



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

February 17, 2025 | Day 048

## Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
ADANIENT	2223.7	2152.65	+3.3%
PTC	142.04	137.76	+3.11%
HIGHENE	471.3	465.6	+1.22%
BHARATFORG	1082.65	1078.35	+0.4%

## Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
ZENTEC	1080.0	1350.0	-20.0%
LOKESHMACH	192.45	226.3	-14.96%
CFF	445.0	488.55	-8.91%
MTARTECH	1261.05	1351.1	-6.66%
DATAPATTNS	1518.5	1606.0	-5.45%

## Defense Business and Industry

### Global Aerospace Giants Boost Indian Sourcing to Cut Costs

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17-Feb-25

Global aerospace giants like Airbus and Rolls-Royce are ramping up parts sourcing from India, recognizing it as a key solution to supply chain disruptions and cost reduction. Indian firms such as Hical Technologies and JJG Aero are experiencing significant growth, with expectations to capture 10% of the global aerospace supply chain market by 2033. The booming Indian aviation sector, fueled by massive aircraft orders, positions the country as a critical player, moving from basic manufacturing to advanced engineering and design roles. With the global market projected to reach \$250 billion by 2033, India's aerospace industry is set for transformative growth, enhancing its international competitiveness.

### Indian Army Unveils Advanced Kamikaze Drone at IIT Jammu Expo

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17-Feb-25

The Indian Army showcased its advanced kamikaze drone at the IIT Jammu Expo, demonstrating its capabilities for surveillance and targeted attacks, with a payload capacity of 150-300 grams and flight durations of up to 30 minutes. This display comes amid criticism of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's remarks on India's drone industry using a Chinese drone, drawing backlash from industry leaders who emphasize the growth of over 400 domestic drone companies. The Drone Federation of India's president highlighted India's commitment to developing indigenous technology and

regulations to establish a robust drone ecosystem, reinforcing the importance of supporting local innovation in the face of external challenges.

### India and U.S. Team Up for Advanced Underwater Technologies

[SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

India and the United States are collaborating to co-produce advanced underwater domain awareness technologies, including sonobuoys and maritime drones, under the ASIA initiative, which aims to enhance regional security amidst rising geopolitical tensions, particularly from increasing Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean. This partnership emphasizes joint R&D, training, and the development of AI-enabled counter unmanned aerial systems, enhancing interoperability between the Indian Navy and U.S. forces. The co-production of sonobuoys, crucial for anti-submarine warfare, signifies a strong strategic alignment and commitment to shared security interests, marking a significant evolution in defense collaboration that transcends traditional military exercises. These advancements will bolster both nations' maritime capabilities by 2027.

### ADA and MIDHANI Join Forces to Develop High-Strength Steel for Aerospace

[SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) to develop high-strength steels essential for India's aerospace needs. MIDHANI, a key manufacturer of special steels and alloys, supports various defence organizations like DRDO and HAL in enhancing India's indigenous

capabilities. This collaboration aligns with the "Make in India" initiative, promoting self-reliance in defence manufacturing. The advanced manufacturing techniques employed by MIDHANI will significantly bolster India's strategic autonomy in the aerospace sector, reinforcing national security and technological independence while contributing to ongoing projects like TEJAS and the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

## India and US to Jointly Develop Advanced Maritime Surveillance Systems SHARE

17-Feb-25

India and the US are set to collaborate on the production of advanced maritime surveillance systems, including the Wave Glider unmanned surface vehicle, which will be manufactured locally with Sagar Defence Engineering. This initiative will produce 60 Wave Gliders, capable of extensive ocean deployment to monitor submarine movements and collect critical oceanic data. Additionally, the partnership involves the development of the Sea Picket system for continuous monitoring and the collaboration between state-owned Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited with US firms to enhance naval capabilities through sonar and sonobuoy systems. This collaboration signifies a significant step in strengthening India's naval defense capabilities and fostering strategic Indo-US ties in defense technology.

## France Offers Advanced 5th Gen Fighter Engine Tech to India SHARE

17-Feb-25

France has offered India advanced technology for a 110kN thrust engine for its fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), which aims for operational capability by the mid-2030s. Safran plans to collaborate with India's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) to establish a Defence Electronics facility in India, enhancing strategic independence in military jet engine development. Despite past challenges in technology transfer with Safran, the partnership emphasizes France's reliability amid geopolitical tensions. Some experts express caution regarding over-reliance on foreign technology, underscoring the importance of finalizing other defense deals, like Rafale-Marine fighters and Scorpene submarines, to strengthen India-France ties.

