



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

December 19, 2025 | Day 353

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
DCXINDIA	186.4	156.76	+18.91%
KRISHNADEF	727.25	673.2	+8.03%
DYNAMATECH	9515.5	9029.5	+5.38%
RELINFRA	173.2	164.96	+5.0%
URAVIDEF	179.83	171.27	+5.0%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
PTC	154.4	157.74	-2.12%
TEMBO	724.7	735.65	-1.49%
DRONACHRYA	41.4	41.76	-0.86%
WALCHANNAG	196.04	197.53	-0.75%
SUNITATOOL	730.0	732.3	-0.31%

Defense Business and Industry

Rajnath Singh signs Defence Cooperation agreement with Netherlands, boosting ties.



19-Dec-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has formalized a Letter of Intent on Defence Cooperation with Netherlands Foreign Minister David Van Weel, reinforcing the strategic partnership between the two nations. This agreement aims to enhance military cooperation and co-development of defence technologies, aligning with India's 'Make in India' initiative and self-reliance goals under the Atmanirbhar Bharat framework. The collaboration promises technological advancements in areas such as aerospace and maritime systems while diversifying India's defence industrial ecosystem amidst global geopolitical shifts. As the Netherlands strengthens its Indo-Pacific presence, this partnership could also lead to joint exercises and intelligence sharing, positioning India-Netherlands defence relations for significant operational and industrial gains in the future.

Sudarshan Chakra vital for enhancing India's air defense capabilities, says Rajnath Singh.



19-Dec-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the strategic importance of the indigenous air defense system 'Sudarshan Chakra' during the Air Force Commanders Conference in New Delhi, asserting that it will significantly strengthen India's national security. He outlined that the project, initiated by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, aims to develop a robust multi-layered air defense capability to address emerging aerial threats, particularly in light of lessons learned from Operation Sindoor, which demonstrated the effectiveness of India's air power in modern warfare. Singh highlighted the necessity of technological advancement, citing the integration of cyber warfare, artificial intelligence, and drone technology as vital to future military operations. He praised the indomitable public faith in the armed forces, particularly during recent security incidents involving Pakistan, asserting that the continuous efforts to modernize India's defense capabilities are crucial for ensuring national safety and strategic deterrence.

India targets Rs 3 lakh Cr defense production, Rs 50,000 Cr exports by 2029, emphasizing MSME roles.



19-Dec-25

India has set an ambitious target of achieving Rs 3 lakh crore in defence production and Rs 50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to self-reliance in the defence sector, as articulated by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. The country recorded its highest-ever defence production at Rs 1.54 lakh crore in FY 2024-25, marking a remarkable growth of 174 per cent over the past decade. Defence exports surged dramatically to Rs 23,622 crore, a significant increase from Rs 686 crore in FY 2013-14, with India now supplying a diverse range of defence products to over 100 countries. The role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has been pivotal, with approximately 16,000 MSMEs contributing to the defence manufacturing ecosystem, fostering public-private collaborations. Recent policy reforms, including the Defence Procurement Manual 2025 and active indigenisation efforts, are driving a transition

from heavy import dependence towards innovation and efficiency, enhancing India's position in global defence manufacturing while strengthening national security and international partnerships. This trajectory aligns with broader strategic goals to elevate India's geopolitical stature in response to regional threats.

HAL Awards ₹640 Crore Contract for Advanced Maritime Radar Systems to Lotus Technologies and IAI-Elta

 **SHARE**

19-Dec-25

Lotus Advanced Technologies (LAT) has secured a significant contract valued at over ₹640 crore from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the supply and integration of advanced Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Maritime Patrol Radar (MPR) systems onto the Indian Navy's Dornier 228 aircraft. This strategic partnership with Israel's IAI-Elta marks a pivotal step in enhancing India's maritime surveillance, reconnaissance, and coastal security capabilities, aligning with the government's Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. The AESA radar technology promises superior performance with features such as long-range surface search, rapid target tracking, and improved operational reliability, addressing complex maritime challenges faced by the Indian Navy. The integration of these cutting-edge radar systems is expected to significantly bolster the Navy's ability to monitor and secure India's extensive maritime jurisdiction, which is critical for national security and economic interests, especially amidst growing geopolitical tensions in the region. This development not only underscores the increasing confidence in private Indian defense firms but also highlights the ongoing transformation within India's defense sector, positioning it as a more self-reliant player in strategic defense manufacturing.

Natilus plans India facility for next-gen aircraft, enhancing IAF capabilities.

 **SHARE**

19-Dec-25

US-based Natilus announced on December 17, 2025, a conditional order from SpiceJet for 100 Horizon blended-wing-body (BWB) aircraft, establishing Natilus India in Mumbai to pursue certification with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and explore local manufacturing for up to 300 jets annually. This development supports India's self-reliance in aerospace, with plans for component sourcing from domestic suppliers, aligning with booming air travel demand projected to require over 2,200 new aircraft by

2040. The Horizon promises 30% lower fuel use, 40% more cabin volume, and compatibility with existing infrastructure, potentially enabling Indian Air Force evaluations for refueling, cargo, or drone adaptations. Still conceptual and pursuing FAA certification first, with cargo variant Kona eyed for late-2020s entry ahead of passenger Horizon in early 2030s, realization hinges on regulatory progress amid historical BWB challenges, though SpiceJet's backing and Natilus's \$8.7 billion global pre-orders signal viable potential by mid-2030s.

