



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

March 12, 2025 | Day 071

## Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
MARINE	166.93	159.1	+4.92%
BHARATFORG	1090.2	1064.3	+2.43%
BEML	2490.1	2437.55	+2.16%
HIGHENE	469.6	459.75	+2.14%
MIDHANI	265.03	261.37	+1.4%

## Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
TEMBO	501.6	679.1	-26.14%
ROSSELLIND	59.92	62.61	-4.3%
HBLPOWER	423.2	438.15	-3.41%
DCXINDIA	225.38	232.33	-2.99%
KRISHNADEF	545.0	561.35	-2.91%

## Defense Business and Industry

### IAF to Fast-Track Induction of New Multirole Fighter Jets Soon



12-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to fast-track the induction of 114 new multirole fighter jets within the next 4-5 years as part of its Multi Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) program, amid an urgent need to address a projected shortfall of 450 fighter jets by 2040 due to aging aircraft retirements. With contenders including the Rafale, Eurofighter Typhoon, and the new F-15EX Strike Eagle, the IAF aims for limited trials to expedite the selection process. Indigenous projects like the Tejas Mk1A and MkII, as well as the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), are crucial for enhancing its fleet, but past delays pose challenges. This strategic buildup is vital for maintaining air superiority in the face of threats from China and Pakistan, making timely procurement essential for the IAF's operational capabilities.

### India Signs ₹2,906 Crore Contract with BEL for Advanced Radar System



12-Mar-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence has signed a significant capital acquisition contract worth Rs 2,906 crore with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of Low-level Transportable Radar (LLTR), also known as Ashwini, which is designed to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force. This radar, developed by DRDO, employs advanced solid-state technology and can track various aerial threats, and also featuring integrated Identification Friend or Foe

systems and advanced Electronic Counter-Countermeasures. This order indicates BEL's robust position in the defense sector with total order inflows reaching Rs 17,030 crore this financial year. These developments underscore India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing and the advancement of its indigenous defense industrial ecosystem.

### Navy Chief Reviews Defense Innovations at Bharat Electronics



12-Mar-25

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, the Indian Navy Chief, visited Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Bengaluru to review advanced defense systems, including the MRSAM and LRSAM projects. He commended BEL for its role in the Indian defense ecosystem and its adherence to Industry 4.0 standards, highlighting the importance of strategic collaboration between defense manufacturers and the Navy. The visit reflects the Indian Navy's commitment to technological advancement and self-reliance, aligning with India's goals of Atmanirbharta and Viksit Bharat. This engagement emphasizes the collaborative effort to enhance indigenous defense capabilities and secure national interests.

### SML Isuzu Wins ₹24.71 Cr IAF Order for 114 Troop Carriers



12-Mar-25

SML Isuzu Limited has secured a significant order from the Indian Air Force (IAF) for 114 units of BS VI, 4-Wheel Drive Troop Carriers, valued at Rs. 24.71 crore. This contract, awarded under the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) tender process, is set to be executed between March 11 and July 9, 2025. The order underscores SML Isuzu's capacity to meet military-grade transportation needs and could enhance its position in the specialized

vehicle market. While the company has faced financial challenges, including a 14.07% decline in revenue and an 80.22% drop in net profit in Q3FY25, this contract may positively influence investor sentiment regarding its financial outlook for the fiscal year. Overall, this development reflects the Indian government's continued focus on domestic defense procurement, bolstering local manufacturers in the defense sector.

## Safran and Robinson Team Up to Equip R88 Helicopter with Arriel 2W SHARE

12-Mar-25

Safran Helicopter Engines has partnered with Robinson Helicopter Company to equip the new R88 helicopter with the Arriel 2W engine, recognized for its performance and reliability in the light helicopter market. This collaboration marks a significant move, as it includes a comprehensive support package, the Serenity package, ensuring operators receive extensive maintenance and digital services from day one. With over 15,500 Arriel engines produced, this partnership reinforces the trust in Safran's technology and commitment to safety. This development could enhance global competitiveness in the aviation sector and strengthen the operational capabilities of light helicopter services, aligning with India's defense modernization goals through advanced technology partnerships.

## Sakthi Group and Diamond Aircraft to Assemble 150 Trainer Planes in Haryana SHARE

12-Mar-25

India's Sakthi Group has entered a joint venture with Austria's Diamond Aircraft to assemble 150 trainer DA40 NG aircraft in Haryana, enhancing the country's indigenous aircraft manufacturing capabilities. This initiative follows a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Aero Club of India and Sakthi Aircraft Industry, with an emphasis on supporting Flying Training Organizations (FTOs) to meet global aviation standards. Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu highlighted the significance of this historic order, which will bolster the domestic aviation industry's growth and improve pilot training infrastructure, ultimately contributing to India's strategic defense readiness and self-reliance in aviation.

## Pakistan's Arms Imports Soar 61%, Driven by Chinese Supply SHARE

12-Mar-25

A SIPRI report indicates a 61% surge in Pakistan's arms imports from 2015-2019 to 2020-2024, primarily supplied by China, which accounts for 81% of these imports. This increase is driven by Pakistan's modernization efforts to counter India's military advancements and address internal security threats. Key acquisitions include JF-17 fighter jets and Chinese-built naval vessels to enhance air and maritime capabilities. China's strategic partnership with Pakistan, bolstered by favorable pricing and technology transfer, positions it as a vital arms supplier, even as geopolitical tensions limit its export reach to other nations wary of Chinese equipment. This development necessitates vigilance from India as it shapes regional security dynamics.

## Indian Navy Welcomes New Indigenous Barges to Enhance Capabilities SHARE

12-Mar-25

The Indian Navy has recently celebrated the induction of two significant vessels: the ninth Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) barge, LSAM 23, and the eighth Missile Cum Ammunition Barge (MCA), LSAM 11, at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. Both barges have been constructed by MSME shipyards, with LSAM 23 built by Suryadipta Projects Pvt. Ltd. and LSAM 11 by SECON Engineering Projects Pvt. Ltd., showcasing India's commitment to the 'Make in India' and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. These barges are designed to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy by facilitating the transportation and disembarkation of ammunition and equipment at jetties and outer harbours. The successful delivery of these vessels underscores the Indian Navy's dedication to supporting local industries and advancing indigenous shipbuilding capabilities, ultimately strengthening national security and operational readiness.