## India to Manufacture UK Air-to-Air Missiles for Exports SHARE

17-Feb-25

India is set to manufacture UK-origin air-to-air missiles, bolstering its defense capabilities through a partnership with Thales UK and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). Key agreements include the establishment of production facilities for Laser Beam Riding MANPADS and Advanced Short-Range Air to Air Missiles (ASRAAM) in Hyderabad, aimed at supporting both domestic needs and exports. This collaboration enhances India's self-reliance in defense technology, aligns with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, and promotes job creation and security cooperation between India and the UK. Overall, these developments signify a strategic shift towards greater indigenous production and interoperability, strengthening India's position in global defense markets.

## DRDO Unveils Advanced Pinaka Rocket Variant for Enhanced Range SHARE

17-Feb-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a new variant of the Pinaka rocket, potentially similar in calibre to the Russian Smerch rockets. This longer-range rocket will be compatible with the existing Pinaka Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL), with new variants being designed for ranges of 120 km and over 200 km, all approved by the Indian Army. Notably, specialized naval variants are also in development for underwater operations, with trials expected this year. Furthermore, the Indian Air Force is exploring the use of modified Pinaka systems as a cost-effective solution, enhancing India's strategic capabilities while diversifying its defense arsenal.

## Telangana Conclave Showcases AI Cybersecurity and Humanoid Robots SHARE

17-Feb-25

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau, in collaboration with the Society for Cyberabad Security Council, is organizing the SHIELD conclave, featuring 14 interactive stalls that will emphasize AI-driven cybersecurity and the introduction of a humanoid robot to enhance attendee engagement. This two-day event will showcase live cyberattack simulations by cybersecurity firms and companies specializing in drones for surveillance, illustrating the dynamic threats faced by individuals, corporations, and government entities. The conclave aims to facilitate real-time interaction and hands-on learning, reflecting India's

commitment to advancing its cybersecurity capabilities and fostering collaboration among industry leaders and government experts to counter emerging cyber threats effectively.

## **BDL and Advanced Defense Systems Partner to Co-Produce Ice Breaker Missile in India** **SHARE**

17-Feb-25

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Advanced Defense Systems to co-produce the Ice Breaker missile in India, a significant advancement in the nation's defense capabilities and self-reliance in defense manufacturing. The Ice Breaker is a state-of-the-art, long-range, precision-guided missile designed to effectively engage high-value targets while minimizing collateral damage. Its advanced features, such as an all-weather electro-optical seeker and low observability profile, enhance its effectiveness in modern warfare scenarios, including against Integrated Air Defense Systems. This collaboration underscores India's strategic partnership with global defense technology leaders, reinforcing its commitment to enhancing national security.

## **Hyprix's Tezz: India's First Privately Developed Ramjet Engine** **SHARE**

17-Feb-25

Hyprix, a Bangalore-based startup, has achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing Tezz, India's first privately developed ramjet engine. Developed in just five months in collaboration with the National Centre for Combustion Research and Development at IIT Madras, Tezz is designed for high-speed aviation, capable of operating between Mach 2 and Mach 4. This achievement underscores the growing synergy between India's academic and private sectors, enhancing self-reliance in defense manufacturing, supported by government initiatives like Startup India. The rapid progress made by Hyprix in advanced propulsion technologies reflects the potential for innovation within India's defense and aerospace industries, positioning the country for future advancements in high-speed flight capabilities.

## **HAL Prepares Supply Chain for 97 More Tejas Mk1A Jets Contract** **SHARE**

17-Feb-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is optimistic about securing a contract for an additional 97 Tejas Mk1A fighter jets from the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Aero

India 2025, following a previous order of 83 jets. HAL has begun engaging its supply chain to expedite procurement, ensuring smooth production ramp-up and timely deliveries. The anticipated deal, valued at over ₹67,000 crores, would bolster India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing and bring the Tejas Mk1A fleet to 180 aircraft. Key to this success will be stabilizing the supply of GE F404 engines, with HAL confident of improvements by 2027 to meet its production targets.

