



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

February 12, 2025 | Day 043

## Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
HBLPOWER	507.45	481.95	+5.29%
TEMBO	681.75	649.3	+5.0%
KRISHNADEF	656.45	633.4	+3.64%
NIBE	1425.0	1389.55	+2.55%
SOLARINDS	8956.8	8816.25	+1.59%

## Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
PREMEXPLN	371.0	387.7	-4.31%
TANEJAERO	321.0	334.6	-4.06%
LOKESHMACH	248.95	258.65	-3.75%
CFE	502.0	521.25	-3.69%
ASTRAMICRO	659.5	684.6	-3.67%

## Aero India 2025

### India's BrahMos Missile Gains Global Interest, Especially in SE Asia



12-Feb-25

"India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is attracting significant global interest, particularly from countries in Southeast Asia and the Middle East", said DRDO Chairperson Samir V Kamat at Aero India 2025 today. Indonesia is among those keen on acquiring the missile, with negotiations expected to commence soon, pending Russian approval. Kamat forecasted a substantial increase in India's defense exports, projecting growth from Rs 26,000 crores this year to Rs 1 lakh crore by 2035, highlighting DRDO's crucial role in this expansion. The BrahMos, a successful India-Russia venture, enhances India's deterrence capabilities and has already seen success in exports, notably to the Philippines.

### BEL and Safran Join Forces to Produce HAMMER Precision Weapons in India



12-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Safran Electronics & Defense announced a joint venture to manufacture the HAMMER Smart Precision Guided Weapons in India, marking a significant advancement in domestic defense capabilities. This collaboration supports India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision, aiming to localize production and reduce reliance on foreign imports. The HAMMER system, known for its precision and flexibility, will enhance the Indian Air Force's ability to conduct efficient airstrikes

against high-value targets with minimal collateral damage. The partnership will also ensure ongoing customization and maintenance support, leveraging BEL's expertise in defense electronics and Safran's precision-guided munitions technology for comprehensive operational effectiveness.

### Union Minister Rammohan Naidu Soars in HJT-36 Trainer Aircraft



12-Feb-25

Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu recently flew the HJT-36 Yasas trainer aircraft during Aero India 2025, sharing his experience on social media as unforgettable. He expressed pride in India's advancements in cutting-edge technology under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, emphasizing the government's commitment to achieving the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat. The flight, piloted by HAL's Chief Test Pilot Group Captain HV Thakur, showcases India's growing capabilities in indigenous defense production and training, reinforcing the significance of self-reliance in the defense sector. This event not only highlights India's technological advancements but also promotes confidence in the domestic aerospace industry.

### Adani Defence and DRDO Launch Advanced Vehicle-Mounted Counter-Drone System



12-Feb-25

Adani Defence and Aerospace, in collaboration with DRDO, unveiled India's Vehicle-Mounted Counter-Drone System at Aero India, marking a significant advancement in the nation's defense capabilities against aerial threats. The system integrates various technologies, including high-energy laser neutralization, a 7.62 mm gun, and advanced sensors for real-time

target acquisition, providing a mobile and agile solution for countering drone warfare. This initiative reflects India's commitment to enhancing indigenous defense solutions through innovation and industry collaboration, reinforcing the strategic preparedness of its armed forces against asymmetric threats. The system's operational flexibility and rapid response capabilities position it as a critical asset in safeguarding national security and strategic interests.

## US Air Force Band to Perform at Aero India 2025, Boosting Ties

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12-Feb-25

The US Air Force Band of the Pacifics, known as "Final Approach," is set to perform at Aero India 2025, highlighting the strong Indo-US partnership through music. Scheduled for February 13-14, the band will also conduct workshops with Indian musicians, fostering cultural exchange. This initiative underscores the growing defense ties and collaboration between the two nations, showcasing not only military cooperation but also soft power through arts and culture. Such engagements enhance mutual understanding and strengthen bilateral relations, reflecting a progressive approach in defense diplomacy.

## Rajnath Singh Engages with African Defence Ministers at Aero India

### 2025

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12-Feb-25

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh engaged in productive bilateral meetings with Defence Ministers from Zimbabwe, Yemen, Ethiopia, Gambia, and Gabon on the sidelines of Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru. Key agreements included MoUs on defence cooperation, focusing on military training, capacity building, and enhancing defence industry collaboration. The discussions underscored India's commitment to strengthening ties with African nations, showcasing India's emerging private sector's potential in defence production and maintenance. This proactive diplomatic approach emphasizes India's leadership role in regional security and fosters mutual growth through defense partnerships, promoting stability and cooperation across these nations.

## India Unveils CargoMax 20KHC: The Ultimate Cargo Drone at Aero India

### 2025

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12-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Scandron unveiled the CargoMax 20KHC, India's most powerful cargo drone with a 200kg

payload capacity, aimed at supporting the Indian armed forces and emergency teams. This autonomous drone, operational up to 15km and 6,000 metres, features advanced logistics capabilities, including precision landings on moving naval platforms. Scandron emphasizes self-reliance by manufacturing locally in Ladakh, enhancing accessibility for defense clients. As India's first OEM with DGCA type certification for logistics drones, Scandron's innovations bolster the nation's self-reliant defense manufacturing ambitions, positioning India favorably in the global drone industry and enhancing operational efficiencies across sectors.