Indian Navy backs autonomous drone swarm development for mine neutralization.

 **SHARE**

19-Dec-25

The Indian Navy launched an iDEX Winners-2025 challenge on December 19, 2025, for developing autonomous underwater drone swarms to neutralize seabed mines, presented at INS Satavahana in Visakhapatnam. This initiative requires at least ten AI-driven drones equipped with sonar for independent mine detection and destruction using 7-kg explosive payloads at 60-meter depths, targeting a cost under ₹8 crore per pack. Building on DRDO's NSTL advancements in man-portable AUVs from Visakhapatnam, which enable networked swarm operations for rapid threat classification via deep-learning and acoustic communication, the program bolsters India's maritime dominance in the Indian Ocean Region. It minimizes risks from manned mine-clearing, aligning with Aatmanirbhar Bharat by fostering indigenous innovation against regional underwater threats.

Sakthi Group launches India's first private trainer aircraft facility in Tamil Nadu.

 **SHARE**

19-Dec-25

Sakthi Aircraft Industry Pvt Ltd (SAIPL), a Sakthi Group subsidiary, announced on December 14, 2025, the launch of India's first private-sector trainer aircraft manufacturing facility in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu, with production starting in January 2026 and initial deliveries by February or March. Backed by a ₹750 crore investment—including a smaller unit in Uttar Pradesh for tooling and maintenance—the facility partners with Austria's Diamond Aircraft Industries for technology transfer to produce DA40 NG and DA42 models, reducing import dependence for Flying Training Organisations amid surging pilot demand. Tamil Nadu's robust infrastructure, highlighted by an MoU signed at the TN Rising Coimbatore Summit in November 2025,

positions the state as an aerospace hub, targeting 40 deliveries in 2026 and 100 annual capacity by 2027 while creating high-skilled jobs and bolstering India's 'Make in India' aviation self-reliance.

Embraer accelerates C-390 and E-Jets talks with India, ensuring local production. SHARE

19-Dec-25

India advances its aerospace self-reliance following Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) MoU with Russia's United Aircraft Corporation on October 27, 2025, to manufacture the sanction-proof SJ-100 regional jet locally, enhancing regional connectivity under the UDAN scheme. Brazilian firm Embraer has accelerated talks post this pact, proposing full local production of its C-390 Millennium military transport for the Indian Air Force's Medium Transport Aircraft programme via partnership with Mahindra Defence, alongside E-Jet E2 assembly lines for civil aviation. Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu highlighted these sanction-free options on November 26, 2025, positioning India as a manufacturing hub amid diversified partnerships. This strategy bolsters domestic capabilities, job creation, and geopolitical resilience in defence and aviation sectors.

IAF's Rafale procurement risks repeating Mirage-2000 obsolescence issues, experts warn. SHARE

19-Dec-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) faces a critical decision regarding the procurement of 114 Rafale fighter jets, drawing comparisons to the delayed Mirage-2000 upgrade that has become a cautionary tale. Analysts caution that repeating past mistakes could hinder modernization efforts, as timelines suggest integration with advanced indigenous platforms like the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) may render the Rafale strategically inferior upon arrival. Concerns over sovereignty, weapon integration, and potential delays with French suppliers highlight the risks involved. To avoid a legacy fleet dependent on foreign permissions, experts advocate for stringent guarantees, including full source code transfer and unrestricted weapon integration, emphasizing the need for a robust commitment to indigenous defense capabilities.

Russia offers India three upgraded Kilo-class subs as interim solution until P-75I project completion. SHARE

19-Dec-25

Russia has proposed transferring three upgraded Kilo-class diesel-electric submarines to India for under \$1 billion, serving as a critical interim measure amid delays in Project 75I, with negotiations advancing toward a German partnership and first inductions eyed for 2032. Reported on December 18, 2025, following President Putin's December visit, the modernized vessels—featuring Klub-S (Kalibr) missiles, stealth coatings, and 20-year service extensions—would replace retired units like INS Sindhurakshak (2017), Sindhuvir, and Sindhudhvaj (2022), bolstering a fleet of 16 conventional subs at risk of shrinking to single digits by 2030. From India's strategic lens, this stopgap sustains underwater deterrence in the Indo-Pacific against China-Pakistan threats, leverages existing Sindhughosh-class logistics at Visakhapatnam, and preserves operational tempo without derailing 'Make in India' long-term goals.

IAF's Co-Development Role Accelerates Tejas Mk2 Induction by 2026 SHARE

19-Dec-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is adopting a proactive co-developer role in the Tejas Mk2 programme, aiming for operational service within four years of its first flight, anticipated around 2026. This strategic shift allows the IAF to lead on weapon integrations, utilizing combat-proven munitions like the Astra missiles to expedite induction, while also fostering internal expertise in software and systems integration. By implementing an "induct first, upgrade later" strategy, the IAF seeks to quickly field a multi-role fighter to replace aging fleets, thereby enhancing India's strategic autonomy in aerospace defense and ensuring readiness against evolving aerial threats. This collaborative model positions the IAF as a pivotal architect of an agile and modern indigenous fighter force.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Defence Minister Highlights Air Power's Crucial Role in Modern Warfare SHARE

19-Dec-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has emphasized the growing significance of air power in modern warfare, highlighting the Indian Air Force's (IAF) successful

Operation Sindoor as a prime example of India's military capability. The operation, which commenced on May 7, involved precise strikes against terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, showcasing IAF's agility and technological prowess. It effectively neutralized threats while maintaining air superiority, disrupting key operational capabilities of the Pakistan Air Force. Singh underscored the importance of tri-service synergy among the Army, Navy, and Air Force, stating that such collaboration is vital for enhancing national security. He also highlighted the Modi government's commitment to self-reliance in defense, pointing to initiatives like iDEX and the development of indigenous jet engines as critical for future preparedness. The Defence Minister's remarks reflect India's evolving defense strategy that prioritizes technological superiority and operational readiness in an increasingly complex global security environment.

