's firepower against Pakistan.**

 SHARE

15-Dec-25

The Indian Army has initiated a procurement proposal worth approximately ₹2,500 crore (\$300 million) to induct 120-km strike-range guided Pinaka rockets, marking a major upgrade from existing 40-km unguided and 75-80 km guided variants compatible with current multi-barrel rocket launchers. This Pinaka Mk-3 development, led by DRDO's Armament Research and Development Establishment with production by Munitions India Limited under a technology transfer agreement, follows successful trials of prior systems and builds on post-Operation Sindoor enhancements. Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi confirmed DRDO's mandate to extend ranges to 120 km initially and 300 km later, potentially replacing alternative long-range weapons. The Defence Acquisition Council is slated to review the proposal soon, with initial trials expected in the next financial year amid efforts to bolster indigenous artillery against regional threats.

## **US \$686M F-16 Aid to Pakistan Reflects Heavy PAF Losses**

 SHARE

15-Dec-25

The United States Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) has approved a \$686 million

sustainment and modernisation package for Pakistan's F-16 fighter jet fleet. The package, announced in early December 2025, includes advanced sensors, avionics upgrades, cryptographic modules, software updates, Link-16 tactical data link systems for 92 aircraft, spare parts, and comprehensive logistical support from Lockheed Martin. The deal aims to extend the operational life of Pakistan's F-16 fleet through 2040, covering both Block 15 and Block 52 variants. Indian military analysts attribute the package to Pakistan's significant losses during Operation Sindoor in May 2025, when Indian forces conducted precision strikes against militant infrastructure. India's Air Chief Marshal stated that Pakistani forces lost at least four to five F-16 fighter jets, one C-130 transport aircraft, and one AEW&C aircraft, along with damaged radars, command centres, and hangars across multiple air bases. The DSCA maintains the package supports counterterrorism operations and does not alter the regional military balance.

## **Jaishankar condemns terrorist attack on Hanukkah celebration in Australia.**



15-Dec-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar condemned the recent terrorist attack during Hanukkah celebrations at Bondi Beach, Australia, where gunfire targeted the Jewish community, resulting in at least 11 fatalities. New South Wales authorities classified the incident as a deliberate assault on the Jewish community, with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese emphasizing national unity against fear and hate. A bystander heroically disarmed one of the attackers, potentially saving lives, while police investigations revealed an improvised explosive device linked to the assault. The attack has drawn international attention, highlighting rising antisemitism and underscoring the need for vigilance during communal gatherings in an increasingly polarized global landscape.

## **NIA to file charges in Pahalgam attack; highlights regional security efforts.**



15-Dec-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is set to file a charge sheet regarding the Pahalgam terror attack that occurred on April 22, which involved three Pakistani terrorists affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The investigation has revealed local complicity, with two individuals arrested for aiding the attackers. In a decisive counteraction, the Indian armed forces launched 'Operation Sindoor', targeting terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, reinforcing India's zero-tolerance policy on cross-border terrorism. This incident has elevated security measures and geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan, particularly as it echoes historical terrorist patterns, underscoring the NIA's commitment to dismantling terrorist networks and enhancing regional security.

## **PM Modi denounces Bondi Beach terrorist attack, reaffirms India's anti-terror commitment.**



15-Dec-25

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi condemned the recent terrorist attack at Bondi Beach, Australia, which targeted individuals celebrating the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. Expressing profound grief, he extended condolences to the victims' families and reaffirmed India's solidarity with Australia during this tragic time. Emphasizing India's steadfast commitment to

### **Terrorism and Counterterrorism**

## **IDF kills key Hamas planner Raed Saad in Gaza airstrike.**



15-Dec-25

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) announced the killing of Raed Saad, a senior Hamas commander and key planner behind the October 7 attack, during an airstrike near Gaza City. The IDF characterized Saad as responsible for Hamas' weapons production and a significant figure in the organization's military strategy, asserting that his elimination would hinder Hamas' capabilities to regroup and rebuild its military strength. Following the strike, Hamas confirmed Saad's death and accused Israel of violating the ceasefire, which had been in effect since October 10, 2023. Reports indicate that the airstrike resulted in additional casualties, with Hamas claiming a civilian vehicle was targeted. The ongoing hostilities highlight the fragile nature of ceasefire agreements and raise concerns over the humanitarian situation in Gaza, as both parties continue to accuse each other of violations, thereby complicating efforts for a lasting resolution to the conflict.



combating terrorism, the Prime Minister reiterated the nation's zero-tolerance stance toward all forms of terrorism. This incident underscores the global challenge of terrorism, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in ensuring the safety and security of communities worldwide.

