



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

December 17, 2025 | Day 351

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
RELINFRA	157.13	149.65	+5.0%
SWANDEF	1259.2	1199.3	+4.99%
WALCHANNAG	174.46	166.79	+4.6%
SIKA	907.5	883.0	+2.77%
DYNAMATECH	9009.5	8824.0	+2.1%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
AXISCADES	1198.1	1261.1	-5.0%
DRONACHRYA	43.84	46.14	-4.98%
HBLPOWER	762.8	799.95	-4.64%
DATAPATTNS	2467.7	2581.2	-4.4%
MACPOWER	964.05	1004.1	-3.99%

Defense Business and Industry

Indian Army completes Apache helicopter induction, enhancing aerial combat capabilities.

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17-Dec-25

The Indian Army has successfully inducted the final three Boeing Apache AH-64E attack helicopters, completing the procurement of six units that will enhance the capabilities of the 451 Army Aviation Squadron based in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. This acquisition, part of a \$600 million contract with Boeing signed in February 2020, marks a significant leap in India's aerial combat capabilities, particularly in night warfare and high-threat environments, thanks to the Apache's advanced fire-control radar and weaponry. The helicopters have already demonstrated their operational prowess during Exercise Maru Jwala, and their delivery, despite earlier delays caused by geopolitical and logistical challenges, showcases India's commitment to fortifying its defense posture amid escalating regional tensions. With features such as the Longbow multi-mode radar and integration with indigenous systems, the Apache fleet not only complements India's existing air capabilities but also signals a strategic pivot towards high-end Western military technology, positioning India to effectively deter adversaries along its borders. The successful integration of these helicopters underscores the deepening Indo-US defense collaboration and reinforces India's ambitions for self-reliance in defense manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, with ongoing pilot training and maintenance capabilities being developed domestically.

Indian Navy inducts Diving Support Craft A20, enhancing maritime capabilities.

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The Indian Navy commissioned Diving Support Craft (DSC) A20 on December 16, 2025, at Naval Base Kochi under the Southern Naval Command, marking the 11th indigenous vessel inducted this year and bolstering underwater operational readiness in the strategic Indian Ocean region. Presided over by Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, the catamaran-hulled craft—built by Titagarh Rail Systems Limited, Kolkata, under a 2021 Ministry of Defence contract—displaces 390 tonnes and features advanced diving systems, underwater video monitoring, and a two-man recompression chamber for safe, extended missions like inspections, repairs, salvage, and harbour clearance. Model-tested at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory in Visakhapatnam and certified by the Indian Register of Shipping, DSC A20, commanded by Lt Cdr Hemant Singh Chauhan, exemplifies 'Make in India' and Aatmanirbhar Bharat, enhancing national self-reliance and maritime security amid regional challenges.

Navy chiefs of India and Brazil sign MoU on Scorpene submarines.

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During Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi's visit to Brazil from December 9 to 12, a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Navy, the Brazilian Navy, and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) to facilitate information exchange on the maintenance of Scorpene-class submarines and other naval vessels. This visit aimed at

bolstering maritime cooperation and defense industry collaboration, included high-level discussions with senior Brazilian officials, including the Defence Minister. Admiral Tripathi's engagement highlights the growing partnership between India and Brazil in enhancing shared maritime security and training initiatives, reflecting India's strategic interests in strengthening international defense ties.

Indian Navy commissions INAS 335 'Ospreys' helicopter squadron in Goa.

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The Indian Navy commissioned its second MH-60R anti-submarine helicopter squadron, INAS 335 'Ospreys', at INS Hansa in Goa on December 17, 2025, in a ceremony presided over by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi. This milestone enhances the Navy's maritime surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, and search-and-rescue capabilities on the western seaboard, with the squadron declared fully operational and ready for immediate fleet deployment. Admiral Tripathi highlighted the complex maritime environment amid geopolitical shifts and technological threats, stressing robust deterrence for sea lines of communication. The MH-60R Seahawk, equipped with advanced sensors, avionics, and weapons like Hellfire missiles and torpedoes, follows the first squadron INAS 334 'Seahawks' commissioned in March 2024 at INS Garuda, Kochi, and aligns with a recent \$946 million US sustainment deal for 24 helicopters. The event featured a water cannon salute and march-past, bolstering India's naval modernization toward a multi-dimensional force.

LCA Tejas Conference 2025 Highlights Evolution and Self-Reliance in Aviation

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The LCA Tejas Operators Conference (OPCON) 2025 concluded on December 15 at Air Force Station Naliya, bringing together aircrew, engineers, and industry partners to review operational feedback and discuss future upgrades for the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft. Chaired by Air Vice Marshal Kesavan Nair Harisankar, the event highlighted the Tejas platform's growing maturity in independent operations and its critical role in advancing India's self-reliance in defense aviation. Participants focused on integrating advanced weapon systems, including the Astra beyond-visual-range missile and modern electronic warfare suites, with ongoing trials and software validation confirming

the aircraft's readiness for expanded combat roles. The induction of the improved Mk1A variant, featuring an Active Electronically Scanned Array radar and advanced avionics, is set to significantly enhance the Indian Air Force's capabilities. Despite some delays in engine deliveries, the program continues to progress, with production lines at HAL Nashik ramping up to meet future requirements. The conference reaffirmed the collective commitment to evolving the Tejas into a more capable and combat-dominant platform, reinforcing India's strategic position in regional security dynamics.