## **ADA Accelerates TEDBF Program, Aiming for 2027 Approval** **SHARE**

17-Feb-25

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) revealed significant progress on the Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF) program, targeting 2027 for Cabinet Committee on Security approval. Set to replace aging MiG-29Ks, the TEDBF will enhance the Indian Navy's operational capabilities with advanced features like automatic landing systems, twin-engine thrust, and cutting-edge avionics. This fifth-generation minus fighter, with a projected budget of ₹14,000 crore for five prototypes, is crucial for bolstering India's maritime defense strategy. The completion of the Critical Design Review by 2026 is a pivotal step towards achieving full-scale development and induction by 2038, aligning with the Navy's specific operational requirements.

## **Indigenous Bullet-Resistant Booth Enhances Safety for Security Forces** **SHARE**

17-Feb-25

The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has unveiled an indigenous bullet-resistant security booth designed for Indian security forces, enhancing their safety and operational efficiency at vulnerable posts. This High-Velocity Multi-Hit Resistant Movable Protective Booth can withstand 7.62-mm calibre projectiles and offers mobility with movable castor wheels, allowing quick repositioning. Priced at Rs 2 lakh, it aligns with the Make in India initiative by reducing reliance on foreign technology and catering specifically to Indian needs. This innovative solution addresses the challenges faced by security personnel in harsh conditions, ensuring they can operate with greater confidence and protection against small arms fire.

## Martin-Baker to Open Ejection Seat Facility in Bengaluru by 2025



17-Feb-25

Martin-Baker, a leading British manufacturer of ejection seats, is set to open a new facility in Bengaluru by 2025, enhancing its support for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and aligning with India's Make in India initiative. This facility will focus on the maintenance and production of ejection seats tailored for the IAF, which currently uses Martin-Baker seats in various aircraft, including the BAE Systems Hawk and SEPECAT Jaguar. The move signifies a commitment to bolster India's defense self-reliance, ensuring efficient operational support as the IAF modernizes its fleet with new aircraft like the Tejas Mk1A and MkII, meeting the increasing demand for advanced safety systems.

## Tonbo's Skeye Camera Boosts HAL's CATS Warrior Vision Capabilities



17-Feb-25

Tonbo Imaging has integrated its advanced Skeye multi-sensor camera into the nose cone of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's CATS Warrior Loyal Wingman, enhancing its operational capabilities in various environmental conditions. This system improves pilot vision during critical flight phases, ensuring safety in low visibility scenarios such as smoke and fog. The lightweight, durable design allows easy integration across different aircraft platforms, supporting India's goal for self-reliance in defense technologies. The deployment of Skeye on the CATS Warrior signifies a strategic advancement in India's indigenous defense capabilities, reinforcing operational effectiveness alongside manned fighter jets.

## Kalyani Group Unveils MaRG 155mm Artillery at IDEX 2025



17-Feb-25

At the 2025 International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) in Abu Dhabi, India's Kalyani Group showcased its indigenous MaRG 155mm artillery system, designed for rugged terrains and suited for the Indian Army's operational needs along northern and western borders. With a range of approximately 30 kilometers, the lightweight system enhances mobility and accuracy, reflecting India's growing defense manufacturing capabilities. Kalyani Group's participation underscores India's strategic intent to bolster its global defense presence and foster international partnerships, as the event attracted over 1,565 exhibitors from 65 countries, marking a

significant milestone in defense collaboration and innovation.

## LCA Mk2 to Boost Defense with Advanced Sensors for Threat Detection



17-Feb-25

India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk2 is poised to enhance its defense capabilities with advanced sensors, including the Missile Approach Warning System (MAWS) and Infrared Search and Track System (IRST), developed by the DRDO. These systems will significantly improve situational awareness and threat detection, providing 360-degree coverage and passive detection capabilities, which enhance survivability in combat. This initiative underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology, reducing dependence on foreign suppliers while aligning with the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. The successful integration of these technologies not only boosts the LCA Mk2's operational efficacy but also reinforces India's strategic autonomy in the defense sector.