## Tata Elxsi and Garuda Aerospace Launch Drone Design Center

[SHARE](#)

12-Feb-25

Tata Elxsi has partnered with Garuda Aerospace to establish a drone design and certification center aimed at advancing indigenous drone technologies with applications across defense, agriculture, and smart cities. This collaboration, unveiled at Aero India 2025, emphasizes India's commitment to self-reliance under the 'Make in India' initiative, with plans for artificial intelligence-driven UAV advancements. Tata Elxsi will focus on the design and testing of UAV subsystems, while Garuda Aerospace will lead business acquisition and delivery, positioning both companies to strengthen India's defense capabilities and create employment opportunities in the aerospace sector. This strategic move significantly enhances India's position in global UAV technology.

## Godrej Aerospace and ADA Partner to Boost AMCA Flight Control Systems

[SHARE](#)

12-Feb-25

Godrej Enterprises Group's aerospace unit has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) during the Aero India 2025 show in Bengaluru, aiming to develop flight control actuators for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program. This partnership, building on a two-decade-long collaboration, underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in aerospace technologies and supports national defense initiatives. Godrej's transition from 'Built to Print' to 'Built to Spec' manufacturing, incorporating advanced technologies like 3D printing, reflects a significant enhancement in India's manufacturing capabilities. Such initiatives bolster India's position in the global defense industry and promote its Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) vision.

## India's Army Unveils Kamikaze UGVs for Emergency Procurement



12-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Major Rajprasad RS of the Indian Army unveiled two significant innovations: the Xploder Kamikaze UGV and the Mobile Reactive Munition System (MRMS). The Xploder is a versatile unmanned ground vehicle designed for combat operations and disaster relief, while the MRMS enhances mine warfare capabilities with advanced targeting algorithms and stealthy maneuverability. Both innovations are set for mass procurement and induction, showcasing India's commitment to indigenous defense technology development. Major Rajprasad's contributions highlight the growing role of homegrown solutions in modern military operations, enhancing India's tactical edge and operational efficacy on the battlefield.

## Did the Su-57's debut prompt the U.S. to showcase the F-35?



12-Feb-25

The Aero India 2025 air show witnessed the first-ever joint display of the Russian Su-57 and the U.S. F-35, highlighting India's pivotal role in global defense collaboration. The U.S. Air Force's last-minute decision to fly the F-35, despite initially canceling, underscores its competitive stance against Russia's advanced fighter. While the F-35 excels in stealth and networked operations, NATO exercises indicate that highly maneuverable fourth-generation fighters like the F-16 and F/A-18 surpass it in dogfights. This event reflects India's strategic importance as it evaluates fifth-generation fighters, with both nations eager to reinforce their influence in the Indian defense market.

## BDL Receives Astra Weapon System Configuration for Production at Aero India 2025



12-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) received the baseline configuration of the Astra Weapon System, a cutting-edge air-to-air missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). This achievement, attended by key defense officials including the Raksha Rajya Mantri, signals the transition from development to mass production, enhancing the Indian Air Force's operational capabilities. The Astra missile's advanced features promise to improve air superiority, range, and reliability, addressing evolving defense needs. This milestone signifies a substantial leap in India's indigenous missile technology and showcases the country's commitment

to self-reliance in defense, strengthening its strategic position in the region.

## HAL Announces Orders for 97 Tejas Mk1A and 156 Prachand Helos



12-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, HAL Chief DK Sunil announced forthcoming orders for 97 Tejas Mk1A fighter jets and 156 Prachand helicopters, totaling Rs 1.3 lakh crore, part of India's push for self-reliance in defense. The IAF plans to acquire 180 Tejas Mk1A jets, necessitating a production ramp-up from 16 to 32 jets annually within a few years. The enhanced Tejas Mk1A features improved avionics and weapon systems, while the Prachand helicopter is tailored for high-altitude operations. This initiative underscores India's commitment to bolster its defense capabilities, reduce dependency on foreign imports, and enhance strategic autonomy in a complex geopolitical landscape.

## IAF Chief Critiques HAL's Delays on Tejas Mk1A at Aero India 2025



12-Feb-25

During Aero India 2025, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh expressed significant frustration with HAL's progress on the Tejas Mk1A fighter aircraft, highlighting delays in production and the absence of promised jets. His candid remarks pointed to a disconnect between IAF aspirations and HAL's current capabilities, emphasizing that showcased models did not meet true Mk1A standards. Singh called for drastic changes within HAL to enhance mission readiness, suggesting a need for cohesive effort rather than isolated endeavors. His challenge to HAL underscores the urgency for immediate corrective actions to align production with strategic defense needs, ultimately aiming to bolster India's indigenous defense capabilities.

## BEL and CSIR-NAL Join Forces to Boost Airspace Management and Sensors



12-Feb-25

Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) at Aero India 2025 to enhance India's airspace management and sensor technologies for Loitering Munition (LM) and High-Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS). This collaboration aims to integrate advanced sensors to improve the operational effectiveness of defense forces in complex combat environments. The partnership

highlights BEL's leadership in strategic electronics and CSIR-NAL's pivotal role in advancing aerospace capabilities. By focusing on these technologies, India is set to strengthen its defense capabilities, improving surveillance, communication, and targeting in military operations.

## **Astra Microwave and L&T Forge MoU for Advanced Radar Systems**



12-Feb-25

Astra Microwave Products Limited and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Aero India 2025 to collaborate on radar technology and systems, enhancing India's defense capabilities. This partnership aims to leverage Astra Microwave's expertise in advanced microwave components and L&T's strong systems engineering and manufacturing capabilities to develop next-generation radar systems. The focus on indigenously developed technologies aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, promoting self-reliance in defense and reducing foreign dependence. This collaboration is expected to improve situational awareness and operational effectiveness of the Indian Armed Forces, reflecting a progressive step toward strengthening national defense infrastructure.