Indian Army Launches Indigenous Vajraka All-Terrain Vehicle at Vijay Diwas

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17-Dec-25

On December 15, 2025, during Vijay Diwas 'At Home' celebrations at Army House in New Delhi, attended by President Droupadi Murmu and 73 foreign envoys, the Indian Army unveiled the indigenously developed Vajraka All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV), reinforcing Atmanirbhar Bharat in defense. Produced by the 510 Army Base Workshop in Meerut following extensive field trials, this 1000cc all-wheel-drive vehicle conquers narrow, rugged mountain tracks with 40-degree inclines, carrying four personnel for logistics, casualty evacuation, and rescue in high-altitude frontiers. Tailored for India's challenging terrains, Vajraka replaces pack animals, boosts operational efficiency, and exemplifies Army-industry collaboration for self-reliant security.

DRDO Prepares Pinaka Mk-III Rocket Trials for Indian Army Procurement

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DRDO has accelerated preparations for imminent flight trials of the 120 km-range Pinaka Mk-III rocket system, building on the Guided Pinaka's proven success, as the Indian Army advances a ₹2,500 crore (\$300M) fast-track procurement proposal for Defence Acquisition Council approval announced December 12, 2025. Developed by ARDE Pune with partners like Solar Industries, Munitions India, BDL, and L&T, the 300mm-caliber Mk-III promises <10m CEP precision via INS/GPS guidance and 250kg warheads, enabling salvo fire of 12 rockets in 44 seconds to saturate 1km x 800m areas—doubling Mk-II's 75-90km reach post-Operation Sindoora lessons. Key dates include user trials slated for late 2025 and potential 2028 induction, prioritizing indigenous firepower over foreign systems like Russia's Smerch. From India's strategic lens, this bolsters border deterrence against China and Pakistan, targeting deep enemy assets in Ladakh or along the LoC without

escalation, enhancing artillery dominance in high-altitude conflicts.

Indian Army Accelerates SAKSHAM Procurement for Enhanced Drone Countermeasures

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The Indian Army has fast-tracked procurement of the indigenous SAKSHAM counter-UAS command-and-control system, developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), following a ₹776 crore order announced on December 12, 2025, as reported on December 15. Approved under the Fast Track Procurement route since October 2025 and accelerated post-Operation Sindoor's drone swarms earlier this year, SAKSHAM integrates AI-driven sensors for real-time detection, tracking, and neutralization of threats up to 3,000 meters in the Tactical Battlefield Space. From an Indian strategic viewpoint, this bolsters Atmanirbhar Bharat by securing borders against Pakistan and China-backed drone incursions, ensuring layered air defense via interoperability with Akash, and reducing foreign dependency amid rising low-altitude threats. Deployment across critical sectors is targeted within 12 months, enhancing operational dominance.

China starts building nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, boosting naval capabilities amid regional tensions.

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17-Dec-25

China has begun construction of its first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the Type 004, at the Dalian Shipbuilding Industry Group, as revealed by satellite imagery analysis. This significant advancement in naval capabilities allows China to enhance its power projection across the Indo-Pacific, particularly amid ongoing border tensions with India. The supercarrier is expected to displace over 110,000 tons and could be operational by the early 2030s, potentially housing 90-100 aircraft. This development heightens regional security concerns and underscores the necessity for accelerated modernization of the Indian Navy's carrier strike capabilities to safeguard India's maritime interests against an increasingly assertive Chinese maritime posture.

NATO Tests Advanced Jam-Proof Laser Comms for Maritime Security

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NATO member states have successfully tested Astrolight's POLARIS laser communication terminal, demonstrating its undetectable and jam-proof

capabilities in maritime scenarios. This system is designed to facilitate stealthy ship-to-ship communication in contested environments, ensuring secure links that are impervious to sensors, even in adverse weather conditions. From an Indian strategic perspective, this advancement highlights the pressing need for Indo-Pacific navies to bolster their defenses against increasing electronic warfare threats, particularly GPS jamming that could disrupt operations in critical sea lanes. Enhancing operational resilience and maintaining emission control are essential for achieving multi-domain superiority in high-stakes maritime operations.

Thales launches Sonar 76Nano, highlighting need for India's UUV advancements.

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17-Dec-25

French defense firm Thales has unveiled its Sonar 76Nano, a miniaturized sonar system intended for underwater drones, demonstrating its capabilities for the UK Royal Navy. This development emphasizes the growing focus on autonomous underwater systems within NATO navies, particularly for anti-submarine warfare and infrastructure protection in the North Atlantic. As India navigates similar underwater threats in the Indian Ocean, the advancement of compact sonar technologies underlines the necessity for accelerated research and development in indigenous unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs) and anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities. This not only enhances India's maritime security posture but also aligns with its strategic interests in countering evolving underwater challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

US Space Force Accelerates Boost-Phase Interceptor Tech

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17-Dec-25

The US Space Force issued a Small Business Innovation Research solicitation on December 15, 2025, seeking advanced high-G propulsion systems, enhanced seekers, and low-SWaP interceptors for space-based platforms to neutralize ballistic missiles during their boost phase below 120 kilometers altitude within 180 seconds. This effort, part of President Trump's Golden Dome missile defense initiative aiming for full operation by 2028, targets rapid acceleration exceeding 6 km/s using dual-pulse motors and thrust vector control, with recent prototype contracts awarded and a midcourse interceptor RFP released earlier in December. These developments underscore the push for scalable, manufacturable designs amid compressed

detection-to-intercept timelines, prompting strategic considerations for nations like India to bolster ballistic missile and ASAT defenses in the evolving Indo-Pacific space domain.