## Russia Proposes New Trials for Kamov Ka-226T with VK-650V Engine



17-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Russia's Rostec announced that the VK-650V engine has replaced the French Safran Arrius 2G1 in the Kamov Ka-226T helicopter, aiming to enhance local production in India amidst supply chain challenges. This transition supports India's light utility helicopter requirements while aligning with Russia's import substitution strategy. The VK-650V engine, offering a power output of 650-750 horsepower, promises improved performance in diverse Indian terrains. Rostec emphasized the need for India to conduct extensive trials with the new engine, which could revive the joint venture between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Russian Helicopters, bolstering India's self-reliance and reducing dependence on foreign technologies.

## IAF Requests HAL to Lease HJT-36 Yashas Trainers for Evaluation



17-Feb-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has requested Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to propose leasing four upgraded HJT-36 Yashas Stage-2 trainers for evaluation, highlighting a strategic move towards enhancing indigenous training capabilities. These aircraft have undergone significant modifications to improve performance, particularly addressing previous

flight dynamics issues. The IAF's interest in the Yashas reflects its commitment to modernizing its training fleet with homegrown solutions, which could potentially lead to larger-scale induction if the evaluation is successful. This initiative underscores the importance of self-reliance in defense and the continuous effort to bolster the Indian defense industry while also addressing the critical needs of pilot training programs.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### Cost Comparison: F-35 vs. Rafale F4 for India's Fighter Jet Needs SHARE

17-Feb-25

India is evaluating advanced fighter jets, notably the US F-35 and the French Rafale F4, as well as the Russian Su-57. While the F-35 presents cutting-edge fifth-generation capabilities, its higher life cycle costs—estimated at \$80.16 billion over 40 years—contrast sharply with the Rafale F4's more economical \$48.71 billion, making the Rafale a cost-effective option. Additionally, the Su-57, with a lower unit cost, faces production challenges and offers less operational experience. India's decision will balance the need for technological superiority against budgetary constraints, emphasizing strategic autonomy alongside potential diversifications in defense partnerships, particularly with the US. The ongoing geopolitical dynamics, particularly concerning Pakistan's concerns over military imbalances, further complicate India's procurement strategy.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### Jaishankar and Bangladesh's Advisor Discuss Ties and BIMSTEC Summit SHARE

17-Feb-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Advisor Touhid Hossain to strengthen bilateral relations and discuss the upcoming BIMSTEC summit, where Bangladesh will assume the chair. This meeting, held on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference in Oman, aims to mitigate strains in ties following the political turmoil in Bangladesh that led to Sheikh Hasina's ouster and subsequent concerns over attacks on minority Hindus. The dialogue underscores India's commitment to regional cooperation and stability while addressing security issues surrounding

minority rights in Bangladesh, which could impact future diplomatic relations and regional security dynamics.

### Jaishankar Calls for Unity Among Indian Ocean Nations for Security SHARE

17-Feb-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the need for Indian Ocean nations to unite for regional security and prosperity during the 8th Indian Ocean Conference in Muscat. He highlighted the ocean's importance as a global lifeline and urged cooperation in addressing challenges like resource constraints, economic headwinds, and illegal trafficking. Jaishankar remarked on the necessity of transparent connectivity initiatives and India's role in strengthening regional capabilities and partnerships. He reiterated that collaboration would enhance stability and help nations achieve Sustainable Development Goals amidst a backdrop of geopolitical tensions and maritime disruptions. This call for unity accentuates India's commitment to a cooperative security framework in the Indian Ocean region.

### Germany open to sending troops to Ukraine amid cautious optimism. SHARE

17-Feb-25

Germany's defense ministry has indicated that it is prepared to contribute ground troops to Ukraine if a suitable framework is established, signaling a potential escalation in European involvement in the conflict. However, officials have tempered expectations regarding immediate outcomes from the upcoming Paris summit, suggesting that concrete results are unlikely. This position reflects Germany's cautious approach to enhancing its role in the Ukraine crisis while navigating the broader implications of U.S. influence in European security discussions. As the situation evolves, Germany's willingness to participate could shape future European defense strategies and collaborative efforts in addressing regional threats.

### Zelenskiy and UAE President Discuss Repatriating Ukrainians from Russia SHARE

17-Feb-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy met with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Dubai to discuss the repatriation of Ukrainians held in Russia, particularly children. The UAE has been instrumental in facilitating the return of those deported during the ongoing conflict. Zelenskiy emphasized the

urgency of freeing more individuals from captivity, while Sheikh Mohammed reiterated the UAE's commitment to promoting a peaceful resolution to the war. This engagement highlights the UAE's growing diplomatic role in international conflicts and its focus on humanitarian initiatives, reinforcing the importance of global collaboration in addressing complex geopolitical issues.