## Airbus and Moog Secure STC for Enhanced H125 Avionics Suite SHARE

12-Mar-25

Moog, in collaboration with Airbus Helicopters, has received FAA Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) approval for its Genesys cockpit avionics suite, enhancing the operational capabilities of the Airbus H125 helicopter for single pilot IFR operations. This approval allows H125 operators to utilize the advanced avionics system in challenging conditions, featuring dual smart displays, an IFR helicopter autopilot, and

other essential components for IFR certification. The solution will be available for new H125 deliveries in North America, with retrofitting options for existing aircraft to follow. This development underscores the commitment to innovative and affordable avionics solutions, bolstering safety and efficiency in aviation operations.

## Embraer Launches Global Team to Boost Cargo and Leasing Growth SHARE

12-Mar-25

Embraer Commercial Aviation has announced the formation of a dedicated Global Leasing and Freight team to enhance its position in the cargo and leasing markets, now based in Amsterdam. This team, led by Oliver Gerg as Senior Vice President, will focus on E-Jet Passenger to freighter conversions and commercial leasing activities, reflecting Embraer's commitment to innovation and customer-centric strategies. Martyn Holmes, Chief Commercial Officer, emphasized the significance of this strategic alignment to capitalize on growth opportunities in the aviation sector, indicating a proactive approach to meet evolving industry demands and enhance customer value.

## Rheinmetall Kodiak Showcases Versatility to Polish Engineers SHARE

12-Mar-25

Rheinmetall demonstrated the AEV 3 Kodiak armoured engineer vehicle's capabilities to Polish military engineers, showcasing its mobility and multifunctionality in combat support tasks, such as digging anti-tank ditches and repairing flood dams. The Kodiak, based on the Leopard 2 chassis, can convert into the Keiler NG armoured breaching vehicle, essential for modern battlefield operations, especially in mine clearance. This modularity allows for enhanced adaptability, vital for overcoming complex obstacles as evidenced by the ongoing conflicts, including Ukraine. The advancements in the Kodiak highlight Rheinmetall's commitment to providing cutting-edge technology to bolster NATO allies' operational effectiveness.

## Leonardo DRS Boosts U.S. Navy Destroyers with Advanced IVCS SHARE

12-Mar-25

Leonardo DRS has delivered its first next-generation Integrated Voice Communication Systems (IVCS) for the U.S. Navy's Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, enhancing ship-wide communications critical for effective naval operations. This advanced technology integrates various communication systems,

underscoring Leonardo DRS's leadership in providing secure naval communications solutions, also utilized by navies of allied nations like Canada, Australia, and Japan. The milestone illustrates the ongoing partnership between Leonardo DRS and the U.S. Navy, reflecting a commitment to modernize tactical communications for enhanced operational effectiveness. Such advancements align with India's strategy to invest in robust communication systems, highlighting the significance of secure communications in contemporary naval warfare.

## Baykar and Leonardo Launch JV to Innovate Unmanned Technologies SHARE

12-Mar-25

Baykar Technologies and Leonardo have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Joint Venture focused on developing unmanned technologies in Italy. This partnership aims to leverage Baykar's leading UAV platforms and Leonardo's expertise in mission systems and aerospace certification, targeting the projected \$100 billion European market for unmanned systems over the next decade. The collaboration emphasizes the importance of technological synergy in addressing challenges like AI and cybersecurity in defense. Both companies are committed to advancing their capabilities in unmanned aerial systems, with a vision to enhance global security and maintain air supremacy through ethical AI-driven technologies.

## BrahMos-NG Set to Launch in 2026, Production by 2027-28 SHARE

12-Mar-25

India's BrahMos-NG missile, set to fly in 2026 with production starting by 2027-28, features a lighter design for integration with various platforms, including the Sukhoi Su-30MKI and HAL TEJAS. Weighing 1.6 tons and measuring 6 meters, it maintains a range of 290 kilometers and top speed of Mach 3.5, enhancing combat capabilities across air, sea, and land. Export prospects are promising, with interest from Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, including a significant deal with Indonesia. This evolution of the BrahMos system showcases India's growing strength in defense exports and strategic partnerships, reinforcing its position in the global defense landscape.

## Pravaig Dynamics Wins iDEX Award for Innovative E-TATV Solutions



12-Mar-25

Bengaluru-based Pravaig Dynamics has received the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Innovation in Defence Excellence (iDEX) for its VEER Electric Tactical All-Terrain Vehicle (E-TATV), marking a significant advancement in India's defense innovation landscape. This electric-powered vehicle enhances India's strategic autonomy by allowing self-reliance in defense technologies, reducing dependency on foreign systems, and ensuring operational data security. Key features include stealth capabilities, durability in harsh conditions, and military-grade repairs, positioning the VEER as a vital asset for India's armed forces. Pravaig's success underscores a critical shift toward indigenous solutions, promoting a robust defense industrial base essential for national security.

## Indo-US Partnership Advances Autonomous Systems Development



12-Mar-25

NewSpace Research and Technologies (NRT) from Bengaluru has partnered with the U.S. Army DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory to advance autonomous systems, marking a significant step in Indo-US defense collaboration. This partnership aims to develop intelligence and autonomy algorithms for unmanned aerial systems (UAS) using Blue UAS-approved hardware, enhancing multi-agent operations. It aligns with initiatives like the Indo-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology and the Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance, promoting cooperation in areas like artificial intelligence. NRT's innovative Mission Oriented Scalable Architecture Intelligence & Computing (MOSAIC) suite will enhance UAS effectiveness, solidifying India's position in the global defense technology landscape.

