



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

December 23,2025 | Day 357

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
RELINFRA	173.2	164.96	+5.0%
SWANDEF	1322.1	1259.2	+5.0%
URAVIDEF	198.25	188.82	+4.99%
APOLLO	262.25	249.8	+4.98%
DRONACHRYA	45.52	43.36	+4.98%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
IDEAFORGE	477.95	495.4	-3.52%
CFF	554.55	572.55	-3.14%
NIBE	1111.0	1137.9	-2.36%
HIGHENE	533.95	546.75	-2.34%
MARINE	213.31	216.23	-1.35%

Defense Business and Industry

IOL partners with Safran to locally produce advanced defense systems. SHARE

23-Dec-25

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd delivered the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) 'Anjadip' to the Indian Navy on December 22, 2025, at Chennai Port Trust, marking the fifth warship handed over by the Kolkata-based firm this year. The third in a series of eight 77-meter-long vessels built under a Public-Private Partnership with L&T Shipyard at Kattupalli per Indian Register of Shipping rules, 'Anjadip' features over 80% indigenous content, including a GRSE-developed 30 mm Naval Surface Gun proven in sea trials with pinpoint accuracy via electro-optical fire control, integrated Combat Management Systems, advanced lightweight torpedoes in triple 324 mm tubes, indigenously designed anti-submarine rockets from an RBU-6000-like system, shallow water sonar for sub-surface detection, and mine-laying capability. This agile craft with a 2.7-meter draught, three water-jet propulsion from diesel engines enabling 25-knot speeds and 1,800 nm endurance at 14 knots, supports a crew of 57 including seven officers for search-and-attack missions, coordinated operations with aircraft, coastal surveillance, and low-intensity maritime tasks. Accepted by Rear Admiral Gautam Marwaha, VSM, Chief Staff Officer (Technical), Eastern Naval Command, the delivery—less than four months after INS Androth—marks GRSE's 115th warship built and 77th delivered, following INS Himgiri, INS Arnala, INS Androth, and INS Ikshak, bolstering maritime security under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

IG Drones rebrands as IG Defence, broadening focus on indigenous technologies. SHARE

23-Dec-25

IG Drones has rebranded as IG Defence, expanding its focus from unmanned aerial systems to a comprehensive range of indigenous defence technologies, aligning with India's operational needs across multiple domains. This transition is underscored by the induction of retired senior military officers into its leadership team, enhancing product development with operational expertise. The company's initiatives include advancements in combat and transport aircraft, autonomous naval platforms, and cyber defence systems, emphasizing a commitment to reducing dependency on foreign technology under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. This strategic shift reflects India's evolving defense landscape, where intelligence and integration will play pivotal roles in future conflicts.

Su-57 successfully flies with new Izdeliye 177 engine, enhancing performance. SHARE

23-Dec-25

Russia's fifth-generation stealth fighter, the Su-57, has successfully completed its maiden flight powered by the new Izdeliye 177 engine, marking a significant milestone in the aircraft's development. This advanced engine, which promises increased thrust and improved flight performance, has transitioned from ground testing to actual flight, addressing previous concerns about its operational readiness. The Su-57, claimed by Russia to be the only combat-proven fifth-generation fighter, is positioned to attract international customers,

particularly the Indian Air Force, which prioritizes engine performance and upgrade potential. As Moscow intensifies its export efforts, it remains to be seen whether the 177 engine will be part of the standard export package or contingent upon deeper industrial collaboration with India, potentially influencing future co-development agreements. The growing advancements in the Su-57 program highlight Russia's ambition to remain competitive in the global defense market while offering India a pathway towards enhanced indigenous capabilities.

Trump announces new warship class to enhance US naval power.

23-Dec-25

US President Donald Trump recently announced the development of a new class of warships, the Trump-class battleships, during a press conference at Mar-a-Lago. These vessels, weighing between 30,000 and 40,000 tons, will feature advanced weaponry including hypersonic missiles, electromagnetic railguns, and laser systems, with the aim of enhancing US naval capabilities amid growing concerns regarding China's naval expansion. The Trump-class ships, envisioned as part of the 'Golden Fleet' initiative, are intended to restore American maritime dominance and will initially comprise two ships, with plans to eventually expand the fleet to up to 25 hulls. From an Indian strategic perspective, the increase in US naval power could strengthen deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region, emphasizing the importance for India to accelerate its own naval modernization efforts to ensure regional security and maintain a balance of power against rising maritime threats.

ADA Initiates Hiring to Enhance Tejas Mk2 and AMCA Development

23-Dec-25

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has launched a significant recruitment drive to bolster its workforce for the development of the Tejas Mk2 and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). This initiative, announced on December 19, 2025, aims to fill various administrative and technical roles to support the critical phases of prototype assembly and full-scale development. With the Tejas Mk2 intended to replace aging aircraft and the AMCA marking India's entry into fifth-generation aviation, this hiring reflects a strategic push to professionalize project management within India's defense sector. The government's commitment to enhancing indigenous capabilities positions the

nation for significant advancements in air power by 2026.

Japan's final Mogami-class frigate JS Yoshii launched, enhancing Indo-Pacific naval capabilities.