## Scholz Advocates for a Self-Reliant Europe Ahead of Security Talks



17-Feb-25

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz emphasized the need for a "strong and sovereign" Europe as he prepares for security talks in Paris with leaders from multiple European nations and NATO officials. The discussions come amid concerns over the U.S. diminishing role in the Ukraine conflict and will address Europe's future security architecture. Scholz highlighted the importance of a robust Ukrainian military while suggesting that Germany would consider troop deployment for a peace mission if the framework is established. This assertion reflects Europe's growing commitment to security independence and collective defense, reinforcing the notion that European nations must collaboratively shape their defense strategies in an evolving geopolitical landscape.

## UK Readies Peacekeeping Troops for Ukraine Amidst European Unity



17-Feb-25

The UK has expressed readiness to send peacekeeping troops to support a potential peace deal for Ukraine, amid increasing European resolve for security in the region. European leaders are converging in Paris to strategize following the US's decision to engage in talks with Russia without Ukrainian involvement. Germany and Sweden are also considering troop contributions, though concerns about European military capacity and funding persist. This situation underscores the need for Europe to bolster its defense capabilities independently as it navigates the complexities of the ongoing conflict, emphasizing a collective security approach in the face of Russian aggression.

## Netanyahu vows severe action in Gaza if hostages aren't freed



17-Feb-25

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that Israel would "open the gates of hell" in Gaza if Hamas fails to return all hostages, emphasizing a joint US-Israeli strategy to eliminate Hamas's military and

political presence. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio supported this, highlighting President Trump's bold vision for Gaza's future, which includes radical proposals such as resettling Palestinians in other countries. This stance reinforces the urgency of addressing the hostage situation while aiming for a lasting solution to the ongoing conflict, marking a significant shift in US-Israeli relations and strategy in the region. The approach indicates a commitment to decisive action against militant threats.

## Zelenskyy: Ukraine Will Not Join U.S.-Russia Talks, Rejects Terms



17-Feb-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that Ukraine will not participate in U.S.-Russia talks aimed at resolving the ongoing war, underscoring that any outcomes from such discussions are unacceptable without Ukrainian involvement. Despite a Ukrainian delegation being in Saudi Arabia for potential economic agreements, Zelenskyy emphasized that negotiations without Ukraine's presence would yield no results. U.S. and Russian officials plan to discuss restoring relations and potential peace talks, but Zelenskyy's advisers have rejected any dialogue until a concrete plan for a "just peace" is established. This highlights Ukraine's insistence on having a say in any resolution to the conflict impacting its sovereignty.

## Congress Leader's Comments on China Spark Controversy and Criticism



17-Feb-25

The BJP has criticized Congress leader Sam Pitroda for downplaying the Chinese threat to India, suggesting that his remarks reflect a broader Congress alignment with Chinese interests. During a press conference, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi emphasized that Pitroda's comments undermine India's security posture, implying that they portray India as the aggressor rather than addressing the real challenges posed by China. This controversy highlights the ongoing political debate regarding national security and the perception of threats, particularly in the context of India-China relations, where a unified stance is crucial for maintaining India's strategic interests.

## Pakistani Media Claims Covert Indian Army Ops in PoK



17-Feb-25

Pakistani media has accused the Indian Army of covert operations in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, alleging the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and

other subversive tactics to destabilize the region. Reports suggest that since 2016, there have been 54 incidents of IEDs attributed to India, claiming civilian casualties and ceasing ceasefire violations. Pakistan alleges that these actions are part of a broader strategy to incite unrest and undermine its authority in the region, including false flag operations to shift blame. While these assertions come from Pakistani sources, India maintains that its actions are defensive and aimed at countering terrorism emanating from across the border.

## J&K L-G Affirms Army's Readiness to Handle Border Challenges [SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha affirmed the Army's capability to manage border situations, emphasizing ongoing anti-terror operations following the martyrdom of two soldiers due to an IED blast attributed to terrorists. He highlighted the Indian Army's effective response, which reportedly inflicted casualties on the Pakistan side of the Line of Control. Sinha noted that security forces are diligently dismantling the terror ecosystem in the region, operating under directives from Union Home Minister Amit Shah for zero tolerance towards infiltration and terrorism. This coordinated approach signals India's commitment to maintaining peace and security in Jammu and Kashmir while countering cross-border threats decisively.