## Final Deliveries of Indian Navy's MH-60R Helicopters Next Year



12-Mar-25

Lockheed Martin has confirmed that deliveries of all 14 remaining MH-60R Seahawk helicopters to the Indian Navy will conclude next year, enhancing India's naval aviation capabilities. Currently, ten of the 24 helicopters are operational, and these advanced multi-mission aircraft will significantly improve the Navy's anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare capabilities, as well as search-and-rescue operations. The timely delivery reflects the strong partnership between India and the

United States under the Foreign Military Sales agreement, reinforcing India's commitment to safeguarding its maritime interests and bolstering operational effectiveness in an increasingly strategic region. This development underscores India's proactive defense modernization efforts amidst rising geopolitical challenges.

## Rolls-Royce Offers IPR Transfer for AMCA Engine, Boosting India's Defense Self-Reliance



12-Mar-25

Rolls-Royce has proposed a strategic partnership with India for the co-development of a next-generation engine for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), reinforcing India's drive for self-reliance in defense. This collaboration aims to offer India full ownership of intellectual property for critical combat engine technology, enhancing its aerospace capabilities and fostering future upgrades and exports. The AMCA program, led by DRDO and HAL, seeks to establish a fifth-generation stealth fighter jet, and a domestically developed engine, bolstered by Rolls-Royce's expertise, could significantly transform India's defense landscape, ultimately ensuring long-term sustainability and innovation in indigenous fighter aircraft development.

## Sikorsky S-92: Strong Contender for India's VVIP Helicopter Needs



12-Mar-25

The Sikorsky S-92 is emerging as a strong contender for the Indian Air Force's VVIP helicopter needs, aimed at replacing the aging Mi-8 fleet. Renowned for its safety and reliability, the S-92 could enhance India's global image and operational capabilities, particularly through its partnership with Tata Advanced Systems for local production. However, it faces competition from the Airbus H225 and indigenous HAL IMRH, with considerations for cost and local manufacturing under the Make in India initiative being crucial. Despite its proven track record, the S-92's higher costs and safety concerns could challenge its selection amid pressures to support domestic industry.

## DRDO's Hypersonic Program: 12 Advanced Missile Variants Under Development



12-Mar-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India is advancing its defense capabilities by developing 12 hypersonic missile systems, including Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGVs), anti-hypersonic



missiles, and hypersonic cruise missiles. This initiative positions India strategically amidst global hypersonic advancements by countries like the U.S., Russia, and China. With regional threats, these systems aim to enhance India's deterrence and operational effectiveness across various combat scenarios. While challenges in technology and production remain, the DRDO's prior successes indicate that operational systems could emerge in the next 5-10 years, reinforcing India's commitment to maintaining a robust defense posture.

## LCA AF Mk2: Cost-Effective, Combat-Ready Indian Fighter Jet

🔒 SHARE

12-Mar-25

The LCA AF Mk2, an advanced variant of India's indigenous fighter program, is designed to optimize efficiency and cost-effectiveness while enhancing combat readiness, with a projected induction in the early 2030s. Employing modern engineering principles like DFMA and modular design, the Mk2 aims to reduce production costs and cycle times while maintaining high performance and operational capabilities. With a projected lifecycle cost significantly lower than imported fighters, the Mk2 addresses the IAF's shortfall and is expected to replace retiring MiG-29s and Jaguars, offering advanced avionics and compatibility with weapons like BrahMos-NG, thus positioning India's defense capabilities for greater self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

### Air Chief Marshal AP Singh calls for swift IAF capability upgrades.

🔒 SHARE

12-Mar-25

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh emphasized the urgent need for rapid capability enhancements within the Indian Air Force (IAF) to address evolving security challenges in a complex geo-strategic landscape. Speaking to student officers at the Defence Services Staff College, he highlighted the importance of adaptive strategies, integrated training, and operational synergy among the Armed Forces to boost combat effectiveness. The CAS acknowledged the IAF's resilience and commitment to safeguarding national interests, while also commending the DSSC's role in fostering jointmanship and preparing future military leaders. This visit underscores the IAF's dedication to strengthening inter-service cooperation and preparing leadership for upcoming challenges.

## India Moves to Eliminate Chinese Parts in Military Drones

🔒 SHARE

12-Mar-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) is advancing a framework to eliminate Chinese components in military drones, addressing national security concerns highlighted by intelligence agencies about potential data breaches and adversary control. This initiative aligns with the Army's push for indigenous combat drones, inviting domestic manufacturers to develop advanced technologies suited for challenging Himalayan terrains. The focus is on creating a self-reliant defense ecosystem, with the Army emphasizing the integration of cutting-edge technologies and counter-drone systems. This strategic move not only improves operational capabilities but also aims to stimulate the domestic defense industry, fostering innovation and reducing dependency on foreign suppliers as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, ultimately strengthening India's position against adversaries like China and Pakistan.

## Defence Secretary Calls for Urgent Boost to IAF Squadron Strength

🔒 SHARE

12-Mar-25

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh has underscored the urgent need to enhance the Indian Air Force's (IAF) depleting squadron strength, currently at 31, while facing challenges like retiring aircraft and delayed indigenous production of TEJAS jets. With efforts to stabilize deliveries and ramp up production, HAL aims for 12 TEJAS aircraft in 2025, increasing to 20 annually afterward. India seeks to address operational gaps through foreign acquisitions and expediting TEJAS Mk-1A and Mk-2 programs. The focus on "Make in India" initiatives aims to bolster domestic aerospace capabilities, crucial for maintaining strategic readiness against potential two-front conflicts with China and Pakistan.