23-Dec-25

On December 22, 2025, Japan launched the final Mogami-class frigate, JS Yoshii, enhancing the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's naval capabilities amid increasing geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific. The 133-meter vessel features advanced stealth technology, a CODAG propulsion system, and a 16-cell Mk-41 VLS, reinforcing Japan's multi-faceted defense strategy. This development not only bolsters Japan's naval posture but also strengthens collective deterrence within the Quad framework, which is significant for India's security interests in the region. As the commissioning of JS Yoshii approaches in March 2027, it signals deeper interoperability among allied forces and a commitment to counter aggressive expansionism in shared maritime domains.

Germany orders 84 RCH 155 howitzers, boosting NATO's artillery capabilities.

23-Dec-25

On December 19, 2025, the German Armed Forces ordered 84 RCH 155 wheeled howitzers from KNDS Deutschland for approximately €1.2 billion. This acquisition, part of a framework agreement for up to 500 systems, enhances NATO's mobile artillery capabilities and signifies a strategic enhancement for Germany's newly formed 'Medium Forces.' The RCH 155, featuring an unmanned, automated artillery gun module, is designed for high mobility and operational flexibility, including firing while on the move. This development not only underscores Germany's commitment to bolster European defense but also offers potential technology collaboration opportunities that align with India's interests in advanced artillery systems and multinational military exercises.

SSS Defence wins bid for indigenous SMGs, boosting self-reliance in security procurement.

23-Dec-25

On December 21, 2025, SSS Defence secured lowest bidder (L1) status following rigorous technical evaluations for supplying 500 indigenous 9x19mm G72 submachine guns (SMGs) to the National Security Guard (NSG), after foreign and other Indian competitors

were disqualified on technical grounds. This ₹50 million tender, floated mid-2025, marks a strategic pivot from import dependency, aligning with Atmanirbhar Bharat by enhancing NSG's close-quarters combat prowess in counter-terrorism ops. From an Indian security lens, the G72's NATO-standard modularity boosts interoperability amid rising urban threats, builds on SSS's prior wins like UP Police's March 2025 M72 order, and signals private sector maturity—potentially unlocking paramilitary deals while reducing vulnerabilities to global supply disruptions. (118 words)

Defense and aerospace sectors vie for IIT talent amid Big Tech dominance.

23-Dec-25

India's defense and aerospace sectors are intensifying recruitment from IIT campuses, challenging Big Tech and high-frequency trading firms for top engineering talent amid a push for self-reliance. Campus placements kicked off on December 1, 2025, with private players like Larsen & Toubro (L&T) targeting 175 specialized hires in R&D and advanced engineering, while Skyroot Aerospace selected 65 engineers from 3,500 applicants for rocket development ahead of its first commercial launch by March 2026. Other firms, including Nabhdrishti Aerospace, LAT Aerospace, GKN Aerospace, and Tata Advanced Systems, seek expertise in avionics, AI, systems engineering, and manufacturing, fueled by privatization and billion-dollar contracts. From an Indian strategic viewpoint, this talent shift bolsters indigenization in drones, satellites, and munitions, countering geopolitical threats from China and Pakistan by reducing import dependence and fostering homegrown innovation in critical security domains.

Adani Defence and MTAR collaborate for India's AMCA stealth fighter development.

23-Dec-25

Adani Defence & Aerospace has partnered with MTAR Technologies to bid for a ₹15,000 crore contract to develop prototypes for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), marking a significant shift towards private sector involvement in advanced military aviation. This collaboration aims to integrate Adani's strengths in systems integration and manufacturing with MTAR's expertise in precision components, positioning them against major competitors like HAL and Tata Advanced Systems. The project's successful execution is poised to enhance India's self-reliance in defense technology, with the first prototype expected by

2028-2029 and eventual induction into the Indian Air Force around 2035. This initiative underscores a transformative moment in India's defense industry, reducing reliance on foreign suppliers and fostering indigenous capabilities in aerospace engineering.

IITs crucial for advancing defense innovation in modern warfare, says CDS.

23-Dec-25

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan emphasized the vital role of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in advancing defense innovation during his address at IIT Bombay's Techfest. He highlighted the evolving nature of warfare, underscoring the need for multidomain operations encompassing cyber, space, and cognitive realms. General Chauhan noted the significance of academia in this domain, pointing to collaborations with IITs on various defense technologies, including remotely operated aircraft. IIT Bombay's newly established Centre for Defence Technology Innovation and Strategy is already spearheading multiple projects, reflecting India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities through academic collaboration and technological innovation, which is essential for future warfare preparedness.

Pakistan finalizes \$4 billion arms deal with Libya amid false claims.

23-Dec-25

Pakistan finalized a major military equipment deal worth over \$4 billion with Libya's eastern-based Libyan National Army (LNA), led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, on December 22, 2025, following a meeting in Benghazi between Army Chief General Asim Munir and LNA deputy commander Saddam Khalifa Haftar. The agreement encompasses 16 JF-17 multirole fighter jets, jointly developed by Pakistan and China, 12 Super Mushak trainer aircraft, and additional equipment for land, sea, and air forces, to be delivered over 2.5 years, marking one of Pakistan's largest defense exports despite the UN arms embargo on Libya since 2011. During the talks, Munir touted Pakistan Air Force feats against India—including alleged downing of Rafale jets and S-400 systems—which India has firmly rejected as baseless propaganda, underscoring Pakistan's push to extend influence in North Africa while navigating international scrutiny.

Pakistan's fourth Hangor-class submarine is ready; sea trials planned for 2026 delivery.