## Military Operations

### Indian Army Strikes Back After Pakistan Fires Along LoC [SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

Following an incident where Pakistani troops opened fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch, the Indian Army effectively retaliated, ensuring no casualties on the Indian side. This event occurred amid reaffirmations from the Army that the ceasefire remains intact despite minor incidents of firing. Local residents expressed their support for the Indian Army, emphasizing their solidarity in light of Pakistan's history of ceasefire violations. The Indian Army continues to maintain a high state of alertness and is conducting joint operations with local police to track potential terrorist movements in the region. This reflects India's strategic commitment to ensuring stability and security along the LoC while upholding ceasefire agreements.

### Israeli strike kills Hamas leader in southern Lebanon amid tensions. [SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

The Israeli military has reportedly killed Muhammad Shaheen, a Hamas leader in southern Lebanon, who was allegedly orchestrating terrorist activities with Iranian support. This strike is part of Israel's broader military actions against Hamas and Hezbollah amid ongoing tensions stemming from the Gaza conflict. While a truce was brokered by Washington allowing Israeli troop withdrawal from southern Lebanon, Israel has expressed the need to maintain a presence in certain areas due to ongoing threats. This situation underscores the intricate web of regional alliances and the persistent security challenges faced by Israel, further complicating the dynamics in an already volatile region.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### Assam Police to investigate Pakistani national's anti-India ties amid political tensions. [SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

Assam's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has initiated an investigation against Pakistani national Ali Sheikh, accused of promoting an anti-India agenda and allegedly connecting with Congress MP Gourav Gogoi's wife, Elizabeth. The Assam Cabinet has directed the DGP to register a case against Sheikh and conduct extensive inquiries to uncover any potential conspiracies or local sympathizers. Sarma emphasized the seriousness of Sheikh's activities given Assam's history of ISI involvement, highlighting the need for national security vigilance. Gogoi, countering the allegations, criticized the BJP for deflecting attention from its unfulfilled promises to the people of Assam, framing the situation as a slanderous political tactic.

### Manipur Security Forces Nab 11 Militants in Two-Day Operation [SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

Security forces in Manipur have successfully arrested 11 militants over two days, including seven suspected members of the Kuki National Army (KNA) and four from the Kangleipak Communist Party (PWG group). The arrests followed the state's withdrawal from a tripartite suspension of operations pact with the KNA and other groups in March 2023, which had aimed to curb insurgency. During the operations, authorities

recovered firearms, ammunition, and incriminating documents. This crackdown underscores the Indian government's commitment to enhancing stability in the region, addressing insurgency threats, and reinforcing law and order in Manipur amid ongoing challenges in the area.

## Miscellaneous

### US Air Force Brings Third Batch of Indian Deportees to Amritsar

[SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

Third batch of Indian deportees from the US landed at Amritsar Airport shortly after previous flights brought back 104 and 116 individuals. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann criticized the central government's decision, alleging it was a conspiracy to defame Punjab, and raised concerns over security and the treatment of deportees, insisting that they would be well-supported upon their return. Reports indicated that women and children were not restrained on the flights, and the state government is encouraging deportees to report human traffickers. Prime Minister Modi has emphasized India's readiness to repatriate citizens living illegally abroad and highlighted the need to dismantle the human trafficking ecosystem, underlining cooperation with the US in this endeavor. This situation reflects ongoing diplomatic complexities and humanitarian concerns regarding illegal migration.

### DeepSeek Banned in South Korea Over Data Privacy Issues

[SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

The Chinese AI app DeepSeek has faced significant backlash globally, leading to its removal from South Korean app stores amid data privacy concerns, with similar actions taken in Italy, Australia, and other countries. Authorities cite fears of extensive data collection and potential misuse linked to the Chinese government, echoing previous concerns around platforms like TikTok. In India, the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has initiated a thorough review of the app's implications for Indian users. Experts highlight the urgency for India, given its geopolitical tensions with China, advocating for the development of localized alternatives that can leverage AI without compromising data security. The situation underscores the critical need for robust regulatory frameworks to mitigate risks associated with foreign technology while fostering indigenous innovation.