## Delays in TEDBF Program Justify IAF's Shift in Focus, Analyst Says

🔒 SHARE

12-Mar-25

Recent analysis highlights the delays in the Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF) program, pushing its first flight to 2030 and induction to 2038, prompting the Indian Air Force (IAF) to rightly distance itself. Defence analyst Ranesh Rajan argues that the IAF should prioritize the Tejas MkII and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) to meet its operational urgency and modernization roadmap, as the TEDBF would be obsolete by the time it arrives. With the Navy's

specialized needs complicating the fighter's development, Rajan suggests fast-tracking the IAF's focused capabilities rather than pursuing a naval aircraft that doesn't align with its strategic requirements against adversaries like Pakistan and China.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### India and Mauritius Forge Stronger Maritime Security Partnership

📱 SHARE

12-Mar-25

India and Mauritius have elevated their bilateral relationship to an Enhanced Strategic Partnership, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Indian Ocean nation, engaging in comprehensive discussions with his counterpart. This partnership focuses on maritime security, defense cooperation, and socio-economic development, with India pledging support for key infrastructure projects, including a new Parliament building. Eight Memoranda of Understanding were signed, marking significant outcomes from this visit, which underscores India's role as a trusted partner in Mauritius's development and security. The two leaders highlighted their commitment to ensuring a free and secure Indian Ocean Region, emphasizing collaboration in countering maritime challenges, showcasing their shared objectives and cultural ties that strengthen the partnership. Overall, this visit reinforces India's strategic interests in the region and provides a framework for future cooperation in various sectors.

### Global Spy Chiefs Meet in India to Boost Intelligence Sharing

📱 SHARE

12-Mar-25

Top intelligence chiefs, including US DNI Tulsi Gabbard, Canadian spy chief Daniel Rogers, and UK's MI6 head Richard Moore, will gather in New Delhi for a security conclave on March 16, focusing on enhancing intelligence-sharing to combat terrorism and transnational crimes. This meeting marks a significant diplomatic moment, potentially easing tensions between India and Canada amid recent allegations regarding the Nijjar case. Gabbard's visit emphasizes the need for global cooperation against terrorism, with discussions likely covering implications of geopolitical issues such as the Russia-Ukraine war and China's assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific. The conclave presents an opportunity for India to reaffirm its strategic partnerships and showcase its role as a key player in global security dialogues, promoting stability in a challenging international landscape.

### CIA and Russian Intelligence Chiefs Initiate Crucial Phone Dialogue

📱 SHARE

12-Mar-25

The CIA chief, John Ratcliffe, and the head of Russia's foreign intelligence agency, Sergei Naryshkin, recently held a phone conversation, marking a significant development in U.S.-Russia relations as it was their first contact in several years. They agreed to maintain regular communication to enhance international stability and security while aiming to reduce tensions between Moscow and Washington. This dialogue reflects a potential shift towards diplomatic engagement amidst ongoing geopolitical challenges, emphasizing the importance of communication in mitigating confrontation and fostering collaboration in an increasingly complex global landscape. Regular contacts could be pivotal in addressing shared security concerns, which may indirectly benefit regional stability, including in areas like South Asia.

### Russia's Kosachev: Any Ukraine Deal Will Favor Moscow's Terms

📱 SHARE

12-Mar-25

A prominent Russian lawmaker, Konstantin Kosachev, asserted that any ceasefire agreement regarding Ukraine would be dictated by Russia, not the U.S., emphasizing that the current military advancements shape negotiation dynamics. He noted that any future agreements must prioritize Moscow's terms, reflecting Russia's view of its military position as pivotal in the ongoing conflict. This statement highlights the ongoing geopolitical tension and the complexity of peace negotiations, illustrating Russia's insistence on negotiating from a position of strength while signaling to Washington the necessity of recognizing these realities. This reinforces the need for a nuanced understanding of the evolving power dynamics in the region.

### Ukraine Agrees to 30-Day Ceasefire Proposal with U.S. Support

📱 SHARE

12-Mar-25

Ukraine has expressed readiness to support a proposed 30-day ceasefire with Russia, following discussions with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The U.S. committed to resuming military aid and intelligence sharing with Ukraine, while both parties emphasized the need for humanitarian efforts during the ceasefire, including prisoner exchanges. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy viewed the proposal as a positive development. The agreement, however, remains contingent on Russia's acceptance,

with U.S. officials planning to present it to Moscow soon. This potential ceasefire underscores the ongoing complexities of the Ukraine-Russia conflict and the critical role of U.S. support in Ukraine's defense strategy.

## Lavrov: Russia Won't Risk Lives in Ukraine Peace Talks



12-Mar-25

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has stated that Moscow will not compromise on conditions that risk civilian lives in the context of a potential peace deal regarding Ukraine. He emphasized that Russia will reject any peace agreement that allows NATO troops to be stationed in Ukraine, highlighting Moscow's firm stance against NATO's presence in the region. This position underscores Russia's strategic calculations in maintaining its influence and security concerns in Eastern Europe, reflecting ongoing tensions between Russia and NATO. The situation remains critical as diplomatic efforts continue to seek a resolution to the conflict while balancing national security interests.

## Skepticism Grows Over Potential Ukraine-Russia Ceasefire



12-Mar-25

Recent discussions regarding a potential 30-day ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia have been met with skepticism from Ukrainian soldiers and officials, who doubt the Kremlin's willingness to adhere to any agreements. Many believe a temporary pause would only benefit Russian forces, allowing them to regroup and reinforce their positions. Historical precedents of Russia violating peace accords further fuel this distrust, with some asserting that true peace is only achievable upon the removal of Putin. The overall sentiment underscores a bleak outlook on the prospects of lasting peace, highlighting the complexities of negotiations amidst ongoing conflict.

## Russian Strikes Kill 5 in Ukraine Amid Ceasefire Talks



12-Mar-25

Russian missile strikes in Ukraine recently resulted in civilian casualties, coinciding with renewed U.S. military support for Kyiv and discussions of a potential 30-day ceasefire. While Ukraine remains open to negotiations, Russian officials express skepticism, insisting any agreements must favor Moscow. The Kremlin is currently evaluating the U.S.-Ukraine agreement, with lawmakers suggesting that Russia may leverage its battlefield advances in negotiations. The situation

underscores the complexities of diplomacy amidst ongoing hostilities, highlighting that U.S. efforts to mediate could face significant hurdles, particularly regarding military aid and the terms of any ceasefire or peace agreement.