China's Y-30 Turboprop Aircraft Enhances Military Logistics Capabilities

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17-Dec-25

On December 16, 2025, China's Shaanxi Aircraft Corporation conducted the maiden flight of the Y-30, a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft from the Xi'an airfield, designed to bolster the People's Liberation Army Air Force's logistics with a planned payload of around 30 tonnes. Featuring a high-wing layout, T-tail, straight wings with winglets, six-bladed propellers, wide fuselage, rear loading ramp, and heavy-duty landing gear for short or unprepared runways, the Y-30 bridges the gap between the lighter Y-9 (20-tonne class) and strategic Y-20, potentially replacing aging Y-8 and Y-9 fleets while enabling tactical airlifts, airdrops, and operations from austere bases in the Indo-Pacific and border regions. Powered by WJ-10 (6,800 hp) or WJ-16 (5,140 hp) turboprops, it offers estimated maximum speeds of 600-700 km/h, ranges up to 6,000-7,000 km with payload, and capacity for over 110 troops, positioning it between the C-130J and A400M in capability.

Politics

Congress leader claims India was defeated on Operation Sindoos first day, sparking political controversy.

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17-Dec-25

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan has stirred controversy by claiming that India was defeated on the first day of Operation Sindoos, which was launched in response to a terror attack in Pahalgam. During a press conference, he asserted that Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft were shot down and that the Air Force was "completely grounded" due to the threat from Pakistan, questioning the need for large military forces in future conflicts that he believes will primarily be aerial in nature. Chavan's remarks have drawn sharp criticism from the BJP, which refuted his claims, emphasizing that the reports of downed aircraft have been misrepresented. The Indian defense establishment maintains that Operation Sindoos, which occurred from May 7 to May 10, successfully neutralized over 100 terrorists, reinforcing the operational effectiveness of the IAF despite Chavan's

comments. This debate underscores ongoing discussions about military strategy in an era increasingly dominated by air power, while also reflecting the political tensions surrounding defense narratives in India.

BJP rebukes Congress for undermining Indian Armed Forces' efforts.

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17-Dec-25

The BJP has condemned former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan for his remarks criticizing the Indian Air Force's performance during Operation Sindoos, accusing the Congress party of consistently undermining the armed forces. Chavan claimed that the operation resulted in a complete setback and questioned the necessity of a large standing army, suggesting that modern warfare is predominantly aerial and missile-based. BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla characterized Chavan's comments as disrespectful and indicative of a broader trend within Congress. This controversy underscores an ongoing political debate regarding military strategy and the role of ground forces in contemporary warfare, highlighting the importance of maintaining robust defense capabilities amid evolving geopolitical challenges.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Modi's Ethiopia visit strengthens strategic partnership and cooperation initiatives.

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17-Dec-25

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Ethiopia, the two nations elevated their bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership, emphasizing cooperation in areas such as digital public infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, and capacity building. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed personally welcomed Modi at the airport and drove him to significant cultural sites, showcasing the warmth and respect that characterizes the India-Ethiopia relationship. The visit, which marks the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Ethiopia since 2011, is underscored by India's commitment to South-South cooperation and highlights Ethiopia's pivotal role as a diplomatic hub in Africa, hosting the African Union headquarters. Key outcomes of the visit include agreements to double scholarships for Ethiopian students in India, collaboration in renewable energy and critical minerals, and joint commitments to security and peacekeeping, further solidifying India's role as a

reliable partner in Africa's growth story and enhancing its influence in the Global South amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics.

EAM Jaishankar and Netanyahu Discuss Enhanced India-Israel Cooperation

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17-Dec-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently concluded a two-day visit to Israel, where he engaged in high-level discussions with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Isaac Herzog, and Foreign Minister Gideon Saar. The talks primarily focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation across various sectors, including defense, technology, and economic partnerships, with an emphasis on expediting the India-Israel Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to boost trade beyond the current \$10 billion annually. Jaishankar reaffirmed India's commitment to a strong strategic partnership, highlighting shared values, particularly a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism, which resonated following a recent tragic attack in Sydney. Additionally, discussions included advanced defense technology collaborations, underscoring the growing ties between Indian entities like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Israeli firms, reflecting India's broader defense modernization goals. This visit not only strengthens the India-Israel relationship but also positions India as a key player in regional stability and economic resilience, especially in the context of evolving geopolitical dynamics and initiatives like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

Modi emphasizes strong India-Ethiopia ties and strategic partnership.

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17-Dec-25

During his first bilateral visit to Ethiopia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Joint Session of the Ethiopian Parliament, emphasizing the deep-rooted historical ties and the elevation of bilateral relations to a strategic partnership. He reflected on the shared civilizational connections and the contributions of Indian soldiers in Ethiopia's liberation struggle in 1941, while also underscoring India's commitment to aid Ethiopia's development through technology, agriculture, and healthcare cooperation. Modi highlighted the significance of mutual defense agreements and collaborative efforts in combating terrorism, asserting that both nations, as representatives of the Global South, must work together to amplify their voices on the international stage. He also proposed initiatives for skill development and emphasized the importance of

shared prosperity and climate resilience, showcasing India's readiness to assist Ethiopia in its Digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy. The Prime Minister's address reinforced India's position as a reliable partner in Africa, promoting cooperation in various sectors, and advocating a collective vision for a just and equitable global order.

Kremlin Rejects Christmas Ceasefire, Pursues Comprehensive Peace Deal in Ukraine

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17-Dec-25

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov has firmly rejected proposals for a Christmas ceasefire in Ukraine, asserting that Russia aims for a comprehensive peace deal rather than a temporary truce that could allow Kyiv to regroup. This rejection follows a call by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz for a halt in fighting, amid ongoing diplomatic talks involving European and US representatives, from which Russia was absent. Peskov emphasized the need for Russia to achieve its war objectives and ensure lasting stability in Europe, cautioning against short-term measures. This situation underscores the complexities of multilateral peace efforts and reinforces the importance of resolute diplomacy to counter expansionism, aligning with India's focus on sovereignty and territorial integrity in global security dynamics.