## Two arrested after gunshots cause panic at Bondi Beach, Sydney. SHARE

15-Dec-25

Australian police arrested 24-year-old Naveed Akram following a mass shooting at Sydney's Bondi Beach on December 14, 2025, during a Hanukkah celebration attended by hundreds, including families and children. The attack killed at least 15 people, including two officers and a minor, and injured around 40 others, with gunmen firing from a footbridge using licensed firearms owned by Naveed's father, 50-year-old Sajid Akram, who was shot dead by police at the scene. Eyewitness videos captured panic as crowds fled amid gunfire and sirens, while a bystander heroically disarmed one assailant, potentially saving lives. Authorities recovered ISIS flags from a suspects' vehicle and two active improvised explosive devices, labeling it a terrorist incident targeting the Jewish event. Naveed, a Pakistani-origin resident of Bonnyrigg previously known to law enforcement, studied at Central Queensland University in Sydney, Hamdard University in Islamabad, and Al Murad Institute in Pakistan, where he was noted as an exemplary student, prompting investigations into potential radicalization links there. Police raided family properties in Campsie and Bonnyrigg, seizing additional weapons, but found no prior plot evidence. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese urged public compliance with safety directives amid national shock

## Australian PM Albanese calls for unity against hate, violence, and terrorism after Bondi Beach shooting. SHARE

15-Dec-25

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese condemned the recent shooting incident at Bondi Beach, which resulted in 11 fatalities and 29 injuries, as an act of "evil, antisemitism, [and] terrorism." He affirmed the government's commitment to eradicating such hatred and violence, calling for national unity in support of the Jewish community. The targeted assault occurred during a Hanukkah celebration, prompting swift declarations of terrorism by authorities. As investigations continue, concerns about public security at events and rising antisemitism in Australia have emerged, with domestic and international reactions

highlighting the urgency of addressing hate-driven extremism. Albanese's address aimed to rally Australians against division and violence in this moment of collective grief.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### CERT-In Elevates India's Cybersecurity with Research, Partnerships, and AI SHARE

15-Dec-25

CERT-In is significantly enhancing India's cybersecurity framework through strategic research collaborations, public-private partnerships, and international engagement, as articulated by Dr. Sanjay Bahl, the agency's Director General. With a burgeoning cybersecurity industry worth \$20 billion and over 400 startups, India is positioning itself as a global cybersecurity hub, leveraging AI for real-time threat detection and incident response. The agency reported 147 ransomware incidents in 2024, with coordinated actions mitigating their effects through intelligence sharing. Additionally, initiatives like the upcoming India AI Impact Summit in 2026 reflect the government's commitment to fostering indigenous cybersecurity solutions and advancing national defense against digital threats.

### Ukrainian forces effectively counter Russian Shahed drone attacks, enhancing air defense. SHARE

15-Dec-25

In a recent escalation, Russian forces launched a substantial attack on Ukraine using 270 Shahed drones, alongside numerous decoys, cruise, and ballistic missiles, primarily targeting the strategic port of Odesa. Despite the scale of the assault, Ukrainian defenses, notably their electronic warfare systems, successfully intercepted a significant number of these drones and missiles, reporting 417 Shaheds downed. This indicates a growing proficiency in Ukraine's air defense capabilities, particularly in electronic warfare, which has been instrumental in mitigating damage and preserving civilian safety. The effectiveness of Ukraine's countermeasures not only safeguards critical infrastructure but also highlights the evolving dynamics of aerial warfare in the region.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Air Chief Amar Preet Singh leads Kiran formation at historic graduation parade.



15-Dec-25

In a historic first, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh piloted a Kiran formation during the Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy in Dundigal, marking the first time an Indian Air Force Chief has flown at this event. The parade celebrated the commissioning of 244 Flight Cadets, including 29 female cadets, who pledged to protect the nation's sovereignty. General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff, presided over the ceremony, where several awards were given, including the President's Plaque to top-performing officers. This event underscores the IAF's commitment to advancing gender inclusion and enhancing pilot training, reinforcing its readiness and capabilities in the face of regional challenges.

## Miscellaneous

### IATA warns of increasing GPS interference impacting global flights, including India.



15-Dec-25

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) on December 14, 2025, warned of a sharp global rise in GPS spoofing and jamming incidents affecting flights, including at key Indian airports like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Amritsar, Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Chennai. IATA Director General Willie Walsh urged pilots to exercise greater vigilance, noting the GPS loss rate per 1,000 flights has climbed to an estimated 59 in 2025 from 31 in 2022, with India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation reporting 1,951 such disruptions nationwide since November 2023. As India's aviation sector expands rapidly, authorities are enhancing monitoring through the Wireless Monitoring Organisation and contingency procedures to safeguard operations, underscoring the nation's proactive stance on aviation security amid these evolving challenges.