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23-Dec-25

Pakistan's Navy has completed the construction of its fourth Hangor-class submarine, PNS Ghazi, as part of a \$5 billion contract with China, consisting of eight advanced diesel-electric attack submarines aimed at modernizing its fleet. The submarines, featuring air-independent propulsion for extended underwater endurance, are set to enhance Pakistan's anti-access/area-denial capabilities in the strategically critical North Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, countering India's growing naval prowess. However, concerns remain over Pakistan's limited experience in AIP submarine construction, potentially delaying the operational deployment of these vessels into the 2030s. This project not only reflects deepening Sino-Pakistani defense collaboration but also aims to foster local shipbuilding expertise and sustainment capabilities.

HAL to establish 20,000-ton Isothermal Forging Press for defense and aero-engine production.

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23-Dec-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has received four competitive bids for establishing a strategic 20,000-ton Isothermal Forging Press Facility at its Koraput Sukhoi Engine Division, as reported on December 22, 2025. This advanced setup, targeted for operationalization by October 2025 following an RFI issued in October, will produce complex high-temperature alloy components like compressor discs and turbine parts for next-generation aero-engines, surpassing existing domestic capacities such as MIDHANI's 6,000-ton press. Bidders including Bharat Forge, Ramakrishna Forgings, and MIDHANI are vying for the project, which promises to cut import reliance, support TEJAS and Su-30MKI programs, and drive public-private partnerships under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives, bolstering India's aerospace self-reliance.

Russia offers India three upgraded submarines to enhance naval capacity amid fleet challenges.

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23-Dec-25

Russia has proposed supplying India with three enhanced Kilo-class submarines as a cost-effective interim solution while delays persist in the Project 75I program. The submarines will undergo significant modernization, including the integration of the Klub-S

missile system, enhancing their operational capabilities against maritime threats. This development comes as India's aging submarine fleet faces operational challenges, with projections indicating a potential reduction to single-digit numbers by the mid-2030s, threatening maritime security in the Indian Ocean. This initiative not only sustains fleet numbers but also reinforces India-Russia defense ties, aligning with India's goals for indigenization and bolstering its naval capacity amid rising geopolitical tensions in the region.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh witnesses DRDO-RRU MoU for enhanced defense R&D collaboration.

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23-Dec-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) on December 22, 2025, at South Block in New Delhi. The agreement, inked by DRDO's Distinguished Scientist and Director General (Production Coordination & Services Interaction) Dr. Chandrika Kaushik and RRU Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel, with DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat present, fosters collaboration in research, education, training, and technology support for defence and internal security. It promotes joint research projects, PhD and fellowship programmes, specialised capacity-building for security forces, studies on emerging challenges, technology gap analysis, future requirement forecasting, and life-cycle management of DRDO systems for Central Armed Police Forces under the Ministry of Home Affairs. This partnership strengthens India's self-reliance in defence technologies, aligning with Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the whole-of-nation approach during Amrit Kaal, enhancing national security preparedness and strategic autonomy.

IAF to phase out Mi-35s, adopting Prachand helicopters for high-altitude combat.

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23-Dec-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) announced on December 21, 2025, plans to retire its ageing Soviet-era Mi-35 attack helicopters by 2030-31, replacing them with the indigenous Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand to bolster high-altitude operations in critical areas like Siachen Glacier and Eastern Ladakh. Developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) post-Kargil War, the Prachand uniquely operates at 5,000-6,500 meters with advanced avionics, stealth features, and Shakti

engines, carrying air-to-air missiles, rockets, and a 20mm gun for superior agility and precision strikes. Complementing the fleet are 22 Boeing AH-64E Apache helicopters inducted in 2019-2021, while a March 2025 order for 156 more Prachands—66 for IAF and 90 for Army—starts deliveries in 2027-28, advancing India's self-reliance in defence amid modern warfare demands.

Indian Army Accelerates 850 Indigenous Kamikaze Drones After Operation Sindoos Success

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23-Dec-25

The Indian Army is set to expedite the procurement of approximately 850 indigenous kamikaze drones, known as loitering munitions, following the successful Operation Sindoos, which effectively targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan. This initiative, part of a broader strategy to enhance operational capabilities, will see the Army induct nearly 30,000 such systems, establishing 'Ashni' platoons within infantry battalions to ensure decentralized access to drone assets for precision strikes and surveillance. The fast-tracked acquisition, aligned with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, reflects a significant doctrinal shift towards drone-centric warfare, aiming to bolster the Army's offensive and counter-terrorism capabilities while minimizing risks to personnel. This development underscores India's commitment to modernizing its defense infrastructure with indigenous technology, enhancing operational readiness across various terrains.

and improving access to essential services. The guide's structured approach promotes uniformity and accountability in project execution, marking a significant milestone in India's infrastructure development efforts.

Politics

Nadda accuses Congress of complicity in 2013 Jhiram Ghati Naxal attack, highlights BJP's countermeasures.