US Increases KC-135 Tanker Deployments in Caribbean Amid Venezuela

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17-Dec-25

The United States has increased its military presence in the Caribbean by deploying additional KC-135 Stratotankers, totaling ten aircraft to support Operation Southern Spear, which targets Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's regime and counter-narcotics efforts. This strategic maneuver, coinciding with Trinidad and Tobago's granting of U.S. access to its airports, reflects a comprehensive U.S. posture aimed at mitigating narco-terror threats and curbing Chinese influence over Venezuela's substantial oil reserves. For India, these developments underscore the necessity of monitoring geopolitical dynamics in the Western Hemisphere, particularly as they relate to global energy markets critical to India's import-dependent economy. The heightened military activity signals a broader commitment to regional security and international maritime interests potentially beneficial to India's strategic calculus.

India, UAE enhance defense ties amid evolving regional dynamics.

17-Dec-25

India and the UAE are actively working to enhance their defense cooperation, as evidenced by the recent meeting between Amitabh Prasad, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) at the Ministry of Defence, and UAE's Assistant Under Secretary of Defence Affairs, Ali Al Ahmed, during the 16th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting. This dialogue forms part of a broader initiative led by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who aims to strengthen bilateral ties amid evolving regional dynamics. Jaishankar's ongoing engagements with various global leaders in the UAE further signify India's commitment to fostering international partnerships for mutual security and strategic interests. The development underscores the importance of India-UAE relations in addressing regional challenges and enhancing defense collaboration.

Bangladesh's Wazed warns against Pakistan-backed proxies on Victory Day.

17-Dec-25

On December 16, 2025—Bangladesh's Victory Day marking the 1971 surrender of Pakistani forces to Indian troops after a brutal genocide—Sajeeb Wazed, son of exiled former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and ex-ICT advisor, warned via X that Pakistan-backed proxies have surged under Muhammad Yunus's interim regime. He accused the government of unleashing mass murders, granting impunity for looting and rape, criminalizing "Joy Bangla" chants and critiques of 1971 atrocities, and defaming independence architect Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as a traitor while tampering with the national anthem. Wazed invoked 1971's heroic legacy, asserting such subversion will fail amid Bangladeshi unity. From India's strategic lens, this signals deepening Pakistan-ISI influence, radical releases threatening border security, minority attacks, and regional instability, underscoring Delhi's imperative to bolster counter-terror vigilance. (128 words)

India commits to bolster maritime cooperation with Maldives amid strategic talks.

17-Dec-25

India has strengthened its maritime ties with the Maldives through high-level naval engagements from December 15 to 17, 2025, as Vice Admiral Tarun Soubti,

Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, visited Male to attend the closing ceremony of the eighth edition of Exercise Ekatha at MNDF Central Area Command, Kadhdhoo. The 30-day exercise, established in 2017, featured intensive training in diving, asymmetric warfare, boarding operations, firing drills, demolition, and heliborne operations between India's MARCOS and Maldives National Defence Force Marine Corps, enhancing interoperability in the Indian Ocean Region. Vice Admiral Soubti met Maldives Foreign Affairs Minister Abdulla Khaleel, National Security Advisor Ibrahim Latheef, and Chief of Defence Force Major General Ibrahim Hilmy, discussing maritime security challenges, anti-drug trafficking cooperation, information sharing, and ongoing defence projects; he also handed over operational spares for MNDF Coast Guard Ship Huravee onboard INS Sharda. This partnership underscores India's Neighbourhood First policy and commitment to regional stability.

India raises security concerns with Bangladesh envoy over Dhaka mission.

17-Dec-25

India summoned Bangladesh's envoy, Riaz Hamidullah, expressing strong concerns over the security of its diplomatic mission in Dhaka amid threats from extremist elements. The Ministry of External Affairs articulated its rejection of false narratives surrounding recent incidents in Bangladesh and criticized the interim government's lack of a thorough investigation or evidence sharing. India emphasized its commitment to fostering peace and stability in Bangladesh, urging for free and fair elections in a peaceful environment. This diplomatic engagement underscores the significance of India-Bangladesh relations, rooted in historical ties and mutual developmental initiatives, as both nations navigate security challenges in the region.

Pakistan's military chief faces pressure to send troops to Gaza amid domestic dissent.

17-Dec-25

Pakistan's military chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, faces significant pressure as the U.S. pushes for Islamabad to contribute troops to a Gaza stabilisation force, a move that could provoke domestic backlash amidst rising Islamist sentiments. Munir's upcoming meeting with President Trump is pivotal, as failure to comply may jeopardize U.S. investment and security aid, while his unchallenged authority has drawn scrutiny from various factions within Pakistan. Concerns are

mounting that deploying troops could reignite protests from Islamist groups opposed to U.S. and Israeli actions, further complicating Pakistan's internal dynamics. This situation underscores the precarious balancing act for Pakistan's leadership as it navigates international expectations and domestic dissent.

Zelenskyy to present peace proposals to Russia in days amid negotiations.

17-Dec-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced that proposals for a peace deal to resolve the ongoing conflict with Russia could be finalized within days, following discussions with US officials in Berlin. While there is a consensus on 90% of the US-led peace plan, significant issues remain unresolved, particularly regarding the future of territories occupied by Russian forces, including the Donbas region. Zelenskyy emphasized that Ukraine will not recognize Russian control over any part of its territory and warned of increased Western pressure on Moscow should diplomatic efforts fail. The impending negotiations reflect a united front among the US, Europe, and Ukraine, highlighting the complex dynamics of peace negotiations in the region.