Government considers 20-25% defense budget increase for FY27 to enhance capabilities and boost domestic manufacturing.



19-Dec-25

The Indian government is contemplating a significant 20-25% increase in the defense budget for FY27 to enhance military capabilities and bolster domestic defense manufacturing. This proposed budgetary boost, alongside potential changes to procurement policies, aims to promote private sector participation and reduce dependency on imports. The Defense Ministry is advocating for an increase in research and development funding from approximately Rs 27,000 crore to Rs 35,000-40,000 crore to support innovative technological advancements. By leveling the playing field for private firms alongside public sector undertakings, the government seeks to foster a competitive defense industry that will ultimately strengthen India's security framework and promote self-reliance.

Trump signs \$1 trillion defense bill, boosting military support, especially for Ukraine.



19-Dec-25

U.S. President Donald Trump signed the nearly \$1 trillion National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal 2026, which authorizes a record \$901 billion in military spending, including \$800 million for Ukraine's defense. The bill represents a compromise in Congress, reinforcing security in Europe by limiting troop withdrawals and supporting Baltic nations. Despite

Trump's previous hesitations about European security commitments, the NDAA includes provisions that align with his executive orders, such as funding for the Golden Dome missile defense system. This legislation underscores ongoing U.S. support for NATO and its allies amid geopolitical tensions, particularly concerning Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Politics

Bangladesh protests surge after activist's assassination, media offices targeted.



19-Dec-25

Bangladesh is reeling from widespread protests following the assassination of activist Sharif Osman Hadi, who succumbed to injuries from a gunshot wound sustained during an attack in Dhaka on December 12. His death has intensified tensions ahead of the February 2026 elections, marking a significant loss for the pro-democracy movement that emerged after the ousting of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hadi's assassination has prompted fears of escalating violence and potential electoral instability, as interim Prime Minister Muhammad Yunus accused a powerful network of orchestrating the attack to derail the electoral process. With the interim government declaring a national day of mourning and calling for special prayers, the protests illustrate the deepening political crisis in Bangladesh, including concerns over the safety of opposition figures and the role of media in covering the unrest. As investigators continue their manhunt for Hadi's attackers, the broader implications of this incident raise critical questions regarding Bangladesh's democratic aspirations and security environment in the lead-up to the elections.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India and Oman strengthen maritime cooperation for security and economy.



19-Dec-25

India and Oman have adopted a Joint Vision Document on Maritime Cooperation, marking a significant milestone in their multifaceted strategic partnership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sultan Haitham bin Tarik discussed enhancing collaboration across sectors including trade, energy, and security, with a focus on

maritime security and sustainable ocean resource use. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) aims to dismantle trade barriers and foster investment, while commitments to deepen defense ties through joint exercises and training programs were emphasized. Notably, both nations condemned terrorism and expressed concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza, advocating for safe aid delivery. The joint initiatives also include cultural exchanges and educational collaborations, underscoring the importance of people-to-people ties. Overall, these developments reflect a strategic recalibration in India-Oman relations, positioning both nations to better navigate regional and global challenges while reinforcing their economic and security frameworks.

Pakistan seeks clarification from India on Chenab River flow variations.



19-Dec-25

Pakistan has expressed significant concerns regarding alleged variations in the flow of the Chenab River, prompting its Indus Water Commissioner to formally seek clarification from India. This incident follows India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in the wake of a terror attack in April, a move that Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has described as a material breach of the treaty, warning that any manipulation of water resources would be considered an act of war. Dar's statements highlight the critical impact of India's actions on Pakistan's agricultural cycle and overall economic security, emphasizing that these developments threaten regional stability and the sanctity of international law. The IWT, established in 1960 to govern the distribution of river waters between the two nations, is now under strain, with Pakistan reiterating its commitment to resolving disputes peacefully while asserting its water rights. This escalating situation underscores the fragile nature of water security in a region already fraught with geopolitical tensions.

EU finalizes €90 billion support for Ukraine, freezing Russian assets.



19-Dec-25

European Union leaders have finalized a significant financial package amounting to 90 billion euros (\$105 billion) to support Ukraine amidst its ongoing conflict with Russia, shifting to a strategy of borrowing instead of utilizing frozen Russian assets. This decision, reached after intense negotiations, underscores the EU's commitment to bolstering Ukraine's defense while facing internal dissent, particularly from Hungary

regarding financial contributions. While there are plans to potentially use frozen Russian funds for future repayments, the failure to implement a reparations loan reflects the complexities of EU consensus-building. This outcome illustrates the challenges the EU faces in enhancing its geopolitical role, as leaders emphasize immediate support for Ukraine amid broader tensions with Russia and U.S. diplomatic maneuvers.