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23-Dec-25

BJP President JP Nadda reignited a fierce political row on December 22, 2025, at the Janadesh Parab event in Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh, accusing Congress "insiders" of colluding with Naxalites in the 2013 Jhiram Ghati ambush that killed 32 leaders, including Mahaswati Devi. He contrasted this with the Modi government's successes since 2023, claiming 2,500 Naxalites surrendered, 1,853 arrested, and top commanders like Hidma and Basavaraju neutralized under CM Vishnu Deo Sai's administration, vowing to eradicate Left-wing extremism by March 2026. Congress leaders, including ex-CM Bhupesh Baghel, slammed the remarks as insults to martyrs, while Nadda highlighted socio-economic initiatives like farmer aid and jobs to foster tribal stability. From India's strategic lens, this narrative bolsters BJP's security credentials amid ongoing Bastar operations, countering Maoist threats to national integrity and resource-rich regions.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Defence Minister launches DPR guide to enhance border road infrastructure and connectivity.

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23-Dec-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled a comprehensive Guide on Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Road Infrastructure Projects, aimed at enhancing India's road infrastructure, particularly in challenging and strategic regions. Developed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), the guide addresses engineering standards, construction methodologies, cost estimations, and risk management, significantly reducing project delays and improving efficiency. This initiative is pivotal for strengthening national security and strategic connectivity, facilitating socio-economic development,

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

EAM Jaishankar in Colombo to discuss aid and recovery efforts post-cyclone.

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23-Dec-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar arrived in Colombo as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special envoy to engage with Sri Lankan leadership in the wake of Cyclone Ditwah's devastation, which resulted in over 640 fatalities and significant infrastructural damage. Emphasizing India's commitment to its Neighbourhood First Policy, Jaishankar announced a proposed assistance package worth \$450 million, including \$350 million in concessional lines of credit and \$100 million in grants, aimed at rebuilding critical infrastructure, supporting health and education systems, and enhancing disaster preparedness. Since the cyclone's

onset, India launched Operation Sagar Bandhu, delivering over 1,134 tonnes of humanitarian aid, including food, medical supplies, and emergency relief materials, with naval assets such as INS Vikrant and helicopters conducting extensive relief operations. This proactive humanitarian response not only aids Sri Lanka in its recovery efforts but also reinforces India's role as a dependable partner in regional stability and disaster resilience, fostering goodwill that underpins long-term strategic cooperation between the two nations.

Bangladesh calls Indian envoy over rising security concerns for missions.

 **SHARE**

23-Dec-25

Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam summoned Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma over security concerns regarding Bangladeshi missions in India, citing a deteriorating security situation. This marks the second summoning in ten days, reflecting ongoing diplomatic tensions amid various incidents involving the interim government in Bangladesh. Verma was specifically asked to enhance security measures for the missions located in cities such as New Delhi and Kolkata. The summons follows previous requests for India's cooperation to prevent attackers from crossing into Indian territory, underlining the significant diplomatic implications of ensuring safety for foreign missions amidst rising security concerns in the region.

China reportedly deploys over 100 ICBMs, escalating nuclear capabilities and regional tensions.

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23-Dec-25

A draft Pentagon report indicates that China has likely deployed over 100 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) in silo fields near its northern border, showcasing its accelerated nuclear capabilities amidst limited interest in arms control discussions. The report forecasts that China's stockpile of nuclear warheads could exceed 1,000 by 2030, highlighting an ongoing military expansion aimed at enhancing its regional influence, particularly concerning Taiwan. This evolving military posture poses significant challenges to the U.S. and its allies in the Asia-Pacific region, as Beijing continues to refine its military strategies to assert claims over Taiwan, which it views as a breakaway province. The implications of these developments underscore the urgent need for strategic preparedness among neighboring nations, including India.

Iran conducts missile drills amid rising tensions and regional security concerns.

 **SHARE**

23-Dec-25

Iran conducted missile drills across various cities, including Tehran, Isfahan, and Mashhad, amid escalating tensions regarding its ballistic missile program, which Western powers view as a potential threat to Middle Eastern stability and a delivery system for nuclear weapons. While state media later claimed that the showcased images were of "high-altitude aircraft," the initial reports of missile launches raised alarms, particularly among Israeli officials concerned about Iran's nuclear capabilities. This development coincides with reports that U.S. President Trump is being briefed on options to counter Iran's missile program, indicating a precarious security environment in the region that may necessitate a reevaluation of defense strategies by neighboring countries, including India, in light of the growing missile threats.

Germany Joins British-Japanese Stealth Fighter Program Amid FCAS Disputes

 **SHARE**

23-Dec-25

Germany has been invited to join the British-Japanese Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), a response to the challenges facing the Future Combat Air System (FCAS), where internal disputes have stalled progress. The GCAP, aiming for a supersonic, AI-enabled stealth fighter by 2035, positions itself as a counterpoint to FCAS, which is plagued by cost overruns and collaboration issues. Germany's potential participation could enhance European defense dynamics and NATO interoperability, though it may not achieve equal partnership status initially. This development reflects the UK's strategic adaptation to geopolitical threats and the need for robust military capabilities amidst rising tensions in global defense landscapes.

Pakistan, Bangladesh Pursue Mutual Defence Agreement Amid Regional Tensions

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23-Dec-25

Pakistan and Bangladesh are advancing toward a mutual defence agreement that includes military collaboration and intelligence sharing, amidst growing concerns for India regarding the potential dual-border threats from the west and east. This development is seen as a significant shift in South Asia's strategic landscape, especially given India's historical challenges

with simultaneous threats from both fronts. Although India maintains a military advantage in terms of troop numbers and resources, the logistical implications of a two-front scenario necessitate enhanced vigilance and preparedness. Furthermore, domestic instability in Bangladesh, highlighted by recent protests and rising anti-India sentiments, exacerbates the situation, prompting India to reconsider its eastern security strategies and diplomatic efforts to stabilize the region.