US outlines Quad priorities for resilient supply chains and tech collaboration.

17-Dec-25

On 16 December 2025, the U.S. State Department released a document outlining updated priority areas for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), putting resilient supply chains, energy security and quality infrastructure at the centre of its Indo-Pacific strategy. The paper stresses trusted information and communications technology networks, semiconductor and critical minerals cooperation, and the harmonisation of cyber and software security standards, areas where India is emerging as a preferred manufacturing and technology hub. It also highlights collaboration in artificial intelligence, biotechnology and secure digital infrastructure, dovetailing with India's Production Linked Incentive schemes and ambitions to become a global semiconductor and critical-tech player. For New Delhi, the U.S. push effectively validates India's long-standing pitch for diversified, non-China-centric supply chains and positions the Quad as a platform that amplifies Indian strategic and economic leverage across the Indo-Pacific.

Ukraine and 34 nations establish body for compensation from Russia's invasion.

17-Dec-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, alongside representatives from 34 nations, has approved the establishment of an International Claims Commission to facilitate compensation for damages caused by Russia's invasion. While the Council of Europe advocates for Russia to bear the costs, the feasibility of enforcing such payments remains unclear, with suggestions to utilize frozen Russian assets. The Commission, which has already received approximately 80,000 claims, will require legislative ratification from member countries. Additionally, a new international court is being proposed to prosecute senior Russian officials, highlighting a unified international effort to hold Russia accountable and underscoring the broader implications for global security and the rule of law in conflict resolution.

PM Modi Receives Ethiopia's Highest Award, Strengthening Bilateral Ties

17-Dec-25

During his official visit to Addis Ababa, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Ethiopia's Great Honour Nishan, becoming the first global leader to receive this prestigious accolade. This recognition underscores Modi's efforts in strengthening bilateral ties and global partnerships, particularly through education and cultural exchange, which have historically connected India and Ethiopia. In his speech, Modi emphasized the importance of knowledge and cooperation in addressing global challenges, while dedicating the award to the collective spirit of 1.4 billion Indians. The award further signifies India's growing influence in Africa and reflects the commitment to enhance strategic collaboration with Ethiopia across various sectors, including development and technology.

Bangladesh High Commissioner highlights India-Bangladesh ties for regional stability and growth.

17-Dec-25

The Bangladesh High Commissioner to India, M Riaz Hamidullah, emphasized the deep interdependence between India and Bangladesh during a cultural event in New Delhi, marking the significance of their historical ties and mutual aspirations for peace, prosperity, and security in the region. Celebrations coincided with

Bangladesh's Victory Day and India's Vijay Diwas, highlighting the pivotal role Indian forces played in Bangladesh's liberation in 1971. The event featured reciprocal military exchanges, showcasing enduring respect between the two nations' armed forces. Hamidullah noted Bangladesh's youthful demographic as a vital asset for future collaboration, underscoring the potential for enhanced economic and security cooperation, ultimately reinforcing the bilateral relationship as a cornerstone for regional stability and growth.

Modi honors Ethiopian soldiers at Adwa Victory Monument, strengthening ties.

17-Dec-25

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid his respects at the Adwa Victory Monument in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, commemorating the Ethiopian soldiers who valiantly fought for their nation's sovereignty during the Battle of Adwa in 1896. This visit underscores the historical ties between India and Ethiopia, reflecting a shared legacy of resilience and dignity. The memorial serves as a tribute to the courage of the Adwa heroes and highlights the enduring spirit of freedom that both nations cherish. Modi's gesture not only honors the past but also reinforces the importance of India-Ethiopia relations, which are characterized by mutual respect and cooperation, essential for enhancing regional stability and solidarity in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.

Trump Expands Travel Ban to 17 Countries, Citing Security Concerns

17-Dec-25

US President Donald Trump has expanded a travel ban to include five additional countries, bringing the total to 17, citing deficiencies in immigration vetting processes as a primary concern. The newly banned countries are Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, and Syria, with existing partial bans on Laos and Sierra Leone elevated to full restrictions. The measures aim to mitigate national security risks by addressing issues such as fraudulent documentation and lack of cooperation from foreign governments on law-enforcement data. Critics may view these policies as overly broad, while supporters argue they enhance security by prioritizing reliable information, reflecting Trump's ongoing stance on immigration and international accountability.

Military Operations

U.S. Navy bolsters Caribbean presence with EA-18G Growler deployment.

17-Dec-25

The U.S. Navy has deployed six EA-18G Growler electronic warfare aircraft to Puerto Rico, enhancing its military presence in the Caribbean as part of Operation Southern Spear. This deployment, which includes advanced systems capable of suppressing enemy air defenses and gathering electronic intelligence, underscores the strategic significance of the region amidst evolving geopolitical threats, particularly in relation to Venezuela's robust air defense network. Additionally, plans to deploy F-35A fighters from the Vermont Air National Guard further augment U.S. capabilities, marking a notable enhancement in strike potential and operational reach. This expansion reflects broader U.S. military objectives in maintaining regional security and addressing various operational demands, including counter-narcotics efforts.

Russian Expert Supports IAF's Claim of S-400 Downing AWACS at 314km

17-Dec-25

A leading Russian military analyst, Alexei Mikhailov Petrenko, has validated the Indian Air Force's (IAF) claim of downing a Pakistani AWACS at a record distance of 314 kilometers during Operation Sindoora, marking a significant achievement in aerial warfare. This engagement, involving an S-400 'Triumf' battery, underscores the effective integration of ground-based interceptors with airborne surveillance systems, reminiscent of tactics used in the Ukraine conflict. The IAF's successful operations not only severely degraded the Pakistan Air Force's capabilities, with total losses estimated at over \$500 million, but also showcased the Indian crews' adeptness in executing sophisticated combat tactics. This development is pivotal in reshaping the air superiority balance in the region, affirming India's strategic military capabilities.