Bangladesh's turmoil poses security challenges for Northeast India, report warns.



19-Dec-25

A Parliamentary Committee report has underscored significant security implications for India's Northeast stemming from the political turmoil in Bangladesh, urging enhanced intelligence-sharing and effective border management. The report highlights growing foreign influence, particularly from China, and recommends proactive diplomatic engagement to support minority rights and political stability in Bangladesh. It emphasizes the historical ties and mutual benefits of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement while advocating for innovative surveillance solutions along the porous border. The report also calls for a Strategic Communication and Perception Management Unit to counter anti-India narratives, reflecting India's commitment to maintaining constructive relations despite regional challenges.

India and Malaysia enhance defense ties through successful Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025 in Rajasthan.



19-Dec-25

The fifth edition of Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti-2025 between the Indian Army and the Royal Malaysian Army successfully concluded at Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, featuring 120 Indian troops and 70 Malaysian personnel. Conducted from December 5-18, the exercise emphasized sub-conventional operations, particularly counter-terrorism, and included joint tactical drills, heliborne operations, and live firing practices. The event significantly enhanced interoperability and mutual understanding between the two forces while promoting best practices in modern warfare adaptability. This strengthened defense cooperation not only solidifies India-Malaysia relations but also reinforces regional security dynamics amidst evolving geopolitical challenges.

Protests in Chattogram link anti-India sentiment to political unrest following Hadi's assassination.



19-Dec-25

Protests erupted outside the Indian Assistant High Commission in Chattogram, Bangladesh, following the assassination of Sharif Osman Hadi, a prominent anti-establishment figure and leader of last year's student uprising, who was shot while campaigning. Demonstrators expressed grievances against the Awami League and directed their anger towards India, with narratives framing Hadi's death as linked to "Indian hegemony." Indian agencies suspect that the murder may be an internal scheme aimed at stoking anti-India sentiments and delaying upcoming elections, especially as opposition parties like the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) gain traction. The situation reflects a broader trend of politically motivated violence, including targeting pro-India individuals and media, while law enforcement appears to be managing the unrest selectively. This orchestrated chaos not only threatens internal stability in Bangladesh but also poses challenges for India's diplomatic relations, as the narrative being constructed around Hadi's assassination seeks to vilify India amidst an already tense political landscape.

Modi Highlights India's Economic Growth and Trade Ties in Oman



19-Dec-25

During his recent visit to Oman, Prime Minister Modi emphasized India's status as the fastest-growing major economy, with GDP growth exceeding 8%. This visit, part of a broader diplomatic tour, culminated in the signing of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, enhancing trade ties by granting duty-free access to 98% of Indian exports to Oman, expected to boost economic cooperation significantly. Modi highlighted India's manufacturing prowess, particularly in mobile phone production, and praised the Indian diaspora in Oman for strengthening bilateral relations. The tour also involved deepening partnerships with Jordan and Ethiopia, reflecting India's strategic focus on enhancing ties in West Asia and Africa, which is vital for reinforcing regional influence and economic resilience amid global challenges.

Chinese Bombers Deployed at Hotan as India Conducts Military Drills



19-Dec-25

Recent intelligence reports have indicated the deployment of Chinese bombers to Hotan airbase in

Xinjiang as India conducts military exercises along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). This move by the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) highlights China's strategy to enhance its airpower near the Indian border, particularly at forward bases housing strategic assets like H-6 bombers and J-20 stealth fighters. In response, the Indian Air Force has heightened its readiness, especially at airbases in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, including the newly activated Nyoma facility, to address potential threats amid ongoing tensions since the 2020 Galwan clash. This situation underscores the critical need for vigilance and preparedness in a geopolitically sensitive region.

US Deploys E-3 Sentry AWACS Near Venezuela Amid Rising Tensions



19-Dec-25

On December 18, 2025, the US Air Force deployed an E-3C Sentry AWACS near Venezuela, enhancing its surveillance capabilities amid rising tensions in the region. This move is part of Operation Southern Spear, which has evolved from counter-narcotics efforts to direct actions against the Maduro regime, culminating in lethal strikes that have resulted in around 100 fatalities since September. The deployment not only signifies increased military presence in the Caribbean but also raises concerns about regional instability and potential disruptions to global energy markets crucial for India's oil imports. For India, this situation underscores the importance of advanced airborne early warning systems in countering air threats, especially amidst ongoing tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.

NDAA mandates US agencies to combat China's influence in Indian Ocean.



19-Dec-25

The US Congress has mandated American agencies to counter China's influence in the Indian Ocean region through the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2026, emphasizing the establishment of an Ambassador-at-Large for strategic engagement. This initiative aims to bolster US diplomatic efforts and military readiness in response to perceived malign activities from China, as part of a broader Indo-Pacific strategy. The NDAA also seeks to strengthen multilateral defense coordination and enhance military capabilities among allies, highlighting China's role as a strategic competitor. This legislation reflects the United States' commitment to maintaining stability and security in a region of critical geopolitical importance, reinforcing partnerships that can effectively address regional challenges.