### Raj Kumar Goyal appointed Chief Information Commissioner to enhance transparency.



15-Dec-25

On December 15, 2025, the President of India administered the Oath of Office to Shri Raj Kumar Goyal, who has been appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. This ceremony took place at Rashtrapati Bhavan at 1100 hours, marking a significant appointment aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability within the Indian administrative framework. The role of the Chief Information Commissioner is crucial in ensuring the effective implementation of the Right to Information Act, thereby enhancing public access to information and promoting good governance. Goyal's leadership is expected to address the challenges within the commission, particularly regarding delays in information dissemination and the backlog of cases, which are vital for fostering trust between the government and its citizens.

### Three new envoys present credentials to India's President Droupadi Murmu.



15-Dec-25

On December 15, 2025, President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, received credentials from the newly appointed envoys of Iran, Brunei Darussalam, and the Federated States of Micronesia during a formal ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The ambassadors presenting their credentials included H.E. Dr Mohammad Fathali from Iran, H.E. Mrs Siti Arnyfariza Haji Mohd. Jaini from Brunei, and H.E. Mr John Fritz from Micronesia. This event marks a significant step in strengthening diplomatic ties between India and these nations, reflecting India's commitment to enhancing its international relationships and engagement in diverse geopolitical landscapes. The presentation of credentials symbolizes mutual respect and a readiness to collaborate on various fronts, underscoring the importance of robust diplomatic channels in advancing India's strategic interests in the region and beyond.

### Rajnath Singh to celebrate 100 years of Defence Estates Day on December 16, 2025.



15-Dec-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will lead the centennial celebrations of the Defence Estates Day on December 16, 2025, at Raksha Sampada Bhawan in Delhi, marking

a significant milestone for the Department that dates back to 1765 with the establishment of the first Cantonment in Barrackpore. With a focus on excellence in public service and land management, Singh will present the Raksha Mantri Awards to recognize outstanding contributions across 61 Cantonment Boards. The department has undergone a remarkable transformation, embracing digitalization through initiatives like the E-Chhawani project, ensuring efficient service delivery to residents. Furthermore, advancements in land survey technologies, such as the use of satellite imagery and AI, underscore its commitment to modernizing defence land management in India.

## **President Murmu to visit Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana from December 16 to 22.**

15-Dec-25

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, is set to embark on a visit to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana from December 16 to 22, 2025. During her visit, she will inaugurate the 1066th Jayanthi celebrations of Adi Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeshwara Shivayogi Mahaswamiji in Malavalli, Karnataka, and will perform darshan at the Golden Temple in Vellore, Tamil Nadu. Additionally, the President will inaugurate the National Conference for the Chairpersons of Public Service Commissions in Hyderabad on December 19 and address a conference titled "Timeless Wisdom of Bharat: Pathways of Peace and Progress" to commemorate the 21st Anniversary of Brahma Kumaris Shanti Sarovar on December 20. This visit underscores the Indian government's commitment to cultural heritage and public service, further enhancing the role of the President in promoting national unity and civic engagement across diverse states.

## **Indian Coast Guard rescues Ukrainian heart attack victim off Goa, showcasing maritime safety commitment.**

15-Dec-25

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) successfully conducted a medical evacuation of a 62-year-old Ukrainian national suffering a heart attack aboard the Malta-flagged merchant vessel MV Interasia Amplify off the coast of Goa, underscoring its commitment to maritime safety. In addition, the ICG intercepted 11 Pakistani fishermen in Indian waters near Gujarat, emphasizing India's vigilance in securing its maritime frontiers. Concurrently, India and Bangladesh engaged in a humanitarian exchange, repatriating 47 Indian and 38

Bangladeshi fishermen who inadvertently crossed the International Maritime Boundary Line. These operations reflect India's robust maritime security strategy and its dedication to maintaining international maritime laws while addressing the humanitarian needs of fishing communities.

## **Suspicious balloon with Pakistani markings discovered in Himachal village, investigation ongoing.**

15-Dec-25

In Himachal Pradesh's Una district, a suspicious balloon bearing Pakistani flag markings and "PIA" (Pakistan International Airlines) insignia was discovered on December 14, 2025, on the roof of Pappu Nambardar's house in Chalet village, alarming locals near the Indo-Pak border region. Family members promptly alerted Daulatpur police post, where In-charge Ravipal's team secured the airplane-shaped balloon, confirmed no attached devices, and scanned surroundings for threats amid a gathering crowd. This follows three similar balloons with Pakistani flags and "I Love Pakistan" found on December 8 in nearby Tatehra village of Gagret sub-division. Una SP Amit Yadav stated both incidents' items are in custody, with investigations probing origins to bolster India's border vigilance and national security.