## Military Operations

### Indian Army and IAF Enhance Joint Readiness in Jammu Exercise



12-Mar-25

The Indian Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted a synergised interoperability exercise in Jammu to bolster joint operational readiness and coordination between ground and air forces. This training emphasized seamless integration of aerial and land-based operations in challenging environments, where mobility is crucial. The exercise included airlifting troops, executing simulated combat assaults, and utilizing surveillance and precision firepower tactics to enhance preparedness for high-threat scenarios. Such initiatives reflect India's commitment to maintaining a high operational readiness state, ensuring both forces are equipped to effectively respond to emerging security threats in diverse terrains.

### Soldier wounded by suspected sniper fire in J&K's Rajouri amid rising tensions.



12-Mar-25

Recent incidents along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir have highlighted ongoing tensions between the Indian and Pakistani armed forces, particularly with a soldier injured from suspected sniper fire in the Rajouri district. This soldier was airlifted for treatment after being targeted while manning a forward post in the Kalsiyan area. Following this incident, which is part of a series of cross-border firings and IED attacks, Indian security forces continue to maintain a high state of alertness and have successfully retaliated against unprovoked fire from Pakistan, leading to reported casualties on the other side. Intelligence reports suggest that Pakistan may be using the guise of a ceasefire to bolster terrorist infiltration attempts across the LoC, with multiple launch pads identified in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In a related context, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh of the Indian Air Force (IAF) recently recounted the effective performance of Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighters during the 2019 aerial standoff with Pakistan, where they defended critical installations against advanced PAF F-16s. This highlights the IAF's capabilities in

countering sophisticated aerial threats and underscores the resilience of Indian defense strategies even in high-stakes situations. The situation remains closely monitored, with the Indian Army emphasizing that minor incidents of cross-border firing are not unprecedented, yet maintaining a commitment to the established ceasefire agreement while responding robustly to provocations. This reflects India's proactive approach in securing its borders while addressing and mitigating threats posed by potential terrorist activities emanating from across the border.

## NDRF and Army Join Forces on Day 19 of Telangana Tunnel Rescue

12-Mar-25

Rescue operations for the Telangana tunnel collapse have entered their 19th day, with teams comprising personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), state-run Singareni Collieries, and other agencies intensifying efforts to reach those trapped. The involvement of the armed forces underscores the government's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of its citizens during this crisis. The collaborative approach involving various agencies highlights the importance of teamwork in disaster management, reflecting India's resilience and commitment to humanitarian efforts. This situation illustrates the critical role of defense and disaster response forces in addressing emergencies and safeguarding lives.

## Soldier Injured in Sniper Attack Along LoC in Rajouri, J&K

12-Mar-25

An army soldier, identified as Man Kumar Bega, was injured in a sniper attack during cross-border firing in the Nowshera sector of Rajouri district, Jammu and Kashmir. The incident highlights ongoing tensions along the Line of Control (LoC), exacerbated by hostile actions from across the border. The soldier has been airlifted to a command hospital in Udhampur for advanced medical treatment. Such incidents underscore the challenges faced by Indian armed forces in securing the region and maintaining peace, showcasing their resilience in the face of aggression while emphasizing the need for continued vigilance and preparedness against external threats.

## Tragic accident in Manipur claims 3 BSF lives, 9 injured

12-Mar-25

Three Border Security Force (BSF) personnel tragically lost their lives, and nine others were injured when their bus fell into a gorge in Manipur's Senapati district while returning from road opening duty. This incident occurred amidst ongoing ethnic violence in the state, which has claimed at least 258 lives and displaced over 70,000 people since May. The deployment of thousands of Central Armed Police Forces, including the BSF, reflects the heightened security situation in Manipur. Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla expressed condolences to the bereaved families and wished for the speedy recovery of the injured, highlighting the sacrifices made by security personnel in maintaining peace and order during such challenging times.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

## Dozens Rescued, Hundreds Remain Hostage in Balochistan Train Hijack

12-Mar-25

Dozens of train passengers were taken hostage by militants of the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) in Balochistan, Pakistan, leading to a tense standoff with security forces who have successfully freed 80 hostages while ongoing operations aim to rescue the remaining passengers. The BLA claimed hostages included military personnel and warned of dire consequences if rescue attempts continued, reflecting the long-standing insurgency in the region fueled by grievances over resource exploitation. The incident highlights Pakistan's escalating security challenges, particularly in the wake of the Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan, which has emboldened separatist movements. India, facing its own struggles with terrorism, empathizes with the Baloch people due to shared experiences of violence and insurgency, framing the situation within the broader context of regional instability and the ramifications for security dynamics in South Asia.

## Baloch Liberation Army's Insurgency: Quest for Independence and Impact

12-Mar-25

Recent reports highlight the Baloch Liberation Army's (BLA) intensified insurgency in Pakistan's Balochistan,



with claims from activist Mama Qadeer Baloch stating that around 150 Pakistani military personnel were killed in a large-scale operation by the group. The BLA, advocating for Baloch independence due to perceived exploitation of their region's resources by the Pakistani government, has increasingly targeted security forces and Chinese projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This conflict underscores a deeper struggle for autonomy, with the BLA's tactics evolving to include high-profile attacks and suicide bombings akin to those of the Pakistani Taliban. However, their actions are categorized as terrorism by multiple nations, further complicating the situation as Pakistan's military conducts counter-insurgency operations amidst allegations of human rights violations, highlighting the ongoing tensions and complexities in the region.