US sees India as key partner in supply chain security efforts. [SHARE](#)

19-Dec-25

The US has identified India as a strategic partner in enhancing supply chain security, particularly after India's exclusion from the Pax Silica initiative aimed at strengthening the silicon supply chain, which includes several other Quad nations. Under Secretary of State Jacob Helberg clarified that trade arrangements and supply chain discussions are separate, emphasizing continuous engagement with India to deepen economic collaboration. The Pax Silica initiative, designed to mitigate dependencies and protect foundational AI materials, aims to unify technologically advanced nations for a resilient and innovative ecosystem. The significance of this dialogue underscores the US commitment to partnering with India, enhancing its role in global technology and economic security amidst shifting geopolitical dynamics.

Trump endorses stronger US-India defense ties through Quad initiative. [SHARE](#)

19-Dec-25

US President Donald Trump has enacted the National Defence Authorisation Act for Fiscal Year 2026, emphasizing enhanced cooperation with India, particularly through the Quad, to ensure a free Indo-Pacific and address China's influence. The Act establishes a joint consultative mechanism within the US-India Strategic Security Dialogue to assess nuclear liability rules, aiming to align India's domestic regulations with international standards. Furthermore, it promotes the strengthening of defence industrial bases among US allies, including India, to enhance military cooperation, interoperability, and response capabilities. This legislative move reflects a strategic commitment to bolstering US-India relations in defense and security partnerships amid rising regional tensions.

Putin claims Russia seeks peace, asserts Ukraine isn't ready for talks. [SHARE](#)

19-Dec-25

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed readiness to end the Ukraine conflict through peaceful means, stating that Ukraine is not prepared for talks. He claimed Russian forces are making significant advances on the battlefield, despite Ukrainian assertions of heavy casualties and incremental Russian gains. Putin reiterated that Russia's terms for peace remain unchanged, including demands for Ukraine to abandon NATO ambitions and withdraw from territories claimed by Russia. This situation has drawn

international attention as U.S. diplomatic efforts to broker peace face skepticism from Ukraine and its European allies, who fear concessions to Moscow may undermine their position in the conflict.

PM Modi: India-Oman CEPA to boost trade and investment ties. [SHARE](#)

19-Dec-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the signing of the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) during his visit, aiming to enhance bilateral trade and investment. The CEPA will provide duty-free access to 98% of Indian exports to Oman, fostering growth in various sectors beyond traditional energy. Modi emphasized India's robust economic reforms and the potential for collaboration in green energy, AI, and agri-tech, inviting Omani businesses to explore these opportunities. The agreement underscores the deep-rooted maritime trading ties and positions India and Oman for mutual growth, reflecting India's strategic approach to strengthening partnerships in the Gulf region.

Military Operations

Air Marshal JS Mann Assesses Communication Readiness in Exercise JOSH [SHARE](#)

19-Dec-25

Air Marshal JS Mann, Senior Air Staff Officer of the Western Air Command, conducted a review of communication readiness during Exercise Joint Ops Stamina Honing (JOSH), aimed at validating the Indian Air Force's (IAF) operational capabilities during high-tempo operations. His visit to a critical communication base underscored the importance of resilient and functional communication networks, essential for seamless air operations and mission success. Air Marshal Mann emphasized operational readiness and the ethos of ownership among air personnel, acknowledging their dedication and technical expertise. The successful outcomes of Exercise JOSH reflect the IAF's commitment to maintaining high operational preparedness and enhancing collaborative efforts across its units, reinforcing its capability to navigate the complexities of modern warfare effectively.

Ukrainian drones strike Russian MiG-31 and air defenses at Belbek Airbase.



19-Dec-25

On December 17-18, 2025, Ukraine's Security Service executed a precision drone strike on the Belbek military airfield in Crimea, damaging a MiG-31 interceptor and critical components of Russia's air defense, including the S-400 radar system. This operation underscores the growing effectiveness of unmanned systems in asymmetric warfare, a paradigm that may influence India's defense modernization, particularly in countering adversaries utilizing similar Russian technologies. While Russian officials claimed to have intercepted the drones without damage, corroborating evidence indicates significant losses at the base, which plays a vital role in Russia's air coverage over Ukraine and the Black Sea. The strike exemplifies the incremental erosion of Russian control in Crimea, impacting its military operations and geopolitical strategy in the region.

India and U.A.E. Launch Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone II in Abu Dhabi



19-Dec-25

Exercise Desert Cyclone II, a joint military exercise between India and the United Arab Emirates, has commenced in Abu Dhabi, scheduled to run from December 18 to 30, 2025. This exercise, featuring 45 personnel from the Indian Army's Mechanised Infantry Regiment alongside a similar contingent from the U.A.E. Land Forces, aims to enhance interoperability and mutual understanding of tactics in urban warfare and sub-conventional operations under a United Nations mandate. Key activities include joint mission planning and the integration of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), reflecting the evolving nature of modern military operations. This exercise underscores the strengthening defense cooperation and military diplomacy between India and the U.A.E., pivotal for regional stability in the West Asian context.

Top Army Leaders Assess Security at Tripura's Bangladesh Border



19-Dec-25

Top officials from the Indian Army, Assam Rifles, and Border Security Force (BSF) conducted a security review along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura, amid heightened tensions in Bangladesh. Lt General RC Tiwari, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command, visited the Belonia sub-division to assess the preparedness of forces deployed in this

strategically sensitive area, which features significant unfenced sections of the border. He commended the professionalism and alertness of the troops stationed there, highlighting their commitment to safeguarding India's borders. This proactive approach reflects India's dedication to maintaining security in vulnerable regions and underscores the importance of vigilance in the face of evolving regional dynamics.