## **105-ft Tricolour to be installed in Poonch, symbolizing unity and pride.**

15-Dec-25

On December 13, 2025, the Indian Army laid the foundation stone for a towering 105-ft Tricolour at Banwat View Point in Bandichechyan village, Poonch district, Jammu and Kashmir, near the Line of Control, reinforcing national unity and pride in this strategic border region. Maj Gen Kaushik Mukherjee, General Officer Commanding of the Ace of Spades Division (25 Infantry Division), presided over the ceremony attended by local villagers, community leaders, civil officials like Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar and MLA Ajaz Jan, Poonch Brigade Commander Brig Sachindra Joshi, and Army personnel, highlighting strong civil-military synergy. The initiative launches a month-long outreach with medical camps, cultural events, and welfare programs to deepen community ties, with inauguration planned for Republic Day 2026, aiming to boost patriotism, local culture, and tourism amid Poonch's scenic hills.

## ISRO plans seven launches by March, including Gaganyaan mission. SHARE

15-Dec-25

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has lined up seven critical launch missions by March 2026, kicking off with the LVM3-M6 deployment of AST SpaceMobile's BlueBird-6 satellite—its heaviest commercial payload at 6.5 tonnes—now rescheduled to December 21, 2025, from Sriharikota. Key missions include the inaugural uncrewed Gaganyaan flight early next year aboard a human-rated LVM3, carrying the humanoid robot Vyommitra to validate orbital operations, re-entry, and recovery systems ahead of crewed flights in 2027. PSLV launches will orbit Oceansat-3A, EOS-N1 for strategic users with 18 co-passengers, and TDS-01 demonstrating indigenous electric propulsion and quantum key distribution tech; GSLV will deploy EOS-5. From an Indian security lens, these bolster self-reliance in reconnaissance, secure comms, and human spaceflight, countering regional threats while unlocking NSIL-led commercial revenues amid intensifying Indo-Pacific space rivalry.

## Skyroot Aerospace prepares for Vikram-1 rocket's historic orbital launch. SHARE

15-Dec-25

Skyroot Aerospace advances preparations for its Vikram-1 rocket's maiden orbital launch from ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, as reported on December 13, 2025. The Hyderabad-based firm, India's pioneering private space company, has delivered

the first stage to the site for integration, with all subsystems slated for readiness within a month, targeting liftoff within two months. Building on the successful suborbital Vikram-S mission, this four-stage vehicle will deploy about 25 percent of its 480 kg low-Earth orbit payload capacity to gather critical data while minimizing risks. The development, recently highlighted by Prime Minister Modi's unveiling of the rocket and Skyroot's Infinity Campus on November 27, 2025, underscores India's burgeoning private space sector and its global competitiveness in small satellite launches.

## Man arrested in Rajouri for using banned VPN application on phone. SHARE

15-Dec-25

A man was arrested in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir for using a banned Virtual Private Network (VPN) application on his mobile phone, following a two-month suspension of VPN services ordered by authorities due to concerns over potential misuse for unlawful activities. The arrested individual, identified as Mohd Qasim from Khablan Thanamandi, had the banned application installed on his device, prompting the local police to seize his phone and register a case against him. This incident underscores ongoing security measures in the region aimed at curtailing the use of technology that may facilitate illegal actions, reflecting the government's commitment to maintaining law and order in sensitive border areas.