## **Tata Elxsi Delivers CATS Warrior Wingman Prototype to HAL**



12-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Tata Elxsi successfully handed over the CATS Warrior Loyal Wingman prototype to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), marking a pivotal advancement in India's defense capabilities. This autonomous platform is designed to enhance the effectiveness of the Indian Air Force by supporting manned fighter jets in complex missions, including surveillance and precision strikes. The collaboration between Tata Elxsi and HAL underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology and the development of innovative solutions to meet evolving military needs. Tata Elxsi's efforts reflect its strategic role in advancing India's aerospace ecosystem and reinforcing the nation's defense posture.

## **Safran Launches Aravalli Engine for India's Multi-Role Helicopters**



12-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Safran Helicopter Engines revealed the Aravalli engine, developed with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH) and its naval variant, the Deck-Based

Multi-Role Helicopter (DBMRH). This engine enhances the operational capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces, featuring high performance and reliability vital for diverse missions, including troop transport and maritime surveillance. The IMRH aims to replace aging helicopters, while the DBMRH will bolster naval operations. With a payload capacity of 13 tons, this initiative marks a significant advancement in India's defense capabilities, showcasing the successful collaboration between Indian and international defense entities in meeting pressing military needs.

## **Russian Pilot Claims Top Gun: Maverick Lifted His Maneuver**



12-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Russian test pilot Sergey Bogdan claimed that Hollywood's Top Gun: Maverick borrowed one of his signature aerial maneuvers without credit. This maneuver, showcased at the Mags Airshow, involves a spiral descent that allows a fighter jet to quickly disrupt enemy targeting and gain a tactical edge in dogfights. Bogdan emphasized the maneuver's importance for modern combat pilots, expressing frustration over the lack of acknowledgment for his contribution. His revelation highlights the broader issue of intellectual property and recognition in military aviation, particularly as nations continue to innovate and demonstrate their aerial capabilities on international stages like Aero India.

## **India's New VHF Radar Can Detect Stealth Fighters from 400 km**



12-Feb-25

India has unveiled an Indigenous Very High Frequency (VHF) Radar system at Aero India 2025, capable of detecting stealth fighters like the Chinese-made J-35A from an impressive range of 400 km. This advanced radar, mounted on TATRA vehicles for mobility, significantly enhances India's air defense capabilities by providing early warning and surveillance against modern aerial threats. Its ability to operate in the VHF band allows it to track very low observable aircraft that evade conventional radar systems. This development is crucial for India's national security, particularly given the increasing sophistication of adversarial air capabilities, ensuring a strategic advantage in both defensive and offensive operations.



## Russia Proposes AL-41 Engine Upgrade for India's Sukhoi-30MKI [SHARE](#)

12-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Russia offered India the advanced AL-41 engine for upgrading the IAF's Sukhoi-30MKI fleet, which would enhance performance significantly. The AL-41 engine, used in the Sukhoi-57 stealth fighter, promises improved thrust, fuel efficiency, and reliability, aligning the aircraft closer to fifth-generation capabilities. This upgrade is vital as the Sukhoi-30MKI is a cornerstone of India's air power, and enhancing its technological edge is crucial for maintaining superiority over potential adversaries. The integration of the AL-41 would not only bolster the Sukhoi-30MKI's combat effectiveness but also reinforce India's strategic position in regional air dynamics.

## Defence Secretary Engages in Key Talks at Aero India 2025 [SHARE](#)

12-Feb-25

Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh engaged in multiple bilateral meetings during Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on February 11, 2025, with representatives from Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Mongolia, Nepal, Mauritius, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The discussions emphasized ongoing defence cooperation and the enhancement of defence industrial ties. Additionally, the Secretary met with French officials to explore joint projects. This initiative underlines India's commitment to fostering international defence partnerships, strengthening its position as a key player in global defense collaboration and promoting indigenous defense manufacturing. Such engagements are essential for bolstering regional security and enhancing defense capabilities in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

## India Poised for Global Leadership in Defense Innovation: Rajnath Singh [SHARE](#)

12-Feb-25

India is on a transformative path to becoming a global leader in defense innovation and aerospace technology, emphasized Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru. He highlighted that a decade ago, 65-70% of defense equipment was imported, whereas now, a similar percentage is being indigenously produced. The growing defense industrial complex, involving 16 DPSUs and numerous private companies, is pivotal for self-reliance. He reiterated the Armed Forces' trust in domestic products and the government's commitment to enhancing defense

preparedness. The event showcased significant indigenous innovations, underscoring India's potential to advance beyond traditional warfare into modern technological realms.

## Manthan 2025: Showcasing India's Defence Innovation at Aero India [SHARE](#)

12-Feb-25

Manthan 2025, held during Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru, showcased India's commitment to enhancing its defence capabilities through innovation. Organized by IDEX-DIO, the event featured key stakeholders, including industry leaders and government officials, discussing the integration of cutting-edge technologies to boost combat readiness and maintain a strategic advantage. Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Sanjeev Kumar highlighted the importance of supporting startups and MSMEs to foster a robust defence ecosystem. Manthan 2025 exemplified the rapid progress in defence innovation, aligning with the Ministry of Defence's aim for self-reliance as part of the Viksit Bharat by 2047 initiative, underlining the pivotal role of innovation in modernizing India's Armed Forces.