Indian Army Builds Bailey Bridge in Jaffna to Boost Connectivity



19-Dec-25

The Indian Army has successfully launched a Bailey Bridge in Jaffna as part of Operation Sagar Bandhu, which aims to enhance infrastructure connectivity in Sri Lanka. This initiative not only underscores India's commitment to regional development and cooperation but also strengthens its strategic ties with Sri Lanka amid increasing geopolitical dynamics in the Indian Ocean. By facilitating better access and mobility, the bridge is expected to significantly benefit local communities and promote economic activities in the area. This operation highlights India's proactive approach in fostering stability and goodwill in its neighboring regions, reflecting its broader foreign policy objectives in South Asia.

Thailand escalates airstrikes on Cambodia amid intensifying border conflict.



19-Dec-25

Thailand intensified its military actions against Cambodia, conducting airstrikes targeting warehouses reportedly storing rockets used by the Cambodian army in ongoing border conflicts. The skirmishes, which began on December 8 following an earlier incident that injured Thai soldiers, have resulted in significant casualties on both sides, with hundreds of thousands displaced. Thailand claims it is acting in self-defense, while Cambodia accuses it of indiscriminate bombing, including civilian areas. Efforts for a ceasefire, previously facilitated by U.S. interventions, face challenges as both nations continue to assert their territorial claims, underscoring the regional instability and the complexities of diplomatic resolutions involving external powers like Malaysia and China.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Bijapur encounter: Security forces kill ₹5 lakh bounty Naxalite, Fagnu

Madvi.  SHARE

19-Dec-25

In a significant development in Chhattisgarh's ongoing anti-Naxalite operations, security forces killed a wanted Maoist, Fagnu Madvi, during an encounter in Bijapur district, where he carried a reward of Rs 5 lakh. The operation resulted in the recovery of weapons, explosive materials, and other equipment, showcasing the effectiveness of coordinated actions by security personnel. This encounter contributes to a total of 285 Naxalites neutralized in the state this year, primarily in the Bastar division, highlighting the decline of Maoist influence in the region. The Inspector General of Police encouraged remaining insurgents to abandon violence and consider the government's rehabilitation initiatives, underscoring the broader objective of restoring peace and stability in affected areas.

Ninth accused in Red Fort blast case remanded to NIA custody until December 26.

 SHARE

19-Dec-25

A Delhi court on December 18, 2025, remanded Yasir Ahmad Dar, the ninth accused from Shopian, Jammu and Kashmir, to NIA custody until December 26 for interrogation in the Red Fort car bomb blast case. The blast occurred on November 10, 2025, near Delhi's historic Red Fort, when suicide bomber Umar Un Nabi detonated explosives in a Hyundai i20, killing 15 people and injuring over 20 others using ammonium nitrate fuel oil. NIA investigations reveal Dar's close ties to Umar and Mufti Irfan, including an oath for self-sacrificial attacks, alongside eight prior arrests like four doctors—Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganie, Dr Shaheen Saeed, Dr Bilal Nasir Malla, Dr Adeel Rather—and preacher Maulvi Irfan. India's robust NIA probe, backed by multi-agency raids seizing digital evidence, reaffirms unwavering resolve against terror threats from radical networks.

Seven arrested, including four UNLF militants, for hijacking fish truck in Manipur.

 SHARE

19-Dec-25

Security forces in Manipur arrested seven individuals, including four cadres of the banned United National Liberation Front (Pambei), on December 18, 2025, for hijacking a truck loaded with iced fish on the Maharabi-Pheidinga Road in Imphal West district. The militants—Borish Sagolsem (25), Herojit Sharma (32), Asem Amar Meitei (20), and Md Salman Khan (35)—despite their group's 2023 peace pact with the Centre, engaged in this extortion-linked crime, prompting swift police action that recovered the truck, its cargo, and two tipper vehicles used to shift the fish, along with three other suspects including drivers. In a separate operation the same day, authorities seized and defused 16 ANFO paste-type IEDs in Kangvai area's Lungdeiphai Leinom village junction, Churachandpur district, near sites of recent firing, reinforcing India's determined efforts to curb militancy and ensure stability in the Northeast.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

France investigates malware on ferry amid concerns of foreign interference.

 SHARE

19-Dec-25

France is conducting an investigation into potential foreign interference after malware was discovered on a ferry, raising concerns about cybersecurity and national security. This incident underscores the growing challenges that nations face regarding digital threats, particularly from state and non-state actors seeking to exploit vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure. The findings could have significant implications for France's maritime security protocols and its broader defense strategies. As global tensions rise, this situation reflects the importance of vigilance and preparedness against cyber threats, emphasizing the need for international cooperation in safeguarding national interests.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Cantt Board Lansdowne wins Raksha Mantri Award for hospital services excellence. SHARE

19-Dec-25

The Cantonment Board Lansdowne has been awarded the Raksha Mantri Award for Excellence in Public Service 2025 for its exceptional healthcare services, marking a significant achievement for the first time in the Hospital Category. This accolade, presented during the Defence Estates Day 2025 celebrations, recognizes substantial improvements at the Cantonment General Hospital, which is the only indoor hospital in the region. The facility has successfully implemented telemedicine services, enhancing access to specialist consultations and reducing travel burdens for residents. This award underscores the commitment of the Defence Estates Organisation to citizen-centric healthcare, aligning with India's vision for Viksit Bharat by 2047 and promoting comprehensive healthcare in challenging terrains.