Indian Army Joins UAE for Desert Cyclone-II Military Exercise

17-Dec-25

An Indian Army contingent has departed for the UAE to participate in the second edition of the India-UAE Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone-II, scheduled from December 18 to 30, 2025, in Abu Dhabi. Comprising 45 personnel from a Mechanised Infantry Regiment, this

exercise emphasizes enhancing interoperability and defense cooperation through joint training in urban operational environments, focusing on sub-conventional operations under a UN mandate. The program includes tactical drills, heliborne operations, and the integration of unmanned aerial systems, reflecting modern urban warfare's evolving nature. This exercise further solidifies the strategic partnership between India and the UAE, promoting mutual understanding of military tactics and contributing to regional peace and stability.

India has achieved over 93% border fencing with Pakistan to enhance security.

17-Dec-25

India has made substantial progress in securing its borders, achieving over 93% fencing along the 2,289.66 km India-Pakistan International Border, with 2,135.136 km completed as of December 16, 2025, leaving only 154.524 km unfenced, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed the Lok Sabha. Along the 4,096.70 km India-Bangladesh border, nearly 79% or 3,239.92 km is fenced, while 856.778 km remains pending due to challenges like land acquisition delays in West Bengal, where the state government has not handed over land despite central payments for significant stretches. This fencing drive, a cornerstone of India's strategy to prevent infiltration and bolster national security, underscores the Centre's commitment to safeguarding sovereignty amid complex terrain and coordination issues with neighbors.

of skill training and welfare support. This event underscores Chhattisgarh's security successes, with 824 surrenders, 1,079 arrests, and 220 Maoists neutralized in Bijapur since January 2024, fostering development in Bastar through camps, roads, and schemes like Niyad Nellanar. Officials urge remaining cadres to embrace peace for a dignified future.

Maoist violence reduced by 89% in 15 years, says Nityanand Rai.

17-Dec-25

Maoist violence in India has fallen sharply over the past 15 years, with Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai informing the Lok Sabha on December 16, 2025 that incidents linked to Left Wing Extremism have dropped by 89 per cent, from a peak of 1,936 incidents in 2010 to 222 in 2025. Resultant deaths of civilians and security personnel have declined by 91 per cent over the same period, from 1,005 to 95, underscoring a substantial improvement in internal security and state control in erstwhile insurgency-hit heartland regions. The government credits the 2015 National Policy and Action Plan, focused operations, and massive expansion of roads, telecom connectivity and financial inclusion in tribal and remote belts, along with attractive surrender-and-rehabilitation schemes that have encouraged thousands of Maoists to lay down arms, consolidating New Delhi's upper hand in the long-running conflict.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

India Enhances Cyber Defence with CERT-In and Cyber Swachhta Kendra Initiatives Against Ransomware.

17-Dec-25

India is bolstering its cybersecurity posture against ransomware and AI-driven threats through coordinated efforts by CERT-In and NCIIPC, as highlighted in a Ministry of Electronics and IT statement on December 17, 2025. Mandatory annual security audits, guided by CERT-In's July 2025 Comprehensive Cyber Security Audit Policy and supported by 231 empanelled auditors, ensure robust checks across critical sectors like finance and power, alongside sector-specific teams such as CSIRT-Fin and CSIRT-Power. The Cyber Swachhta Kendra provides free tools for malware detection and removal, while initiatives like 24x7 AI/ML monitoring, zero-trust implementation, vulnerability assessments, and indigenous tools from the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing enhance digital

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

34 Maoist cadres surrender in Bijapur, marking a significant victory for anti-Naxal operations.

17-Dec-25

In a major boost to India's anti-Naxal campaign, 34 Maoist cadres, including seven women and 27 men primarily from the Dandakaranya South Sub-Zonal Bureau, Telangana State Committee, and Andhra-Odisha Border Division, surrendered before senior police and CRPF officials in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on December 16, 2025, carrying a combined bounty of Rs 84 lakh. Disillusioned with the banned CPI(Maoist)'s violent ideology, the group pledged allegiance to the Indian Constitution under the state government's "Puna Margam: Punarvas Se Punarjeevan" rehabilitation initiative, receiving Rs 50,000 immediate incentives each alongside promises

resilience. Capacity-building includes training programs like the Certified Security Professional in AI launched in September 2024, alongside mock drills and public awareness drives, underscoring India's proactive defense of its national cyberspace.

Miscellaneous

Moradabad's Trishul War Museum to feature MiG-27, INS Vikrant exhibits.

17-Dec-25

The Moradabad Municipal Corporation is nearing the completion of the Trishul War Museum, which will showcase significant military hardware, including a MiG-27 and the INS Vikrant, alongside exhibits celebrating the valor of the Indian armed forces. Currently, construction is 90% finished with an expected completion of the audio-visual segment in the next 10-12 days. Concurrently, the Indian Army has received the final three Boeing Apache AH-64E attack helicopters, enhancing its operational capacity significantly. These advanced helicopters are equipped with state-of-the-art weaponry and radar systems, underscoring India's commitment to strengthening its defense capabilities amidst evolving geopolitical challenges.

Hyderabad native identified as suspect in Australia beach shooting.