Pakistan seeks Turkish aid for F-16 upgrades amid US restrictions.

23-Dec-25

The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) is advancing technical negotiations with Turkish Aerospace Industries to extend the service life of its aging F-16 fleet, facing operational restrictions from the US. The proposed Service Life Extension Programme aims to revitalize Pakistan's Block-15 F-16A/B aircraft, which are nearing mandatory retirement. A significant aspect of the deal involves the Universal Battlefield Armament System, which would enable the integration of Turkish munitions without US permission, enhancing the PAF's combat effectiveness. This upgrade is urgent due to the limitations exposed during "Operation Sindoor," where Indian air defenses significantly outperformed older PAF aircraft, prompting a need for modernization ahead of the indigenous Project AZM fighter's expected introduction in the mid-2030s.

VHP protesters clash with police near Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi.

23-Dec-25

Hundreds of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal supporters clashed with police near the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi on December 23, 2025, protesting the brutal lynching of Hindu garment worker Dipu Chandra Das in Bangladesh's Mymensingh city on December 18. Waving saffron flags and banners demanding justice, the protesters breached multiple barricades amid heavy security, highlighting alleged blasphemy accusations that sparked the mob violence where Das was beaten, hanged from a tree, and set on fire. Bangladesh authorities arrested 12 suspects and condemned the act, yet the demonstrations across Indian cities like Delhi, Bhopal, Hyderabad, and Kolkata underscore deep concerns over recurring attacks on Hindu minorities, urging stronger protections and accountability to safeguard regional harmony.

Military Operations

India must prepare for short and long wars amid terrorism and disputes, says CDS.

 

23-Dec-25

India's Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, emphasized the need for the country to prepare for both short-duration, high-intensity conflicts and long-duration wars, particularly in light of ongoing terrorism and territorial disputes with neighboring nations. During a speech at IIT Bombay, he highlighted the importance of multi-domain operations, necessitated by advancements in technologies such as AI and hypersonics, which transform warfare dynamics. The General cited Operation Sindoor as an example of effective multi-domain coordination that resulted in a decisive victory for India. He underscored the necessity for close integration among the Army, Navy, Air Force, and emerging domains like cyber and space to counter these evolving threats and maintain strategic deterrence.

MoD considers increasing IAF squadrons to 50 amid China-Pak threats.

23-Dec-25

The Ministry of Defence is evaluating a proposal to raise the Indian Air Force's sanctioned fighter squadrons from 42 to 50 or higher, spurred by lessons from Operation Sindoor in May 2025—India's precision strikes on nine Pakistani terror camps following the April 22 Pahalgam attack—and escalating two-front threats from a modernized PLAAF (over 2,000 aircraft) and PAF (integrating J-10C jets). Key dates include the conflict's May 7 launch, with IAF downing Pakistani F-16s, JF-17s, and an AWACS, exposing gaps in sustained operations amid current strength below 30 squadrons. Actors like Air Chief Marshal AP Singh highlight needs for regeneration and logistics; the shift prioritizes Tejas Mk2 prototypes (late 2020s rollout) and AMCA stealth fighters, boosting Atmanirbhar Bharat via 160+ indigenous jets for economies of scale. Geopolitically, this counters collusive "two-and-a-half front" risks, ensuring air dominance without import reliance.

Poonch residents optimistic about proposed increase in border bunkers.

23-Dec-25

Residents of Poonch's border villages like Jalas and Salotri near the Line of Control expressed optimism on December 22, 2025, following the Ministry of Home Affairs' ground assessment for additional bunkers, prompted by its request to District Development Commissioners for feedback on needs and numbers. This initiative, building on Union Home Minister Amit Shah's May 30 promise after Pakistan's shelling during Operation Sindoor—triggered by the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack—addresses long-standing demands amid persistent LoC tensions. Villagers like Haji Ali Akbar and Satinder Kumar Sharma hailed the move as vital for civilian safety against cross-border threats, preventing migration and boosting morale. From an Indian strategic viewpoint, the bunkers fortify border resilience, deter Pakistani aggression, and signal New Delhi's resolve to secure vulnerable frontiers geopolitically.

Army jawan dies in raft capsizing during Teesta river training.

23-Dec-25

An Army jawan, Lance Naik Rajasekhar of the 191 Artillery Regiment, tragically lost his life when a raft capsized during a training exercise in the Teesta river in Sikkim's Pakyong district. The accident occurred amidst an annual rafting training program when the raft struck a damaged bridge structure, leading to the soldier being swept away. Immediate rescue operations were launched by the Army in collaboration with the Teesta Rescue Centre, and the body was later recovered downstream in Kalimpong district. This incident underscores the inherent risks associated with military training exercises and highlights the need for continuous assessment of training environments to ensure the safety of personnel.

CRPF establishes 229 bases in Naxal areas, targeting LWE elimination by 2026.

23-Dec-25

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has established 229 Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Naxal-affected states since 2019, aiming for a March 2026 deadline to eliminate Left Wing Extremism (LWE). These semi-permanent bases enhance security forces' reach, operational effectiveness, and local governance

by denying safe havens to insurgents and facilitating development activities. Recent data indicates a significant reduction in Naxal violence, with incidents dropping by 89% since 2010 and the number of Naxal-affected districts decreasing from 126 to 11. This strategy reflects the government's commitment to restoring peace and stability in previously inaccessible regions, underscoring a holistic approach to internal security and community welfare.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Joint forces capture militant associate and seize arms in Pulwama.