### Indian Army Equips Poonch Villagers with SLRs to Combat Terrorism

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12-Mar-25

The Indian Army has initiated specialized training for Village Defence Guards (VDGs) in Poonch, equipping them with modern semi-automatic Self-Loading Rifles (SLRs), replacing outdated .303 rifles. This upgrade is crucial in enhancing local security capabilities amid rising terror threats, with recent attacks in the region heightening awareness. VDG members, trained by the 39 Rashtriya Rifles, express confidence in their ability to protect their villages alongside military support. The Jammu and Kashmir DGP's recent visit reinforces the focus on operational readiness and counter-terror strategies, highlighting India's proactive approach to bolster local defenses against terrorism in sensitive border areas.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### Musk's empire faces cyberattack and \$120B loss as challenges mount

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12-Mar-25

Elon Musk's empire is facing significant turmoil, highlighted by a severe cyberattack on his social media platform X and a dramatic 15% drop in Tesla's stock, leading to a staggering \$120 billion loss in market capitalization. Political backlash due to his ties with the Trump administration and declining sales—down 71% in Germany and facing stiff competition from China's BYD—are exacerbating the situation. The emerging #TeslaTakedown movement pressures consumers and investors to distance themselves from Musk, further

complicating Tesla's prospects. Despite these challenges, Musk remains outwardly confident, but the future of Tesla appears uncertain as it navigates declining demand and political scrutiny.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Indian Army Enhances Healthcare in Remote Villages Through Innovation

[SHARE](#)

12-Mar-25

The Indian Army has significantly contributed to healthcare in remote villages through initiatives like Khairiyat Patrols and disaster response operations such as Operation Surya Hope. By focusing on medical assistance, especially during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters, the army has built trust within local communities, enhancing civil-military relations. Innovative approaches, including the use of AI-powered robotic dogs for logistics, demonstrate the army's commitment to modernization while ensuring timely delivery of healthcare services. These efforts not only address immediate medical needs but also foster long-term healthcare solutions, reinforcing the army's role in nation-building and stability in affected regions.

### Indian Army Honors 'Mountain Man' with Rs 5 Lakh for Son

[SHARE](#)

12-Mar-25

The Indian Army honored the legacy of Dashrath Manjhi, known as the Mountain Man, by presenting a Rs 5 lakh cheque to his son, Bhagirath Manjhi, in Gaya. Dashrath Manjhi's extraordinary feat of carving a road through a mountain over 22 years has significantly improved accessibility in the region. This initiative is part of the Indian Army's commitment to support social development alongside security efforts, emphasizing their role in fostering community empowerment and sustainable progress towards a developed India. Bhagirath expressed gratitude, highlighting the importance of collective action to address community challenges, reflecting the Army's dedication to societal welfare.

### Army Ordnance Corps Triumphs with 58 Medals at National Fire Games

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12-Mar-25

The Army Ordnance Corps team excelled at the 3rd National Fire Service Games, winning a total of 58 medals, including 18 gold, 16 silver, and 24 bronze,

showcasing their exceptional skills in fire service events. Their success can be attributed to the rigorous training provided by key officers and the selection process conducted at CAD Pulgaon, which identified top talent from across India. Upon their return, the team received a grand welcome at Pulgaon, highlighting the pride and appreciation for their remarkable achievements. This event underscores the commitment of the Indian Army to excellence not only in defense but also in sports and public safety.

This literary endeavor complements his upcoming memoir, "Four Stars of Destiny," currently under review by the Ministry of Defence, highlighting his ongoing commitment to sharing military insights.

## US Vice President Vance to Strengthen Ties with India This Month

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12-Mar-25

US Vice President J.D. Vance is expected to visit India later this month alongside Second Lady Usha Vance, marking her first official visit to her ancestral homeland. The trip aims to bolster bilateral ties, focusing on trade, security cooperation, and technology partnerships, amidst ongoing trade tensions between the two nations. Notably, Vice President Vance had previously met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the AI Summit in Paris, where they discussed artificial intelligence and celebrated personal milestones. This upcoming visit underscores the strategic importance of U.S.-India relations, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, as both nations seek to navigate trade disputes while enhancing diplomatic and cultural connections. Overall, the visit is anticipated to strengthen the longstanding partnership between the U.S. and India, reflecting shared interests in regional stability and economic collaboration.

## PM Modi Honored with Mauritius' Top Civilian Award During Visit

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12-Mar-25

During his two-day visit to Mauritius, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, the island nation's highest civilian honor, making him the first Indian recipient. Modi dedicated this honor to the Indian ancestors who migrated to Mauritius, emphasizing the deep cultural and historical ties between the two nations. Eight bilateral agreements were signed to enhance cooperation in areas such as trade, maritime security, and combating money laundering. The Indian Navy also participated in the National Day parade, showcasing the strength of India-Mauritius strategic relations. Modi's presence and the ceremonial honor underscore India's commitment to regional stability and prosperity, reinforcing Mauritius as a key partner in India's vision for the Global South.

## Army and Himachal Shine at Khelo India Winter Games 2025

🕒 SHARE

11-Mar-25

The Khelo India Winter Games 2025 in Gulmarg showcased impressive performances, particularly from

### Miscellaneous

## India Bans Mirwaiz Farooq's Awami Action Committee for 5 Years

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12-Mar-25

The Indian government has banned the Awami Action Committee (AAC) and Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM) for five years under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act due to their alleged involvement in anti-national activities and support for terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the head of AAC, criticized the ban as part of a policy of intimidation, asserting that his organization promotes non-violent advocacy for the rights of Kashmiris. Meanwhile, Mehbooba Mufti, the PDP chief, highlighted the contradiction of providing security to Farooq while banning his party, suggesting that the government should adopt a healing approach rather than a muscular one. The government's decisive action reflects its commitment to maintaining national integrity and addressing any threats to security, underscoring its resolve in combating separatism in the region.