17-Dec-25

Sajid Akram, a 50-year-old native of Hyderabad, Telangana, originally from Tolichowki, has been identified as one of two suspects in the mass shooting at a Hanukkah celebration on Sydney's Bondi Beach on Sunday, December 14, 2025, which killed 15 people, including a 10-year-old and a Holocaust survivor, and injured over 40 others. Telangana Police confirmed Akram migrated to Australia in November 1998 with a BCom degree, retained his Indian passport, married a European-origin woman there, and had a son, Naveed Akram, 24, and a daughter, both Australian citizens; he maintained limited family contact, last visiting India in 2022 for two weeks and skipping his father's funeral. Sajid, a licensed gun owner linked to six firearms and a shooting club member, was shot dead by police at the scene, while Naveed survived with critical injuries, faced initial court from hospital on Wednesday, December 17, and was charged with 15 murder counts, one terrorist act, 40 counts of intent to kill, and displaying a banned group's symbol; the attack, Australia's deadliest since

1996 and probed as ISIS-inspired antisemitic terrorism, followed their Philippines trip from November 1-28, destined for Davao.

Odisha man Adarsh Behera returns home after 45 days in Sudan captivity.

17-Dec-25

Adarsh Behera, a 36-year-old mechanic from Kotakana village in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district, returned safely to Bhubaneswar on December 17, 2025, after 45 days of captivity by Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia in Al-Fashir, North Darfur. Abducted amid the civil war while working at a plastic factory since 2022, he endured severe torture, beatings, starvation, three days in a jungle, and over a month in a prison without basic facilities, calling his survival "a rebirth." The Government of India, through the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Embassy, coordinated with international mediators for his release and evacuation via Abu Dhabi and Hyderabad. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi hailed the Centre's swift action, reaffirming the state's commitment to Odia citizens abroad, as Behera's family, including his wife Sasmita and three-year-old son, reunited amid joy at Biju Patnaik International Airport. Sasmita urged local employment to curb risky overseas migration.

Aadhaar's multi-layered security ensures no data breaches to date.

17-Dec-25

On December 17, 2025, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Jitin Prasada informed the Lok Sabha that the Aadhaar system, serving approximately 134 crore users as the world's largest biometric identity program, has recorded no data breaches from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) database to date. This statement underscores India's robust digital infrastructure, with UIDAI employing a multi-layered "defence-in-depth" security framework, advanced encryption for data transmission and storage, and continuous cybersecurity audits by the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre. Having processed over 16,000 crore authentication transactions, Aadhaar exemplifies the government's proactive commitment to protecting citizens' personal information amid rising global cyber threats.

India's NSM 2.0 advances HPC, AI, and quantum for exascale computing.

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17-Dec-25

India launched the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) 2.0 on December 17, 2025, at the Supercomputing India 2025 event in Bengaluru, hosted by MIT-MAHE and flagged off by IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. Building on phase one's deployment of 37 indigenous supercomputers delivering 39-40 petaflops—used for COVID-19 drug screening and astronomical breakthroughs—this phase integrates high-performance computing (HPC), artificial intelligence (AI), and quantum technologies to achieve 2 exaflops by 2030, with pre-exascale systems of 100, 200, and 500 petaflops from 2027. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) signed 11 MoUs with institutions like IIA, IIAP, NGRI, and IIT-Kanpur to add over 60 petaflops, leveraging VEGA RISC-V processors and Rudra servers for strategic autonomy. Training over 27,000 professionals will bolster India's self-reliant compute ecosystem, positioning it among the global top supercomputing powers for AI models, weather prediction, and defence research.

PM Modi highlights unity's strength for national progress and defense.

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17-Dec-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently shared a Sanskrit Subhashitam that emphasizes the strength of collective effort, illustrating that even small contributions can lead to significant achievements when coordinated effectively. The message conveyed is that, akin to a rope made from hay, which can ensnare powerful elephants, unity and collaboration are vital for overcoming challenges. This philosophical perspective resonates deeply within the context of national development and defense strategies, underscoring the importance of teamwork among various sectors, including the armed forces and the defense industry. By promoting this ethos, the Prime Minister aims to galvanize citizens and stakeholders towards collaborative endeavors that enhance India's resilience and efficacy in addressing both internal and external challenges. The broader significance of this message lies in its potential to inspire a cohesive approach to

nation-building and fortifying India's position on the global stage.

PM inaugurates Param Vir Gallery, honoring India's brave heroes and inspiring future generations.

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17-Dec-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Param Vir Gallery at Rashtrapati Bhavan, honoring the nation's Param Vir Chakra awardees and serving as a tribute to the sacrifices of India's indomitable heroes. This initiative replaces the portraits of colonial soldiers with those of Indian warriors, symbolizing a shift in national consciousness and a move away from a colonial mindset. Modi emphasized the gallery's significance for the younger generation, encouraging them to connect with India's valiant traditions and draw inspiration from the sacrifices made for national integrity. He expressed hope that the gallery would become a vibrant pilgrimage site embodying the spirit of a developed India (Viksit Bharat), reinforcing the importance of inner strength and resolve in achieving national objectives. This development underscores India's commitment to honoring its military heritage while inspiring future generations to uphold the values of bravery and patriotism.

Government reports 23,926 infiltrators arrested since 2014; none along India-China border.