23-Dec-25

Joint security forces in Jammu and Kashmir apprehended a militant associate, Javid Ahmad Hajam, during a search and cordon operation in the Wuyan Khrew area of Pulwama district, recovering a pistol and live ammunition. The operation, involving local police, the 185 battalion of CRPF, and the 50 Rashtriya Rifles, is part of a broader initiative to dismantle the support networks for terrorism in the region, which includes monitoring drug smuggling and hawala funding linked to terrorist activities. Authorities have begun investigations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and are actively attaching properties tied to terrorism and unlawful activities. These measures underscore India's commitment to counter-terrorism and maintaining security in Jammu and Kashmir.

Delhi HC dismisses Hizbul chief's sons' plea on terror funding charges.

23-Dec-25

The Delhi High Court on December 23, 2025, dismissed appeals by Shahid Yousuf and Syed Ahmad Shakeel, sons of Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, challenging a 2021 trial court order framing charges in an NIA terror funding case. The bench of Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Manoj Jain ruled the pleas un maintainable under Section 21 of the NIA Act, as the case originated from a 2011 probe into funds transferred via hawala and Western Union by Pakistan-based terrorists to fuel secessionist and terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Shahid Yousuf was arrested in October 2017 for receiving funds from Hizbul operatives abroad, while Shakeel was detained in August 2018 for transactions linked to absconding accused Ajaz Ahmad Bhat and Saudi Arabia-based cadres. This verdict reinforces India's resolute efforts to

dismantle cross-border terror financing networks threatening national integrity in the region.

Three arrested for leaking Indian Navy info to Pakistan operatives.

23-Dec-25

Karnataka Police have arrested three individuals—one from Gujarat and two from Uttar Pradesh—for allegedly leaking sensitive information regarding the Indian Navy to operatives in Pakistan. The accused, employed with Shushma Marine Private Limited, reportedly shared confidential details about naval vessels, including identification numbers and repair timelines. The investigation was initiated following a complaint from the CEO of Cochin Shipyard regarding a potential security breach. Additionally, Arunachal Pradesh Police apprehended five individuals from Kashmir under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for allegedly gathering sensitive information and passing it to Pakistani handlers. These incidents underscore the ongoing threat of espionage and highlight the critical need for heightened security measures within India's defense sector.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Women National Commission launches SHEServes to boost women's roles in defense forces.

23-Dec-25

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched SHEServes, a program designed to inspire young women to pursue careers in India's defense forces, with its inaugural event held in Ranchi. Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth emphasized the importance of such initiatives to enhance women's participation in sectors that require discipline and leadership. NCW chairperson Vijaya K Rahatkar highlighted the program's goal of raising awareness about opportunities in the armed forces, including necessary preparations for aspiring candidates. The commission plans to conduct approximately 150 similar programs across aspirational districts to promote engagement and mentorship for women, aiming to bridge the gap between ambition and opportunity.

Miscellaneous

INSV Kaundinya, India's first stitched sailing vessel, embarks on historic maiden voyage.

23-Dec-25

INSV Kaundinya, the Indian Navy's pioneering stitched sailing vessel inspired by 5th-century Ajanta Caves murals, is scheduled for its maiden overseas voyage on December 29, 2025, departing from Porbandar, Gujarat, to Muscat, Oman. This journey retraces ancient Indian Ocean trade routes that linked India with West Asia for millennia, carrying spices, ivory, and textiles, and highlights India's enduring maritime prowess using traditional coconut coir-stitched planks sealed with natural resins. Commissioned on May 21, 2025, at Karwar Naval Base after a tripartite project with the Ministry of Culture and Hodi Innovations—initiated in July 2023 with keel laying on September 12—the 19.6-meter vessel features cultural motifs like Gandaberunda and a Harappan anchor. Having sailed from Karwar on December 13 with a 16-member crew trained in rigging and carpentry by Kerala artisans, it underscores India's revival of indigenous shipbuilding under naval guidance and IIT Madras testing. Named

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Noida International Airport collaborates with Tech Mahindra for enhanced cybersecurity solutions.

23-Dec-25

Noida International Airport (NIA) has partnered with Tech Mahindra to establish an integrated Network and Security Operations Centre (NOC-SOC), aimed at enhancing cybersecurity and operational resilience for the airport's critical IT infrastructure. This collaboration underscores the importance of embedding robust security measures into the airport's digital framework from its inception, ensuring safe and reliable operations. With the airport being developed as India's largest in terms of area, spanning nearly 5,000 hectares upon completion, this initiative is crucial for maintaining high availability and proactive incident response capabilities. The partnership reflects a commitment to operational excellence and positions NIA as a model for future-ready infrastructure in India's expanding aviation sector.

for legendary mariner Kaundinya, the voyage strengthens India's cultural and naval heritage.

IndiGo allowed to operate five Turkey-leased B737 planes until March 2026.