Miscellaneous

Oman's Deputy PM bids farewell to PM Modi with heartfelt 'Namaste'. SHARE

19-Dec-25

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Oman, he was honored with the prestigious 'Order of Oman' by Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, marking a significant recognition of his contributions to strengthening India-Oman relations as the two countries celebrate 70 years of diplomatic engagement. The visit culminated in the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), aimed at enhancing economic collaboration and opening new trade avenues in sectors such as energy, logistics, and technology, aligning with India's 'Make in India' initiative. High-level discussions also focused on defense, security, and regional stability, particularly concerning maritime security in the Indian Ocean, where Oman's Duqm port plays a vital role in facilitating India's energy imports. Modi's receipt of this honor underscores India's growing global stature, as he now holds accolades from 29 nations, reflecting effective diplomatic outreach and strengthening India's soft power across diverse regions. This visit not only celebrates historical ties but also lays the groundwork

for future partnerships, enhancing mutual interests amid evolving geopolitical dynamics and solidifying India's strategic position in the Gulf.

Amit Shah initiates Bureau of Port Security to enhance maritime safety. SHARE

19-Dec-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level meeting to establish the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS), aimed at enhancing the security of vessels and port facilities across India. The BoPS, modeled after the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, will operate under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and is set to be led by an IPS officer, focusing on comprehensive risk-based security measures. Emphasizing the importance of cyber security, the bureau will also oversee the protection of port IT infrastructure. Additionally, the Central Industrial Security Force has been designated as the Recognised Security Organisation for port facilities, tasked with security assessments and training private security agencies, thereby strengthening India's maritime safety framework and enhancing national security resilience.

Army officer among three scammed of Rs 11 lakh in Pune RTO fraud. SHARE

19-Dec-25

An Indian Army officer was among three Pune residents who fell victim to a cyber fraud scheme, losing over Rs 11 lakh in a fake Regional Transport Office (RTO) challan scam. The victims received deceptive messages that imitated official RTO notifications, prompting them to click harmful links and provide sensitive banking information. The cyber police have initiated an investigation to trace the perpetrators and recover the stolen funds, while also issuing a public advisory urging individuals to verify traffic challans through official government sources. This incident underscores the growing threat of cyber fraud, highlighting the need for heightened awareness and caution among the public regarding online scams.

Indian Coast Guard commissions fast patrol vessel 'Amulya' to enhance maritime security. SHARE

19-Dec-25

The Indian Coast Guard has officially commissioned the fast patrol vessel 'Amulya', marking a significant enhancement in its maritime capabilities. Designed with advanced technology and constructed domestically, the Amulya will primarily operate along India's eastern shores, bolstering security and

supporting vital sea operations. This development underscores India's commitment to strengthening its defense manufacturing sector while empowering the Coast Guard to effectively address maritime challenges. The commissioning of such modern assets is crucial for safeguarding India's vast coastline and ensuring national security in an increasingly complex maritime environment.

India's private space sector gets \$150M funding boost, evolving rapidly.



19-Dec-25

India's private space sector received a significant boost with \$150 million in funding, as announced by IN-SPACe Chairman Pawan Goenka at the India Economic Forum. This increase reflects the sector's rapid evolution, with projections indicating funding could surpass \$200 million by March 2026. The Indian space economy is expected to grow from \$8 billion to \$44 billion by 2033, driven by government initiatives like a venture capital fund for startups. As private firms increasingly engage in commercial space endeavors, the traditional ISRO-centric model is evolving, positioning India as a competitive player in the global space market and enhancing technological self-reliance through innovation and job creation.

President Murmu opens National Conference for Public Service Commissions in Hyderabad, stressing integrity and equity.



19-Dec-25

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the National Conference for the Chairpersons of Public Service Commissions in Hyderabad, emphasizing the critical role these commissions play in upholding constitutional ideals of social, economic, and political justice. She

underscored the need for integrity, sensitivity, and competence among civil servants, advocating for a recruitment focus on honesty and the importance of gender sensitivity in governance. Highlighting India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, she called for effective governance systems to support the nation's aspirations, including the goal of becoming the third-largest economy by 2047. The President expressed confidence in the commissions' ability to build a future-ready civil service that is attuned to the needs of marginalized communities, thereby reinforcing the importance of equitable governance in a diverse society.

President reviews Udyan Utsav preparations emphasizing sustainability and community engagement in Hyderabad.