## Ex-Army Chief Gen Naravane Launches Military Thriller, "The Cantonment Conspiracy"

🕒 SHARE

12-Mar-25

Former Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane has ventured into literature with his debut novel, "The Cantonment Conspiracy," a military thriller reflecting on national security issues. The book showcases the investigative journey of two National Defence Academy officers amid a larger conspiracy. General Naravane is renowned for his strategic leadership during the Galwan Valley clashes, where he reinforced India's military stance against Chinese aggression. His tenure marked significant troop mobilization and the successful execution of Operation Snow Leopard, enhancing India's territorial integrity.

the Indian Army and Himachal Pradesh, with the Army dominating events like the Men's Nordic Ski Sprint, clinching all three medals and securing the top twelve positions. Himachal Pradesh athletes also excelled, notably in the women's snowboard slalom, where Preeti Thakur won gold and Prakarti Thakur claimed silver. The men's relay race saw Uttarakhand's team earn a bronze medal, enhancing the competitive spirit of the event. Deputy Director General of the Sports Authority of India praised the smooth execution of the games despite challenging weather conditions. This edition of KIWG not only highlights the prowess of Indian athletes in winter sports but also fosters a sense of pride and motivation, particularly in states like Himachal Pradesh, thereby contributing to the advancement and popularity of winter sports in India.

## India Airlifts 266 More Citizens from Myanmar Scam Centers, Total 549 Rescued



12-Mar-25

India has successfully airlifted 549 nationals from Southeast Asia, specifically from scam call centres in Myanmar, in collaboration with local authorities, highlighting its commitment to protecting its citizens. The Indian Air Force facilitated the repatriation amid rising concerns over Chinese cybercrime syndicates exploiting vulnerable workers through fake job offers, forcing them into scams and human trafficking. Despite the rescue efforts, many Indians remain trapped due to legal fears regarding their voluntary stays. The Indian government has initiated measures through the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre to combat these cybercrimes and has engaged in international cooperation with Myanmar and Cambodia to curb human trafficking and enhance victim protection. This situation underscores the necessity for robust international collaboration and vigilance against transnational organized crime, particularly in the face of evolving cybercriminal tactics.

## Airtel & Jio Partner with SpaceX separately to Bring Starlink to India



12-Mar-25

Reliance Jio has signed an agreement with SpaceX to offer Starlink's broadband services in India, contingent on government authorization. This collaboration aims to enhance broadband connectivity across rural and remote areas, leveraging Jio's extensive mobile network and Starlink's satellite technology. Concurrently, Airtel has also partnered with SpaceX to distribute Starlink services, intensifying competition with Jio in the

broadband market. The rivalry underscores the strategic importance of satellite internet services in India, especially following recent discussions between Prime Minister Modi and Musk on technology and innovation. Both partnerships signal a significant step toward advancing India's digital infrastructure, with potential implications for customer access and the dynamics between major players in the telecom sector. These developments highlight the ongoing efforts to ensure comprehensive internet access across the nation, particularly in underserved regions.

## Bessemer launches \$350M fund to fuel India's growth potential



12-Mar-25

Bessemer Venture Partners has launched a significant \$350 million fund dedicated exclusively to India, aiming to enhance investment opportunities in the burgeoning Indian market. This strategic move reflects the growing confidence in India's economic potential and the opportunities that lie within its dynamic sectors, particularly technology and startups. By focusing solely on India, Bessemer aims to tap into the country's innovative landscape, which is increasingly attracting global investors. This fund's establishment underscores the importance of fostering local entrepreneurship and may further bolster India's position as a key player in the global economy, showcasing the country's resilience and growth prospects amid global economic challenges.

## Zelenskyy Apologizes to Trump, Signaling Diplomatic Shift



12-Mar-25

U.S. Special Envoy Witkoff revealed that Ukrainian President Zelenskyy apologized to former President Trump, signaling a potential thaw in their strained relations. This apology comes amid ongoing U.S.-Ukrainian discussions to resolve the conflict with Russia, with negotiations set to take place in Saudi Arabia. Trump had previously criticized Zelenskyy for a perceived lack of gratitude towards U.S. support, and while he acknowledged receiving a letter from Zelenskyy, he did not confirm the apology's existence. The evolving diplomatic dynamics may influence Ukraine's strategy and its reliance on U.S. support in the face of Russian aggression, highlighting the importance of maintaining strong ties for regional stability.

## Portuguese Cargo Ship Collides with U.S. Tanker, Sparks Crisis

📱 SHARE

12-Mar-25

A Portuguese cargo ship, Solong, collided with a U.S. military oil tanker, Stena Immaculate, off the UK coast, causing significant fires and explosions, prompting a rescue operation for 36 crew members. While one individual was hospitalized, there are concerns about environmental damage from leaking toxic chemicals and jet fuel into the North Sea. An investigation led by UK authorities is underway, with a 59-year-old man arrested for gross negligence manslaughter. The incident highlights the critical importance of maritime safety protocols, particularly for vessels carrying hazardous materials, and underlines the need for rigorous adherence to operational standards to prevent such catastrophic events.

## Jadavpur University Graffiti Sparks Controversy and FIR

📱 SHARE

12-Mar-25

A recent incident at Jadavpur University in Kolkata, where graffiti promoting "Azad Kashmir" and "Free Palestine" appeared, has led to significant political controversy and an FIR against a left-wing student organization for endangering India's sovereignty. Tensions escalated following a protest involving West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu, resulting in injuries to students. While student groups like the Students Federation of India oppose secessionist sentiments, they also criticize minority repression in BJP-ruled areas. The Trinamool Chhatra Parishad supports the police investigation to prevent anti-national activities on campus, although classes and examinations have proceeded as scheduled amidst the unrest. This situation underscores the delicate balance between free expression and national integrity in India's educational institutions.

## India's High Tariffs on U.S. Goods Spark Trade Tensions

📱 SHARE

12-Mar-25

India is facing criticism from the U.S. regarding its high tariffs on American goods, with President Trump highlighting tariffs of up to 150% on alcohol and 100% on agricultural products. Despite these tensions, India is reportedly considering tariff reductions on over 30 goods, including electronics and automobiles, to foster better trade relations and mitigate potential reciprocal duties. This situation reflects the broader challenge of achieving balanced trade agreements between major economies. India's strategy aims to maintain its

protectionist policies while addressing U.S. concerns, demonstrating its commitment to striking a balance in global commerce amidst ongoing trade disputes.