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17-Dec-25

The Indian government reported to Parliament that since 2014, 23,926 infiltrators have been apprehended along its borders with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, and Bhutan, while no infiltration cases have been recorded along the India-China border during the same period. The highest number of arrests was along the India-Bangladesh border, highlighting persistent infiltration challenges on India's western and eastern frontiers. The data, provided by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, indicates a continual threat from infiltrators, particularly in 2025, yet the absence of such incidents along the northern border points to effective security measures in that region. This situation underscores the strategic stability along the India-China border, reinforcing India's border security capabilities.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
RELINFRA	153.97	157.13	153.0	157.13	410951	5.0	46.32	153.8	267.84
SWANDEF	1259.2	1259.2	1259.2	1259.2	3129	4.99	100.0	824.03	130.03
WALCHANNAG	166.8	187.8	165.35	174.46	5766348	4.6	55.93	162.08	189.85
SIKA	890.0	915.9	885.0	907.5	11720	2.77	38.53	943.61	1018.24
DYNAMATECH	8950.0	9048.0	8661.0	9009.5	26664	2.1	50.65	9112.9	7191.17
PTC	159.9	164.2	159.56	161.6	1208665	1.28	55.27	157.96	172.15
URAVIDEF	168.69	168.99	161.01	167.5	2758	0.97	30.45	177.43	384.88
HIGHENE	539.0	552.0	533.2	540.0	5688	0.61	36.65	570.13	607.72
ASTRAMICRO	885.9	903.6	882.45	891.85	163718	0.6	37.16	920.24	957.91
ROSSELLIND	50.77	51.99	50.5	50.96	16562	0.37	24.75	55.73	65.67
TANEJAERO	303.0	303.0	291.15	296.5	6351	0.08	33.89	313.02	363.41
LT	4079.0	4079.0	4040.0	4062.4	1087334	-0.03	58.28	4034.03	3619.25
ZENTEC	1358.0	1376.5	1343.5	1363.5	223675	-0.04	44.68	1386.28	1548.74
BHARATFORG	1415.0	1419.4	1400.5	1413.3	282655	-0.29	56.59	1412.35	1225.75
LOKESHMACH	166.1	171.5	163.0	165.05	30746	-0.51	50.22	157.81	181.44
MARINE	202.45	203.95	201.11	202.95	152367	-0.52	35.62	217.36	200.6
NIBE	1194.9	1194.9	1170.15	1188.55	1708	-0.54	61.34	1074.21	1343.26
BEL	388.0	388.4	385.0	385.6	6612962	-0.62	35.04	402.32	372.57
ADANIENT	2247.6	2255.0	2221.0	2232.5	651509	-0.69	40.07	2280.89	2418.4
HAL	4260.5	4270.0	4218.2	4228.4	645807	-0.77	30.63	4423.8	4544.06
SOLARINDS	11930.0	11980.0	11759.0	11815.0	62325	-0.86	23.43	12887.45	13819.94
RTNINDIA	40.55	40.74	39.72	40.18	1167177	-0.89	26.63	42.03	50.32
JYOTICNC	944.0	959.4	927.0	935.8	142433	-0.92	44.35	977.06	1016.17
AZAD	1590.0	1599.6	1574.3	1580.5	53700	-1.03	43.06	1634.3	1582.92
TECHERA	213.0	219.95	213.0	214.95	18400	-1.17	39.45	226.71	198.1
BEML	1710.6	1713.9	1675.7	1684.8	127146	-1.29	32.47	1772.15	1912.21
LMW	15213.0	15219.0	14945.0	14995.0	811	-1.35	44.95	15162.35	15637.24
IDEAFORGE	422.5	422.5	411.0	414.9	114543	-1.39	31.12	448.31	472.92
TEMBO	744.15	744.15	715.0	724.5	62044	-1.86	50.62	736.82	560.5
AVANTEL	149.6	150.0	145.61	146.67	704093	-2.04	39.12	151.27	147.94
MAZDOCK	2408.0	2415.9	2350.0	2356.6	650211	-2.13	23.45	2585.3	2845.41
APOLLO	228.55	229.9	222.05	223.55	1700548	-2.21	31.33	255.28	208.58
BDL	1359.0	1359.0	1320.1	1324.3	1065262	-2.31	29.81	1462.53	1561.15
GOODLUCK	1076.6	1081.5	1040.1	1051.2	47466	-2.36	32.26	1125.95	1015.77
MIDHANI	298.0	298.25	290.3	291.55	233219	-2.36	26.75	315.78	363.67
SUNITATOOL	745.0	753.0	725.0	730.25	5125	-2.38	34.24	822.49	775.84
GRSE	2295.0	2308.0	2222.0	2235.0	1019581	-2.41	27.15	2562.27	2428.73
CENTUM	2262.0	2276.5	2205.1	2213.1	11620	-2.45	38.86	2325.8	2222.28
DCXINDIA	160.24	160.24	155.7	156.3	333147	-2.46	22.76	173.36	254.16
MTARTECH	2378.0	2379.7	2286.9	2319.5	156935	-2.58	42.79	2453.57	1738.08
KRISHNADEF	697.45	718.45	674.0	679.1	24500	-2.63	32.47	754.58	788.98
CFF	551.0	561.0	445.0	538.0	26200	-3.01	24.5	597.19	586.07
PARAS	648.8	649.05	626.15	628.65	399390	-3.08	29.56	691.11	683.94
PREMEXPLN	492.2	493.25	473.05	474.7	191994	-3.46	26.73	522.3	511.44
COCHINSHIP	1565.0	1565.0	1495.0	1502.8	923611	-3.69	20.19	1635.21	1730.57
MACPOWER	1004.1	1004.4	961.5	964.05	6527	-3.99	51.85	975.44	880.97
DATAPATTNS	2580.0	2580.0	2447.1	2467.7	306261	-4.4	29.76	2794.1	2544.27
HBLPOWER	799.0	799.95	760.1	762.8	2850547	-4.64	29.0	841.43	688.87
DRONACHRYA	43.84	43.84	43.84	43.84	18000	-4.98	40.14	49.2	70.22
AXISCADES	1262.0	1272.5	1198.1	1198.1	93579	-5.0	28.03	1362.21	1239.89