## Raksha Rajya Mantri highlights Navy's role and roadmap at Aero India 2025 [SHARE](#)

12-Feb-25

During the Aero India 2025 seminar, Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth emphasized India's strategic role in the Indian Ocean and the need for indigenous capabilities to enhance regional security. He unveiled the Indian Naval Aviation Technological Roadmap 2047, underscoring the importance of a credible defense force supported by a robust industrial base. With over 60 warships under construction and 39 indigenous vessels commissioned recently, the Indian Navy is positioned as a leader in self-reliance, or Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi highlighted the shift towards technology-intensive roles in naval aviation, aiming for full self-reliance by 2047 through innovation and collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

## DICE-2024 Awards Showcase Innovative Defence Solutions at Aero India

2025  [SHARE](#)

12-Feb-25

The Defence Innovation Challenge for Excellence (DICE-2024) concluded at Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru, showcasing innovative solutions from 24 start-ups across 47 cities. Organised by the Marathwada

Accelerator for Growth and Incubation Council (MAGIC) and DRDO, this initiative aims to bolster India's defence innovation ecosystem, aligning with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision. Winners received a combined cash prize of Rs 6.50 lakh and incubation support, reflecting a commitment to fostering cutting-edge technologies essential for addressing critical defence challenges. This event underscores the importance of collaboration between government, academia, and industry in enhancing India's self-reliance in defence capabilities.

## Defense Business and Industry

### India-U.S. Boost Defense Ties: Co-Producing Stryker Vehicles and Jet Engines SHARE

12-Feb-25

India is advancing its defense collaboration with the United States, engaging in discussions for the co-production of Stryker combat vehicles and finalizing a fighter jet engine deal, as Prime Minister Modi meets with President Trump. These initiatives are part of India's strategy to diversify its defense procurement beyond traditional reliance on Russia. The Indian government aims to expedite these transactions, with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd set to discuss the GE-414 engine deal with U.S. officials. This partnership not only enhances India's military capabilities but also strengthens bilateral ties, aligning with India's broader objective of self-reliance in defense manufacturing.

### France Negotiates to Acquire India's Pinaka Rocket Launchers SHARE

12-Feb-25

France is reportedly in advanced negotiations to acquire India's domestically produced Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher system, marking a notable shift as it would be the first significant defense deal where India's second-largest arms supplier purchases weapons from New Delhi. The Pinaka system, which has been successfully demonstrated to French officials and has a range of up to 90 km, underscores India's growing defense export capabilities amidst its aim to boost local production. Concurrently, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France for bilateral talks and an AI summit with President Emmanuel Macron may further solidify defense cooperation, showcasing India's strategic advancements in defense technology and international partnerships.

### GE Aerospace Partners with IAF for T700 Engine Support Contract SHARE

12-Feb-25

GE Aerospace has signed a five-year Performance Based Logistics contract with the Indian Air Force to provide a comprehensive sustainment solution for the T700-GE-701D engines used in the AH-64E-I Apache helicopters. This contract entails GE managing the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul of the engines to enhance their availability and operational readiness. The agreement reflects GE's commitment to ensuring the performance of critical defense platforms for the IAF, emphasizing the reliability of the T700 engine family, which has been tested in challenging combat environments globally. This partnership is crucial for boosting the IAF's operational capabilities and readiness in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

### Tata Advanced Systems Boosts Karnataka's Defense with New MRO Facility SHARE

12-Feb-25

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) is expanding its operations in Karnataka by establishing a state-of-the-art Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility for the Indian Air Force's C-130J fleet. This move underscores Karnataka's role as a hub for aerospace and defense innovation, bolstering India's self-reliance in defense. The state's robust infrastructure and skilled workforce, coupled with favorable government policies, attract significant investments, further integrating India into the global aerospace supply chain. Such initiatives not only drive technological growth and job creation but also enhance India's strategic position in the defense sector, showcasing the country's commitment to fostering high-value technology investments.

### HAL and Safran Forge Long-Term LEAP Engine Partnership for India SHARE

12-Feb-25

HAL and Safran have solidified their partnership through a long-term agreement concerning the LEAP engine, a significant step that enhances India's capabilities in the aerospace sector. This collaboration reflects India's strategic focus on fostering indigenous defense manufacturing and technology transfer, crucial for self-reliance in military aviation. The LEAP engine, known for its efficiency and performance, will support various Indian platforms, potentially reducing dependency on foreign technology. This move not only strengthens India's defense posture but also signals a

progressive shift towards strategic partnerships that bolster national security and economic growth in the defense industry.

## Modi and Macron Strengthen Defense Ties, Celebrate INS Vaghsheer



12-Feb-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron discussed enhancing defense ties, particularly in areas like missile systems and helicopter engines, during Modi's recent visit to France. They welcomed the commissioning of the INS Vaghsheer submarine and underscored the importance of indigenization in the Scorpene submarine project, highlighting the integration of advanced technologies. Both leaders emphasized the need for a robust R&D framework between India's DRDO and France's DGA to advance defense cooperation. Their commitment to a secure Indo-Pacific region and collaborative efforts in multilateral initiatives further strengthen the bilateral relationship, showcasing India's growing role in global defense partnerships.