### India's Gaganyaan Program Deferred to 2028, Expanding Ambitions

[SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

India's Gaganyaan program, aimed at sending vyomanauts to space, has been deferred to 2028, now set to include two crewed and six uncrewed missions,

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### Pro-Russian Hackers Target Italian Websites Amid Rising Tensions

[SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

Recent cyberattacks on around 20 Italian websites, including banks and airports, have been attributed to the pro-Russian hacker group Noname057(16), reflecting heightened tensions between Italy and Russia. Italy's cybersecurity agency linked the attacks to President Sergio Mattarella's comments comparing Russia's actions in Ukraine to Nazi Germany's expansionism, which provoked Moscow's ire. Despite the attacks, major disruptions were not reported by the affected organizations. This incident underscores the growing significance of cybersecurity in geopolitical conflicts, highlighting the necessity for nations like India to enhance their cyber defenses amid similar threats in the region.

### DOGE Website Hacked: Security Flaw Exposes Sensitive Info

[SHARE](#)

17-Feb-25

The newly launched Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) website, aimed at enhancing government transparency, has faced a significant security breach just days after its launch, exposing vulnerabilities and potentially leaking classified information regarding the National Reconnaissance Office. Cybersecurity experts have criticized the site's hasty development, indicating it may not even be hosted on secure servers. Furthermore, despite its mission to cut costs, DOGE's spending has dramatically increased from \$6.75 million to \$14.4 million shortly after its inception, raising questions about its operational efficiency. This incident underscores the critical importance of robust cybersecurity measures in government initiatives, particularly when handling sensitive information.

with the first crewed flight expected no earlier than 2026. The budget has risen to 20,193 crores due to expanded goals, including an operational Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035 and a crewed Moon mission by 2040. Delays stem from the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain issues, and the need for enhanced safety measures. If successful, India will join the ranks of the U.S., Russia, and China in independent human spaceflight, showcasing its growing capabilities in space exploration and technology.

## President Murmu Presides Over Revamped Change of Guard Ceremony



17-Feb-25

President Droupadi Murmu recently attended the inaugural change of guard ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, which has been updated to include a more elaborate visual and musical performance, showcasing the pride and heritage of the Indian armed forces. The new format features military drills by the President's Bodyguard, along with the Ceremonial Guard Battalion and Brass Band, now held in the forecourt to accommodate over a thousand spectators. This transition reflects a commitment to enhancing ceremonial events and public engagement with the military traditions, reinforcing the significance of discipline and pride in India's defense forces. The President's Bodyguard continues to uphold its legacy as the senior-most regiment in ceremonial duties.

## SGPC Criticizes US for Depriving Sikh Deportees of Turbans



17-Feb-25

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) condemned US authorities for allegedly not allowing Sikh deportees to wear turbans upon their return to India, raising concerns over their treatment during deportation. A recent batch of 116 illegal Indian immigrants arrived at Amritsar airport, with reports of them being shackled and deprived of their turbans during the journey. SGPC officials provided turbans to the deportees upon arrival, emphasizing that the turban

is an integral part of Sikh identity. SGPC and local leaders urged the Indian Ministry of External Affairs to address this matter with the US to prevent future occurrences, highlighting the need for respectful treatment of cultural and religious symbols.

## Rana's Extradition Offers Key Insights into 26/11 Terror Attacks



17-Feb-25

The possible extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana from the US to India presents a significant opportunity to uncover critical insights into his activities prior to the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, where 166 individuals were killed. As a close associate of David Coleman Headley, Rana's movements across various Indian cities will be thoroughly investigated to establish the purpose of his visits. His extradition, approved by the US government, underscores the ongoing commitment to addressing terrorism, especially from Pakistan-based groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba. This development not only aids in seeking justice for the victims but also reinforces India's determination to combat terrorism effectively on its soil.

## NewSpace Research Unveils Abhimanyu Combat Aircraft Concept



17-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, NewSpace Research and Technologies (NRT) unveiled the concept model of its Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA), named Abhimanyu, aimed at enhancing the Indian armed forces' capabilities through manned-unmanned teaming (MUM-T). The project is set to produce a demonstrator by 2026 and complete development by 2029, showcasing features like low radar cross-section, multi-role functionality, and cost-effectiveness. NRT has secured a contract under the iDEX scheme to develop a Naval Collaborative Combat Air Vehicle variant for carrier operations, indicating strong interest from the Indian Navy. This initiative reflects India's commitment to indigenous defense technology and modern warfare readiness.