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23-Dec-25

India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has permitted IndiGo, the nation's largest airline, to continue operating five Boeing 737 narrow-body aircraft wet-leased from Turkey's Corendon Airlines until March 31, 2026, as clarified on December 22, 2025. This final extension, incorporating a sunset clause barring further renewals, addresses IndiGo's fleet constraints amid global aircraft shortages from engine groundings and delivery delays, while awaiting its A321-XLR long-range planes by February 2026. Currently, IndiGo deploys 15 foreign-leased aircraft, including seven from Turkey, to serve passengers under bilateral agreements, prioritizing Indian aviation stability despite prior geopolitical strains with Turkey over its support for Pakistan following India's May 2025 strikes on terror camps. SpiceJet similarly operates 17 foreign wet-leased planes.

ISRO begins countdown for Bluebird Block-2 satellite launch from Sriharikota.

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23-Dec-25

ISRO initiated a 24-hour countdown on December 23, 2025, for the LVM3-M6 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, deploying the BlueBird Block-2 satellite at 8:54 AM IST on December 24. Weighing 6,100 kg, this marks the heaviest payload ever launched by LVM3 into Low Earth Orbit at around 520 km, under a commercial pact with US firm AST SpaceMobile via NewSpace India Ltd. The advanced satellite, featuring a massive 223-square-metre phased-array antenna, will deliver direct 4G/5G broadband to unmodified smartphones, boosting connectivity in remote regions like the Himalayas, oceans, and deserts while advancing India's prowess in global commercial space launches. This ninth LVM3 flight reinforces India's leadership in reliable, cost-effective space access.

Japan's H3 rocket failure leads to loss of navigation satellite.

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Japan's H3 rocket experienced a significant setback during its latest launch, resulting in the loss of the QZS-5 navigation satellite due to a second-stage failure.

The rocket, designed to enhance Japan's independent access to space, faced telemetry issues leading to delays and an early shutdown of the second-stage engine. This incident follows a previous failed launch earlier in the year and raises concerns over the reliability of the H3 program, despite prior successes. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has established a task force to investigate the anomaly, which could impact upcoming missions, including critical satellites and the Martian Moons eXploration mission planned for late 2026, amidst intensifying global competition in the launch market.

Indian Oil launches fuel storage facility in Ladakh to boost energy security.

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23-Dec-25

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has inaugurated a bulk fuel storage facility in Ladakh, developed in collaboration with the Indian Army, to enhance energy security in a strategically vital region. This facility, designed to withstand extreme weather conditions, ensures an uninterrupted fuel supply to support Advanced Winter Stocking (AWS) operations and improve the Indian Army's operational readiness near the Line of Actual Control (LAC). By mitigating logistical challenges and facilitating troop mobility, the project reinforces India's defense posture amid geopolitical tensions. Additionally, it addresses civilian fuel needs, showcasing a commitment to regional self-reliance and sustainability, while promoting indigenisation efforts in defense logistics through innovative solutions like winter-grade diesel.

India's engineering talent vital for Qualcomm's 2nm processor development.

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23-Dec-25

Qualcomm has established India as a pivotal hub for developing its next-generation 2nm processors, harnessing the nation's largest pool of engineers worldwide to drive design and R&D for advanced smartphone chips. Announced on December 18, 2025, by Qualcomm India President Savi Soin, this initiative leverages the Chennai design center—inaugurated in March 2024 with a ₹180 crore investment—to create intellectual property for Snapdragon platforms, AI, 5G, and Wi-Fi 8 technologies. Partnering with TSMC for mass production starting in 2026, the 2nm system-on-a-chip promises superior performance, energy efficiency, and AI capabilities, aligning seamlessly with India's Make in India and semiconductor missions, as praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October.

2025. This positions India centrally in the global semiconductor value chain, enhancing domestic innovation and competitiveness.

President Droupadi Murmu awards Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 to 24 distinguished scientists. SHARE

23-Dec-25

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, presented the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 at a ceremony held at Gantantra Mandap, Rashtrapati Bhavan on December 23, 2025. This second edition of the awards recognized 24 distinguished scientists across four categories: Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva, and Vigyan Team, aiming to honor significant contributions in science, technology, and innovation. The initiative underscores the government's commitment to fostering scientific research and technological advancement in the country, thereby enhancing India's position as a global leader in scientific development. By acknowledging the efforts of these individuals and teams, the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar not only promotes excellence in scientific inquiry but also inspires future generations to pursue careers in STEM fields, essential for national progress and self-reliance.

President Murmu emphasizes community role in national security for Viksit Bharat.