## BlueRoom Simulations Partners with India to Enhance Military Training



12-Feb-25

BlueRoom Simulations, led by CEO Benjamin Krynski, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to introduce its mixed reality simulator to the Indian Armed Forces, highlighting the strong ties between Australia and India, rooted in shared democratic values. This innovative simulator, which has already been adopted by the Royal Australian Air Force, integrates physical devices with virtual environments to enhance training efficiency and reduce resource allocation. Krynski emphasized their commitment to supporting the Indian Armed Forces in safeguarding soldiers' lives, indicating a significant advancement in military training technology. This collaboration not only strengthens defense ties but also showcases India's openness to adopting cutting-edge technologies for enhanced operational readiness.

## BEML and STX Engine Join Forces for India's Defense Innovation



12-Feb-25

BEML has partnered with South Korea's STX Engine to enhance India's defense and marine manufacturing capabilities, aligning with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative aimed at reducing import dependency. This collaboration will integrate BEML's engineering strengths with STX's advanced technology, fostering

innovation and developing indigenous propulsion solutions for India's defense programs while exploring export opportunities to allied nations. BEML's focus on optimizing production processes will further accelerate localization and indigenization efforts, thereby reinforcing India's position in the defense sector and contributing to a robust domestic manufacturing ecosystem. This partnership exemplifies India's commitment to self-reliance and strategic advancements in defense capabilities.

## Is Lockheed Martin's F-21 the Future of India's Air Force?



12-Feb-25

Lockheed Martin's F-21 is positioned as a strong contender for India's Air Force, featuring advanced technologies such as next-generation avionics, enhanced electronic warfare systems, and superior firepower. With a focus on "Make in India," Lockheed proposes local production in partnership with TATA, enabling technology transfer that would strengthen India's aerospace industry and create skilled jobs. The F-21, designed to bridge the capabilities of the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft and heavier fighters, boasts lower lifecycle costs and increased air-to-air missile capacity, enhancing its combat effectiveness. Overall, the F-21 represents a strategic opportunity for India to bolster its defense capabilities while promoting domestic manufacturing.

## AMCA to Fly by 2028 as India's Next-Gen 5.5 Fighter Jet



12-Feb-25

The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is set for its first flight by the end of 2028, marking a significant milestone in India's defense capabilities. This 5.5-generation fighter jet will incorporate advanced AI for automated operations, including auto takeoff and landing, enhancing pilot efficiency. Its stealth features, utilizing advanced composite materials, will reduce radar detection, boosting India's aerial combat potential. Despite receiving financial clearance only in early 2024, the project promises to position India at the forefront of fighter jet technology, emphasizing the nation's commitment to self-reliance in defense amid evolving geopolitical challenges. The focus now lies on overcoming integration and performance challenges.

## Tejas MkII Prototype Assembly Underway, First Flight in 2026 SHARE

12-Feb-25

The Tejas MkII program is making significant progress, with the first prototype expected to roll out by the end of 2025 and its first flight anticipated in April or May 2026. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is currently assembling the aircraft, integrating complex systems sourced from its Tejas MkI ecosystem. Notably, the Tejas MkII will only require basic Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) for production, allowing faster induction into the Indian Air Force (IAF). This streamlined approach will enable the IAF to incorporate advanced weapons and systems directly, which is crucial for enhancing India's defense capabilities and ensuring operational readiness in a timely manner.

## Indian Army to Get 70,000 AK-203 Rifles, Boosting Self-Reliance SHARE

12-Feb-25

The Indian Army is set to enhance its infantry capabilities with the delivery of 70,000 AK-203 assault rifles this year, part of a total order of 170,000, aimed at modernizing its arsenal and replacing outdated INSAS rifles. Manufactured in India through a collaboration with Russia, this initiative aligns with the 'Make in India' campaign, increasing indigenous content to 30% this year and targeting further localization. The modular design of the AK-203 offers adaptability for various combat scenarios, thereby strengthening India's defense capabilities. This acquisition not only boosts military readiness but also signifies a long-term commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing.

## Abhimanyu Drone to Enhance Indian Navy's Jet Fleets SHARE

12-Feb-25

Bengaluru-based NewSpace Research & Technologies has been contracted to develop the Naval Collaborative Combat Air Vehicle (N-CCAV), featuring the "Abhimanyu" drone, which will enhance the Indian Navy's MiG-29K and Rafale-M fleets. This jet-powered, low-RCS drone will operate as a "loyal wingman," significantly extending operational reach and capability through roles in reconnaissance, electronic warfare, and expendable strikes. Its modular design and adaptability reflect India's commitment to integrating advanced unmanned systems into naval operations, promising to bolster combat potential without risking pilots. Overall, the N-CCAV program marks a substantial advancement for India's indigenous defense

capabilities and aligns with global military trends toward human-machine collaboration.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### US Stresses Limits on Ukraine Peace Deal at NATO Meeting SHARE

12-Feb-25

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth's recent visit to NATO highlighted the Trump administration's stance on Ukraine, emphasizing that the US will not deploy troops in any peace deal and dismissing the notion of Ukraine regaining all territory or joining NATO as unrealistic. The meeting in Brussels indicated a shift in leadership, now co-chaired by the UK, as allies await clarity on US military and financial support for Ukraine. Hegseth's comments stressed the need for European countries to shoulder more defense responsibilities, particularly in light of escalating tensions with Russia and increased European military budgets. This reflects a broader concern among NATO allies about European security and the long-term implications of a potential peace deal with Russia that may not favor Ukraine's interests.