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# Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
NIBE	1111.05	1207.0	1091.9	1189.1	13257	7.88	61.86	1062.7	1341.72
RELINFRA	135.75	142.53	134.32	142.53	913517	4.99	35.19	156.41	268.78
SWANDEF	1259.2	1259.2	1259.2	1259.2	3129	4.99	100.0	824.03	130.03
BEML	1690.0	1764.4	1674.0	1740.4	450402	2.96	37.3	1798.41	1908.44
TECHERA	216.05	227.45	216.05	220.75	48000	1.89	42.24	230.33	197.69
DCXINDIA	162.15	166.7	159.5	164.4	579549	1.4	27.16	177.72	255.19
MTARTECH	2345.5	2415.9	2345.5	2378.1	203638	1.39	47.14	2477.53	1728.56
PTC	156.6	158.1	155.22	157.87	391942	1.26	45.19	158.35	172.05
GOODLUCK	1112.6	1125.4	1085.0	1109.5	104636	1.21	41.52	1138.42	1011.87
RTNINDIA	40.56	41.07	40.1	40.92	911809	1.11	29.48	42.53	50.38
MIDHANI	298.25	305.1	297.05	303.25	321630	0.9	31.4	321.48	363.41
MARINE	200.0	205.49	200.0	204.21	138660	0.65	36.48	221.93	200.3
HBLPOWER	810.5	818.0	803.3	816.35	614196	0.57	37.0	861.5	685.8
URAVIDEF	157.0	169.0	157.0	165.47	3862	0.5	27.68	180.66	387.19
DATAPATNS	2590.0	2618.6	2575.0	2606.4	148462	0.47	36.52	2850.14	2535.0
LT	4072.8	4096.0	4063.8	4092.3	1064975	0.45	63.36	4028.68	3611.48
HAL	4252.0	4342.0	4252.0	4321.6	827861	0.44	35.48	4476.91	4535.2
AVANTEL	153.0	153.7	150.25	153.03	946384	0.39	46.18	152.37	147.66
IDEAFORGE	425.4	429.0	421.1	427.05	95400	0.39	35.39	454.95	472.71
BEL	389.05	392.4	388.0	390.75	9087687	0.33	38.26	405.84	371.26
LMW	15423.0	15601.0	15273.0	15413.0	1767	0.21	53.94	15181.9	15629.51
TEMBO	743.0	764.15	731.5	747.8	57514	0.15	56.95	742.12	559.27
GRSE	2350.0	2389.6	2330.5	2349.9	872274	-0.0	32.26	2620.36	2419.39
APOLLO	236.25	239.85	230.0	236.0	3576278	0.0	35.84	260.34	207.48
LOKESHMACH	169.67	175.8	166.88	173.56	135601	-0.03	56.99	159.02	181.58
CFE	572.9	572.9	556.6	564.95	24400	-0.08	30.3	606.09	585.3
ASTRAMICRO	914.9	916.0	902.4	906.1	201706	-0.1	39.06	929.73	955.09
ADANIENT	2282.4	2300.0	2273.0	2278.9	573027	-0.15	44.74	2300.36	2417.24
MACPOWER	1018.7	1024.8	995.1	1011.65	9015	-0.19	60.53	972.58	879.18
AXISCADES	1282.1	1325.0	1280.1	1293.3	29744	-0.35	35.72	1390.55	1235.07
MAZDOCK	2458.0	2463.9	2434.8	2447.8	387667	-0.44	28.85	2626.2	2842.94
AZAD	1598.7	1608.9	1592.9	1600.9	37845	-0.44	45.63	1641.06	1580.4
BDL	1409.0	1409.4	1390.0	1402.6	698043	-0.52	37.55	1483.28	1557.86
PREMEXPLN	506.0	507.3	485.5	499.4	151007	-0.58	32.56	531.07	510.26
CENTUM	2296.0	2317.0	2250.9	2287.8	14713	-0.65	43.79	2354.76	2212.78
COCHINSHIP	1595.0	1599.1	1582.4	1587.6	287603	-0.72	29.48	1652.52	1728.39
SOLARINDS	12294.0	12315.0	12177.0	12196.0	42663	-0.88	27.89	13079.75	13789.85
BHARATFORG	1426.0	1426.6	1397.5	1414.1	546507	-0.88	57.17	1412.95	1222.1
DYNAMATECH	9267.0	9547.0	9107.0	9163.5	25251	-1.01	53.33	9183.87	7166.68
JYOTICNC	953.0	959.0	940.0	947.2	248238	-1.1	46.95	981.01	1015.47
TANEJAERO	302.0	308.8	290.3	300.05	7785	-1.12	35.4	317.17	363.47
PARAS	666.8	666.8	657.75	659.15	254218	-1.24	36.68	700.1	682.03
ZENTEC	1382.2	1383.6	1365.0	1368.6	136866	-1.48	45.7	1389.95	1546.01
HIGHENE	545.45	575.0	538.55	540.0	14107	-1.49	35.86	577.77	607.18
WALCHANNAG	173.8	179.95	168.99	172.64	1704540	-1.65	55.43	160.93	189.9
SIKA	921.0	924.65	892.2	906.85	11174	-2.13	36.09	958.9	1014.42
KRISHNADEF	750.5	750.5	720.0	724.0	14500	-2.82	39.91	766.09	788.17
SUNITATool	786.5	786.5	747.2	752.1	11000	-4.37	37.42	831.31	776.44
DRONACHRYA	48.56	48.56	48.56	48.56	25000	-4.99	45.83	50.58	70.52
ROSSELLIND	55.94	55.94	50.23	52.08	114022	-5.4	26.31	56.59	65.77