## Delhi Court Grants Christian Michel Permission for New Passport

📱 SHARE

12-Mar-25

A Delhi court has permitted Christian Michel James, an alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland case, to apply for a new British passport after his previous one expired, as it is a condition of his bail. The court ordered that he be provided access to necessary documents and digital records for his case from the CBI. Michel was extradited from Dubai in 2018 and is implicated in a deal that allegedly caused a loss of approximately Rs 2,666 crore to the exchequer due to the procurement of VVIP helicopters. This case underscores the ongoing challenges India faces in tackling corruption linked to defense procurement.

## Amritpal Singh granted 54-day Lok Sabha leave amid detention

📱 SHARE

12-Mar-25

The Punjab and Haryana High Court was informed that Amritpal Singh, an MP currently detained under the National Security Act, has been granted a 54-day leave to attend Lok Sabha sessions. Singh's absence raised concerns about his seat being declared vacant, but the court noted the Lok Sabha's approval alleviated this issue. Singh, associated with Sikh separatist sentiments and drawing parallels to historical figures like Bhindranwale, has faced scrutiny for his radical activities. The situation reflects the government's stance on national security and public order, highlighting ongoing challenges in managing separatist movements while balancing parliamentary rights.

## ICGS Saksham docks at Seychelles to boost maritime ties and cooperation.

📱 SHARE

12-Mar-25

The Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel Saksham made a three-day port call at Port Victoria, Seychelles, starting March 12, 2025, to enhance maritime cooperation and regional partnerships. The crew engaged in high-level meetings, joint exercises, and sporting events, showcasing India's commitment to strengthening ties with Seychelles. The presence of National Cadet Corps cadets onboard, participating in environmental initiatives, further emphasizes India's focus on sustainability. Following this visit, ICGS Saksham will head to Madagascar, continuing its mission to enhance Coast Guard collaboration in the



Indian Ocean Region, thereby reinforcing India's strategic maritime security interests and diplomatic relations within the region.

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# Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
MARINE	161.7	167.05	161.0	166.93	227780	4.92	45.45	162.71	221.41
BHARATFORG	1070.0	1095.0	1061.3	1090.2	770987	2.43	49.22	1064.23	1425.41
BEML	2454.0	2532.0	2452.55	2490.1	322802	2.16	34.87	2612.41	3900.93
HIGHENE	456.05	473.9	454.0	469.6	8326	2.14	45.01	472.19	662.97
MIDHANI	262.0	266.8	261.99	265.03	381675	1.4	46.11	262.0	376.71
IDEAFORGE	338.25	346.5	335.0	341.05	234737	1.31	29.91	372.64	631.14
ZENTEC	1193.0	1225.0	1159.05	1206.1	547667	1.29	41.68	1159.8	1667.79
PTC	154.0	155.5	151.79	155.08	2064158	1.25	62.58	146.09	183.64
COCHINSHIP	1273.05	1296.4	1263.0	1282.25	479031	0.75	44.97	1280.33	1771.74
ASTRAMICRO	628.0	630.0	617.2	622.9	159917	0.6	42.62	622.97	811.15
SIKA	2513.0	2514.95	2455.0	2485.0	2041	0.45	53.96	2416.48	2642.2
DATAPAT'NS	1599.95	1646.0	1566.4	1586.3	1536971	0.27	43.97	1547.18	2506.31
SOLARINDS	9800.0	9910.0	9615.0	9781.1	59512	0.16	63.3	9055.32	10253.27
MAZDOCK	2274.0	2296.25	2232.4	2255.9	1317140	-0.0	53.42	2176.56	2211.04
LT	3205.0	3221.95	3153.05	3193.65	1360149	-0.06	40.4	3233.9	3567.76
BEL	278.78	280.4	274.12	276.83	15308721	-0.13	56.64	260.94	290.52
ADANIENT	2270.0	2280.0	2180.95	2241.8	1049076	-0.39	51.2	2193.42	2785.12
AZAD	1300.0	1309.0	1260.0	1284.2	201670	-0.52	43.03	1306.83	1589.66
GRSE	1321.75	1338.4	1288.75	1299.45	782310	-1.07	43.48	1318.61	1718.73
PREMEXPLN	343.0	343.0	321.0	323.6	166191	-1.13	33.88	355.12	529.67
AVANTEL	115.19	115.84	111.84	112.17	482837	-1.22	40.97	114.66	-
HAL	3470.0	3494.25	3388.25	3415.4	1076349	-1.28	45.86	3389.18	4424.57
LMW	15647.55	15677.05	15340.0	15404.2	2206	-1.44	54.68	14718.09	16005.33
MTARTECH	1308.0	1331.55	1263.15	1271.7	134768	-1.7	38.86	1337.14	1701.81
CFE	440.7	440.75	440.7	440.7	5000	-1.99	40.99	446.78	652.66
BDL	1120.0	1138.45	1090.0	1093.7	589330	-2.05	49.3	1062.7	1256.55
LOKESHMACH	152.0	154.65	142.24	146.28	65808	-2.3	21.32	176.88	350.9
PARAS	924.9	929.95	894.35	897.8	88490	-2.6	45.04	901.19	1106.15
APOLLO	115.9	116.8	111.43	112.41	4504256	-2.62	44.3	115.08	109.26
TANEJAERO	320.0	324.9	299.5	306.8	26813	-2.68	47.22	299.19	470.98
NIBE	905.8	935.0	883.1	889.8	33231	-2.81	28.66	1044.92	1704.25
KRISHNADEF	565.0	568.95	511.0	545.0	51000	-2.91	40.46	588.1	716.93
DCXINDIA	232.33	238.7	224.41	225.38	706193	-2.99	31.05	250.49	333.61
HBLPOWER	443.35	444.45	421.2	423.2	1203389	-3.41	34.46	462.06	572.24
ROSSELLIND	61.91	61.98	59.5	59.92	33768	-4.3	43.29	60.3	270.63
TEMBO	0.0	501.6	501.6	501.6	3047	-26.14	32.57	653.75	466.17