### Iran's Khamenei Calls for Military Boost Amid U.S. Threats SHARE

12-Feb-25

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized the need to enhance the country's military capabilities, particularly its missile program, in response to perceived threats from the U.S. under President Trump. He unveiled new military technologies, including a jet-powered "suicide drone," asserting that Iran's defensive power instills fear in its enemies. Khamenei rejected talks with the U.S., criticizing what he termed as "reckless" U.S. policies and sanctions aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions, which Tehran insists are for peaceful purposes. The situation reflects rising tensions in the region, as Iran accelerates uranium enrichment, drawing concern from Western powers regarding its potential nuclear weapons development.

### US Congressman Advocates for India's Inclusion in AUKUS Group SHARE

12-Feb-25

US Congressman Rich McCormick has advocated for India's inclusion in the AUKUS security partnership, emphasizing the nation's economic potential and its ability to contribute to a free and stable Indo-Pacific region. He highlighted the importance of U.S.-India



alignment on global issues, particularly regarding Russia. With projections from various entities indicating robust economic growth for India, McCormick envisions enhanced ties benefiting both nations. AUKUS, initially aimed at countering China's influence, is open to expanding its membership, suggesting India's strategic importance could be further recognized in this evolving geopolitical landscape, thereby strengthening India's defense collaboration with Western powers.

## China's Assertiveness Strengthens India-U.S. Strategic Ties SHARE

12-Feb-25

Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Centre, emphasized that China's assertiveness is a central factor uniting the strategic partnership between India and the U.S., particularly as India prepares to host the next Quad Leaders' Summit. He anticipates discussions between Prime Minister Modi and President Trump will focus on economic competition with China, with potential conversations on tariff reductions. Kugelman acknowledged India's proactive stance in reducing tariffs and fostering bilateral cooperation, reflecting a positive trajectory in Indo-U.S. relations. He also noted China's increasing influence in South Asia, leveraging its relationship with Pakistan and the Belt and Road Initiative to shape regional dynamics.

## Military Operations

### CDS Anil Chauhan: China's 6th-gen fighters still in development SHARE

12-Feb-25

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan has questioned China's claims of operational sixth-generation fighter jets, asserting that such aircraft are still in development globally. He emphasized the unreliability of assessing these claims from brief video clips and noted that China is still refining tactics, as evidenced by their recruitment of former Western pilots. General Chauhan highlighted the evolving concept of sixth-generation aircraft, which will integrate AI, data analytics, and enhanced networking capabilities. He reaffirmed India's commitment to developing its Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), ensuring that its defense capabilities remain competitive amid global advancements in military aviation.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### Captain and Soldier Killed in IED Blast Near LoC Amid Rising Terrorism SHARE

12-Feb-25

Two Indian Army personnel, including a captain, were killed in an IED blast near the Line of Control in the Akhnoor sector, marking a troubling rise in cross-border terrorist activities. This incident follows recent hostilities where troops faced gunfire and potential infiltration attempts. The Army is actively conducting search operations and has reinforced anti-infiltration measures, highlighting their commitment to maintaining security along the border. The fatalities underscore the ongoing challenges posed by terrorism in the region, yet the Indian forces remain vigilant and prepared to counter such threats, demonstrating resilience in the face of adversity.

### Nine Militants Arrested in Manipur Amid Ongoing Security Efforts SHARE

12-Feb-25

Security forces in Manipur have successfully apprehended nine militants from the Imphal West and Tengnoupal districts, as reported by police. Among those detained, two were linked to the Kangleipak Communist Party (Apunba), involved in extortion, while the others belonged to the United National Liberation Front (Koireng) and PREPAK, further demonstrating the ongoing efforts to combat insurgency in the region. This operation underscores the commitment of Indian security forces to maintain law and order and tackle militant activities, reinforcing stability in Manipur amidst ongoing challenges. Such proactive measures are crucial in ensuring the safety of citizens and the integrity of the region.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### Delhi HC warns AI can be dangerous, regardless of origin SHARE

12-Feb-25

The Delhi High Court recently highlighted the potential dangers of artificial intelligence, noting it can be harmful regardless of whether it is in Chinese or American hands. This observation arose during hearings on a petition to ban DeepSeek, a Chinese-developed AI chatbot, due to concerns over data

privacy and significant vulnerabilities leading to personal data leaks. The court acknowledged the government's awareness of these issues and granted time for the Centre's counsel to gather more information, emphasizing the necessity of safeguarding citizens' personal data and government documents against cyber threats. The case underscores the growing need for robust regulations on AI technologies to protect national security and privacy.

## Miscellaneous

### Modi and Vance Discuss US Nuclear Tech for India's Clean Energy

12-Feb-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with US Vice President JD Vance to discuss collaboration on clean energy, particularly US nuclear technology, aimed at diversifying India's energy sources. The meeting included personal moments, such as sharing gifts and celebrating Vice President Vance's son's birthday, indicating strong diplomatic ties. Modi's upcoming visit to the US in February is anticipated to further strengthen these relations. This engagement highlights India's strategic pivot toward reliable energy partnerships, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable development and enhancing its geopolitical standing through collaboration with a key ally.

### Oil and Gas Essential for India's Energy Future: Hardeep Singh Puri

12-Feb-25

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri emphasized the enduring significance of oil and gas in India's energy landscape, even as renewables rise. During the India Energy Week 2025, he advocated for a balanced energy strategy that incorporates traditional fuels alongside renewables to ensure grid stability and meet the demands of an AI-driven economy. Puri highlighted the need for natural gas, carbon-abated coal, and advanced nuclear energy to provide reliable power. He also noted that India's successful initiatives, like the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, have achieved 100% clean cooking access, showcasing how policy-driven solutions can enhance energy access while maintaining sustainability.