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23-Dec-25

In her address at the IB Centenary Endowment Lecture on December 23, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu emphasized the importance of community participation in enhancing national security as a cornerstone of the "Viksit Bharat" vision. She highlighted the Indian Bureau's pivotal role in maintaining the nation's integrity and urged citizens to take active responsibility for security, underscoring that a collaborative approach is vital for addressing multi-dimensional threats including terrorism, insurgency, and cybercrimes. The President pointed out the near-eradication of left-wing extremism through community trust-building and socio-economic inclusion, while also stressing the importance of a technologically aware populace to combat misinformation and digital fraud. By fostering a culture of active citizen engagement and public welfare, she expressed confidence that India can navigate the complex security challenges of the 21st century, ultimately contributing to a secure and prosperous nation.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
RELINFRA	168.0	173.2	168.0	173.2	1588231	5.0	55.98	153.91	267.23
SWANDEF	1322.1	1322.1	1322.1	1322.1	12688	5.0	100.0	865.21	136.63
URAVIDEF	198.0	198.26	188.82	198.25	12208	4.99	59.71	175.17	380.6
APOLLO	254.0	262.25	253.0	262.25	2910946	4.98	54.42	249.74	211.19
DRONACHRYA	45.52	45.52	45.52	45.52	20000	4.98	44.97	46.04	69.68
CENTUM	2310.3	2465.2	2251.1	2402.7	48753	3.74	55.36	2290.62	2243.24
HBLPOWER	851.0	878.4	843.0	875.75	1773464	3.08	53.98	831.18	696.95
KRISHNADEF	770.0	810.0	756.05	795.7	93000	2.94	58.15	744.87	792.44
TEMBO	756.0	792.4	750.0	782.75	479818	2.88	62.62	732.84	563.73
PARAS	664.7	682.4	657.2	676.75	783562	2.4	49.76	676.5	688.17
BEML	1800.0	1874.9	1784.9	1837.0	595424	2.29	53.77	1746.47	1922.16
SUNITATOOL	794.9	797.8	780.0	782.25	5625	2.13	47.95	803.74	776.95
AVANTEL	160.25	163.5	158.41	162.49	2542476	2.09	58.98	151.59	148.78
ROSELLIND	50.25	51.99	50.05	51.29	26619	2.07	31.98	54.26	65.53
DATAPATTNS	2615.5	2680.3	2595.2	2657.8	287282	1.62	46.41	2710.18	2565.98
ASTRAMICRO	940.0	951.0	931.4	949.15	232870	1.48	53.38	911.18	964.07
MIDHANI	311.4	324.4	308.4	312.8	1043145	1.26	45.48	308.55	364.76
LOKESHMACH	169.9	169.9	164.0	168.0	47176	1.2	52.64	158.08	181.47
RTNINDIA	41.96	42.89	41.65	42.3	1590069	1.05	45.79	41.57	50.31
PTC	158.4	159.55	157.45	159.16	585838	0.86	50.17	157.13	172.44
SIKA	896.95	906.95	890.5	898.3	6867	0.66	38.19	919.81	1026.49
GOODLUCK	1053.9	1072.7	1053.9	1060.2	43679	0.6	38.84	1107.28	1023.84
BDL	1427.2	1444.0	1414.0	1431.4	1020331	0.55	48.16	1440.6	1569.03
HAL	4400.0	4451.2	4368.5	4407.4	587365	0.49	47.93	4381.8	4566.82
JYOTICNC	958.0	974.0	956.6	965.8	104702	0.44	52.7	963.68	1019.08
LMW	14990.0	15098.0	14840.0	15002.0	3159	0.39	45.56	15107.65	15655.43
MACPOWER	1024.6	1045.0	1000.0	1025.35	13904	0.37	60.66	986.1	885.62
DYNAMATECH	9741.0	9900.0	9600.5	9852.0	26240	0.35	62.94	9176.05	7249.61
BHARATFORG	1463.2	1465.0	1437.5	1460.2	477398	0.27	66.32	1417.16	1233.92
BEL	399.0	402.5	395.75	399.4	7734965	0.11	49.49	398.38	375.38
ZENTEC	1411.9	1421.1	1388.2	1395.0	343809	0.03	53.0	1379.34	1554.76
TECHERA	217.0	219.0	214.5	215.0	24000	0.0	41.49	220.99	199.07
GRSE	2438.0	2473.4	2398.1	2420.7	1429945	-0.26	45.26	2472.62	2450.01
TANEJAERO	302.7	304.0	295.0	297.8	6444	-0.32	37.9	307.38	363.85
LT	4089.0	4095.0	4053.3	4058.8	1867147	-0.33	55.93	4042.21	3636.45
DCXINDIA	199.41	213.5	190.75	203.13	19338100	-0.33	63.95	173.55	253.12
AZAD	1670.0	1709.0	1658.0	1661.9	143034	-0.51	54.82	1627.17	1589.91
PREMEXPLN	527.85	530.85	516.0	521.9	184985	-0.52	48.65	513.73	514.64
WALCHANNAG	199.0	204.7	194.05	197.28	3618262	-0.56	65.22	171.03	190.66
AXISCADES	1361.9	1369.0	1341.0	1354.1	37850	-0.57	49.22	1335.79	1252.12
SOLARINDS	12690.0	12690.0	12447.0	12545.0	130163	-0.59	45.64	12612.7	13887.77
ADANIENT	2272.5	2273.6	2245.0	2248.8	450112	-0.65	43.3	2249.89	2421.03
MTARTECH	2465.1	2466.0	2409.2	2434.1	119558	-1.02	52.8	2410.83	1759.17
COCHINSHIP	1677.9	1686.8	1642.4	1646.8	1300532	-1.17	51.73	1614.99	1736.98
MAZDOCK	2550.0	2572.0	2506.3	2513.2	1121382	-1.24	45.77	2531.32	2851.99
MARINE	216.75	220.0	212.18	213.31	374031	-1.35	48.47	211.86	201.71
HIGHENE	550.9	552.0	531.55	533.95	5723	-2.34	37.37	556.3	609.16
NIBE	1140.0	1149.35	1106.8	1111.0	2811	-2.36	49.52	1081.34	1345.53
CFF	574.0	574.0	540.5	554.55	34200	-3.14	36.89	584.73	588.94
IDEAFORGE	484.0	493.05	475.35	477.95	1883415	-3.52	58.87	443.79	474.64