19-Dec-25

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, conducted a review of the preparations for the second edition of the Udyan Utsav at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Hyderabad, set to take place from January 3 to January 11, 2026. This nine-day Agriculture and Horticulture Festival aims to promote public awareness about sustainable agriculture and environmentally responsible practices, celebrating India's green traditions. The festival will feature an array of attractions, including enhanced seasonal flower beds, curated floral installations, themed stalls, live demonstrations, and eco-craft workshops, with free entry for all visitors. The event not only emphasizes the importance of community engagement but also highlights India's commitment to sustainability and environmental education, reinforcing the country's proactive stance on ecological issues amidst global climate challenges.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
DCXINDIA	157.04	188.11	157.02	186.4	20604820	18.91	55.2	171.38	253.38
KRISHNADEF	684.9	749.0	666.0	727.25	43500	8.03	45.9	744.76	790.06
DYNAMATECH	9001.0	9550.0	8951.0	9515.5	39350	5.38	58.61	9091.5	7218.14
RELINFRA	168.0	173.2	168.0	173.2	1588231	5.0	55.98	153.91	267.23
URAVIDEF	175.55	179.83	175.55	179.83	3003	5.0	45.15	175.19	382.64
SWANDEF	1259.2	1259.2	1259.2	1259.2	3129	4.99	100.0	824.03	130.03
APOLLO	230.0	237.95	227.1	237.95	3537824	4.99	41.49	250.76	209.74
AVANTEL	149.9	155.7	146.55	153.58	1964328	4.83	49.29	150.56	148.28
AXISCADES	1250.0	1314.0	1225.8	1308.8	59564	4.58	44.09	1341.22	1245.57
PREMEXPLN	474.0	495.95	474.0	491.75	226931	3.88	36.39	514.26	512.71
JYOTICNC	923.1	963.0	922.0	951.1	742729	3.78	49.33	971.23	1017.29
TECHERA	213.55	217.95	213.55	215.85	8800	3.65	41.93	222.77	198.53
MACPOWER	970.35	1048.4	956.0	1000.75	25578	3.65	57.36	978.29	882.82
AZAD	1579.7	1664.0	1573.3	1629.4	223282	3.56	50.9	1622.78	1585.75
PARAS	627.35	641.3	618.65	639.45	349476	3.48	37.02	680.58	685.76
LOKESHMACH	161.45	169.9	160.52	167.04	37323	3.42	51.87	157.29	181.38
GRSE	2235.9	2313.0	2220.5	2297.2	1240287	3.38	34.62	2501.34	2438.12
BEML	1673.9	1725.1	1673.9	1721.4	175133	3.27	39.86	1748.08	1916.17
ASTRAMICRO	894.9	913.0	885.15	908.25	186720	3.27	43.58	911.13	960.71
HBLPOWER	821.45	848.6	810.85	845.45	4553936	3.25	48.42	833.25	692.61
RTNINDIA	40.43	42.84	40.3	41.35	5875415	3.09	38.29	41.66	50.3
GOODLUCK	1020.0	1057.5	1019.0	1049.2	45033	2.88	36.09	1113.38	1019.57
COCHINSHIP	1510.0	1554.7	1510.0	1548.3	606429	2.8	33.47	1616.83	1732.84
IDEAFORGE	417.5	427.9	412.15	424.5	153031	2.75	38.69	441.55	473.31
BEL	383.5	393.5	383.5	392.85	11595429	2.45	43.73	399.16	373.9
CFE	555.0	559.95	546.0	559.0	26800	2.42	35.76	589.98	587.33
BHARATFORG	1401.4	1442.7	1400.5	1439.9	503965	2.3	62.39	1412.44	1229.57
BDL	1349.0	1376.7	1342.3	1373.1	859088	2.28	39.05	1444.82	1564.53
MAZDOCK	2363.7	2415.0	2358.0	2408.2	1028888	2.13	32.04	2544.87	2848.12
MIDHANI	297.5	302.0	291.75	297.25	751427	1.83	32.53	310.3	364.04
DATAPAT'TNS	2524.0	2565.0	2503.0	2556.4	173803	1.74	38.06	2740.9	2553.97
ZENTEC	1344.2	1369.8	1340.0	1366.1	181841	1.63	46.5	1378.87	1551.25
NIBE	1136.95	1153.0	1108.0	1126.6	4311	1.6	51.85	1076.12	1343.91
MTARTECH	2326.6	2348.0	2295.0	2339.4	124286	1.45	45.11	2420.7	1747.49
MARINE	201.45	203.93	200.0	202.89	138621	1.2	37.07	213.23	201.02
SOLARINDS	11847.0	11960.0	11723.0	11911.0	132829	1.18	27.99	12686.15	13850.38
HIGHENE	531.15	539.85	531.15	538.9	1970	1.11	37.53	561.72	608.23
HAL	4269.9	4314.0	4251.4	4305.3	650177	1.08	38.78	4386.46	4554.23
LT	4040.1	4091.5	4040.1	4073.5	1327935	1.05	58.49	4036.15	3627.6
TANEJAERO	296.0	297.45	290.0	294.2	5490	0.89	34.1	309.33	363.46
ROSSELLIND	51.24	51.7	50.01	50.59	24753	0.66	25.55	54.9	65.59
ADANIENT	2249.0	2250.0	2210.0	2239.0	880005	0.44	41.29	2260.88	2419.54
SIKA	890.1	913.0	879.0	894.0	9536	0.44	37.04	929.42	1022.1
CENTUM	2169.5	2214.5	2162.5	2177.6	13834	0.4	37.11	2293.67	2231.47
LMW	15165.0	15165.0	14845.0	14965.0	2253	-0.2	44.31	15115.25	15645.45
SUNITATOOL	717.05	743.0	715.0	730.0	7875	-0.31	34.44	811.97	775.83
WALCHANNAG	204.0	211.65	188.0	196.04	22828706	-0.75	65.18	166.42	190.18
DRONACHRYA	41.5	42.5	40.2	41.4	130000	-0.86	37.42	47.4	69.92
TEMBO	736.0	736.0	705.0	724.7	41455	-1.49	50.4	730.64	561.85
PTC	158.01	158.35	152.65	154.4	1988598	-2.12	39.22	157.27	172.27