### Puri Signals Nuclear Power Advancements in US-India Talks

12-Feb-25

Union Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri emphasized the significance of nuclear power in upcoming energy discussions between India and the US, particularly during Prime Minister Modi's visit. He highlighted past challenges in commercializing nuclear energy following the India-US civilian nuclear deal but expressed optimism about the potential of small modular reactors (SMRs) and a new Rs 20,000-crore nuclear mission aimed at developing 100GW of nuclear energy by 2047. Puri noted that increased energy sourcing from the US could lead to lower prices for India, which is both a consumer and producer. This reflects India's strategic focus on enhancing energy security and fostering international partnerships in the nuclear sector.

### PM Modi in Marseille honors Veer Savarkar and strengthens ties

12-Feb-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Marseille, France, to commemorate the legacy of freedom fighter Veer Savarkar, who made a courageous escape attempt from British custody in the city. During his visit, Modi will inaugurate the new Consulate General of India and honor Indian soldiers who fought in the World Wars at the Mazargues War Cemetery. He emphasized the importance of this trip in strengthening India-France relations, with plans to tour the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project. Modi's homage to Savarkar highlights India's rich history of resistance against colonial powers and reflects the enduring spirit of freedom that continues to inspire the nation.

### Modi and Macron discuss soaring India-France ties aboard aircraft

12-Feb-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron engaged in significant discussions aboard the French presidential aircraft, highlighting the deepening ties between India and France. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri emphasized the "exceptional gesture" by Macron, symbolizing strong personal trust between the leaders. They explored a wide range of topics, including recent geopolitical developments and bilateral cooperation in defense, space, and civil nuclear sectors, along with artificial intelligence as a focal point. This meeting underscores the growing strategic partnership and mutual confidence between the two nations, reflecting their commitment to addressing

global challenges collaboratively in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

## AI's 'Incredible' Potential for India Discussed by Google CEO and PM Modi



12-Feb-25

Google CEO Sundar Pichai expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration with PM Modi during the AI Action Summit in Paris, highlighting the "incredible opportunities AI will bring to India." They discussed enhancing India's digital transformation and the potential of a public-private partnership to support startups and researchers. PM Modi emphasized the strong India-France relationship, focusing on innovation and shared values, while showcasing India's commitment to responsible AI development. He noted that India is developing its own large language model, ensuring it can leverage its diverse capabilities to lead in AI technology, reinforcing its position on the global stage.

## PM Modi Inaugurates Indian Consulate in Marseille to Boost Ties



12-Feb-25

Prime Minister Modi emphasized the significance of the newly inaugurated Indian Consulate in Marseille as a means to enhance people-to-people ties, reflecting the deep trust and shared democratic values between India and France. Marseille's strategic location as a trade gateway is pivotal for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, facilitating improved connectivity. The leaders also co-chaired the AI Action Summit in Paris, showcasing a commitment to technological innovation, and visited the ITER nuclear fusion research project, highlighting collaborative advancements in energy. Additionally, an initiative for India-France Triangular Development Cooperation focusing on climate and sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific region was announced, further strengthening bilateral ties.

## DRDO Tests Drogue Parachutes to Enhance ISRO's Gaganyaan Mission



12-Feb-25

DRDO successfully tested drogue parachutes for ISRO's Gaganyaan mission, crucial for stabilizing the crew module during re-entry. Conducted at the RTRS facility, the tests simulated real-world scenarios to evaluate the parachutes' performance, marking a significant milestone in India's indigenous space technology capabilities. The drogue parachutes, with a diameter of

5.8 meters, utilize a single-stage reefing mechanism to ensure a controlled descent, integrating into a comprehensive deceleration system involving ten parachutes. This development underscores India's advancing expertise in space missions, enhancing its strategic autonomy and technological prowess in the aerospace sector.

## ISRO and ESA Successfully Complete RF Tests for Gaganyaan Mission



12-Feb-25

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted Radio Frequency Compatibility Tests (RFCT) in collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA) for the Gaganyaan missions. These tests validate the communications systems of the Gaganyaan Orbital Module, ensuring seamless operation between ISRO's systems and ESA's ground stations. This achievement is crucial for mission success, as it enables effective communication with the onboard crew and monitoring of systems. By leveraging both its capabilities and external support, ISRO is enhancing its readiness for human space missions, showcasing India's growing prowess in space exploration and international collaboration.

## Archer NG UAV's First Flight Expected by Early April



12-Feb-25

The Archer NG (Next Generation) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is set for its first flight in late March or early April, following successful taxi trials. This UAV, with a unique single-engine, twin-boom pusher configuration, aims to enhance India's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, succeeding the TAPAS-BH-201 program, which faced challenges. Initially focused solely on ISR functions, weapons integration will commence three years post-first flight, ensuring a solid developmental foundation. The promising trajectory of the Archer NG demonstrates India's commitment to advancing its defense technology, promising enhanced reliability and performance that align with strategic military objectives.

## India Commits to Digitizing Maldives Legislature for Stronger Ties



12-Feb-25

India has pledged full technical assistance to the Maldives for digitizing its parliamentary resources, as articulated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla during talks with Maldivian Speaker Abdul Raheem Abdulla. This

initiative reflects India's commitment to strengthen ties with the Maldives, a vital component of its Neighbourhood First policy. Birla showcased India's digital advancements in parliamentary procedures, including AI usage and multilingual interpretation services. The discussions also emphasized ongoing training opportunities for Maldivian legislative officials, reinforcing the historical and cultural connections between India and the Maldives while enhancing regional cooperation through technological support.