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# Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
ADANIENT	2152.65	2240.4	2110.65	2223.7	1400160	3.3	42.19	2293.88	2853.56
PTC	136.51	143.79	135.2	142.04	2517613	3.11	50.88	140.34	189.55
HIGHENE	442.05	474.9	442.05	471.3	7102	1.22	24.48	522.82	689.41
BHARATFORG	1078.35	1088.7	1051.55	1082.65	425715	0.4	30.29	1159.68	1456.17
LMW	14165.8	14473.45	13876.6	14320.05	16852	-0.02	27.42	15327.73	16162.29
ASTRAMICRO	625.0	642.0	607.05	625.95	273684	-0.02	31.18	699.83	820.16
APOLLO	112.5	115.5	109.51	113.3	6344961	-0.42	40.81	126.26	108.58
LT	3213.55	3239.4	3194.55	3221.85	1966689	-0.49	35.7	3380.95	3585.18
BEL	248.95	250.0	242.6	248.5	24947159	-0.74	35.6	270.92	289.6
IDEAFORGE	386.0	391.95	376.0	383.5	152865	-0.87	17.6	459.78	656.97
TANEJAERO	318.95	337.35	312.2	317.4	17180	-0.92	32.9	351.76	483.12
HAL	3489.0	3549.95	3395.0	3475.7	1606401	-1.08	37.05	3724.17	4507.45
ROSSELLIND	64.95	64.95	59.06	61.28	22653	-1.43	24.95	67.97	303.27
COCHINSHIP	1224.05	1249.95	1196.0	1216.35	812884	-1.61	28.58	1393.77	1786.24
TEMBO	0.0	665.55	665.55	665.55	4005	-2.0	47.2	661.95	466.99
MIDHANI	268.4	272.9	258.3	262.55	679589	-2.18	28.89	302.44	391.76
BEML	2749.0	2844.0	2651.3	2691.6	518796	-2.47	25.11	3313.15	4006.84
KRISHNADEF	624.75	624.75	600.0	608.1	47250	-2.68	39.06	663.01	705.93
SOLARINDS	8802.05	8822.35	8551.25	8619.35	89448	-2.74	36.16	9357.7	10249.1
BDL	1090.0	1109.5	1058.3	1071.9	1085852	-2.78	36.83	1201.62	1262.95
PARAS	918.95	926.95	864.3	884.0	190643	-3.17	34.0	1014.22	1094.7
DCXINDIA	259.75	265.45	247.55	251.2	844624	-3.63	22.8	311.78	339.53
MAZDOCK	2143.8	2159.9	2075.0	2083.1	3195135	-3.84	38.16	2257.1	2139.76
AVANTEL	111.76	114.5	107.5	108.69	873447	-3.87	24.77	128.04	-
GRSE	1338.05	1362.35	1289.0	1294.65	828140	-4.16	30.54	1492.38	1701.21
HBLPOWER	491.65	499.1	470.1	477.6	2046910	-4.68	35.15	538.27	577.87
AZAD	1296.55	1307.5	1227.95	1235.25	338302	-4.73	29.97	1459.98	1594.94
PREMEXPLN	390.05	391.6	371.45	375.2	233911	-4.84	35.64	422.26	540.02
NIBE	1212.95	1212.95	1152.95	1152.95	16342	-5.0	32.28	1383.24	1742.83
MARINE	164.97	164.97	159.32	159.32	137365	-5.0	22.83	200.44	216.5
SIKA	2287.0	2375.0	2182.0	2197.85	7374	-5.03	41.44	2310.02	2631.05
DATAPATNS	1609.75	1625.35	1510.15	1518.5	420948	-5.45	21.02	1958.99	2621.06
MTARTECH	1327.05	1342.4	1226.2	1261.05	375017	-6.66	23.03	1520.03	1750.8
CFE	485.0	485.0	445.0	445.0	30600	-8.91	22.36	572.26	654.73
LOKESHMACH	210.25	211.95	181.05	192.45	409440	-14.96	19.4	271.48	371.86
ZENTEC	1206.0	1231.45	1080.0	1080.0	1486086	-20.0	17.95	1633.7	1655.28