## California Students Sue Education Department Over Data Breach SHARE

12-Feb-25

A coalition of California college students has filed a lawsuit against the US Department of Education, alleging unauthorized access to sensitive financial records by a task force linked to Elon Musk. The lawsuit, initiated by the University of California Student Association, claims violations of federal privacy laws concerning student aid data. It emphasizes the need for secure handling of personal information, with lawmakers calling for an investigation into the matter.

This case highlights growing concerns about data privacy in federal education programs, and its outcome could significantly impact future privacy protections and oversight mechanisms in such agencies.

## Indian Navy Welcomes Third 25T Tug Ashva at Visakhapatnam SHARE

12-Feb-25

The Indian Navy has successfully inducted its third 25T Bollard Pull Tug, named Ashva, at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam. This tug is part of a contract for six such tugs with Titagarh Rail Systems Limited, emphasizing indigenous design and construction in line with the Indian Register of Shipping. These tugs play a crucial role in assisting naval ships and submarines during berthing and maneuvering, while also providing firefighting support and limited search and rescue operations. The initiative proudly showcases the government's "Make in India" and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" objectives, highlighting India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities through domestic production.

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# Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
HBLPOWER	502.6	514.85	462.15	507.45	13260461	5.29	39.01	548.44	578.33
TEMBO	649.9	681.75	621.05	681.75	81669	5.0	49.63	669.35	460.1
KRISHNADEF	617.1	665.95	610.0	656.45	36000	3.64	45.38	677.45	702.72
NIBE	1403.4	1473.55	1300.0	1425.0	20340	2.55	45.83	1439.44	1747.11
SOLARINDS	8821.75	9050.0	8627.55	8956.8	103063	1.59	40.32	9495.44	10251.88
LT	3259.0	3300.0	3222.25	3289.65	1632415	1.54	39.29	3429.93	3590.04
ADANIENT	2325.0	2378.45	2281.0	2353.45	1933098	1.37	50.22	2324.17	2865.9
APOLLO	120.49	124.3	114.7	120.25	9606261	0.98	45.8	130.22	108.46
AZAD	1408.95	1465.0	1337.05	1420.65	258623	0.78	40.0	1512.96	1594.96
AVANTEL	119.0	120.98	112.2	120.03	880673	0.7	32.23	131.97	-
ROSSELLIND	66.0	67.41	62.6	65.91	17866	0.44	33.15	69.35	309.3
MAZDOCK	2185.0	2213.95	2065.2	2189.95	7310164	0.22	44.51	2289.32	2125.12
BDL	1131.5	1147.25	1048.0	1136.6	2020364	-0.04	41.73	1228.86	1261.0
BHARATFORG	1112.9	1117.0	1070.8	1104.65	1217773	-0.69	31.81	1179.13	1458.97
LMW	15014.35	15099.75	14778.75	14859.45	4635	-0.92	33.32	15601.02	16198.95
PARAS	989.0	989.95	930.0	976.45	221235	-1.27	43.17	1037.34	1091.77
MIDHANI	283.0	284.0	266.05	279.25	552237	-1.48	32.06	312.4	394.27
HAL	3639.05	3658.55	3470.05	3594.15	3099846	-1.52	39.67	3809.43	4513.23
MARINE	184.4	191.72	178.81	185.35	191476	-1.53	30.56	210.4	215.52
HIGHENE	491.6	505.0	471.2	490.55	47362	-1.73	23.66	541.45	695.51
IDEAFORGE	412.1	417.45	390.0	404.0	221225	-1.91	20.13	487.65	661.53
BEML	2937.3	2963.1	2784.0	2884.0	383979	-1.97	27.17	3448.6	4017.59
COCHINSHIP	1323.45	1323.45	1244.1	1299.75	969073	-2.01	34.66	1433.03	1787.24
PTC	136.0	136.0	128.8	132.57	1400579	-2.21	38.15	140.61	190.91
DCXINDIA	295.0	296.95	280.0	292.25	666028	-2.21	32.86	326.48	340.39
BEL	264.95	265.75	254.0	259.15	27997028	-2.23	39.62	275.25	289.31
ZENTEC	1482.25	1483.45	1390.45	1448.05	905814	-2.31	26.82	1766.73	1652.24
GRSE	1440.0	1440.9	1362.05	1412.1	943374	-2.7	38.72	1521.98	1695.84
DATAPATNS	1750.0	1783.7	1641.05	1719.05	478061	-2.7	26.88	2065.43	2641.08
MTARTECH	1475.0	1475.5	1383.1	1423.2	182267	-3.01	32.46	1572.93	1758.84
SIKA	2459.0	2459.0	2352.3	2355.0	3625	-3.63	48.09	2325.86	2626.05
ASTRAMICRO	680.0	682.75	635.85	659.5	389299	-3.67	35.94	720.42	820.95
CFE	525.0	525.0	470.0	502.0	33600	-3.69	23.5	599.62	653.94
LOKESHMACH	258.7	267.45	246.2	248.95	44704	-3.75	30.88	285.5	375.27
TANEJAERO	342.9	347.0	309.0	321.0	27653	-4.06	28.36	362.42	485.23
PREMEXPLN	395.0	398.55	344.95	371.0	254882	-4.31	31.7	436.38	541.63