



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

March 14, 2025 | Day 073

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%
MIDHANI	265.03	261.37	+1.4%
IDEAFORGE	341.05	336.65	+1.31%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
TEMBO	679.1	715.8	-5.13%
ROSSELLIND	59.92	62.61	-4.3%
HBLPOWER	423.2	438.15	-3.41%
TANEJAERO	305.0	315.25	-3.25%
NIBE	887.75	915.55	-3.04%

Defense Business and Industry

Construction of Second Indigenous Fleet Support Ship Begins, Set for 2027



14-Mar-25

Construction has commenced on the second of five indigenous Fleet Support Ships (FSS) at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli, with a keel-laying ceremony held on March 12, 2025. This initiative, part of a contract signed in August 2023, aims to enhance the Indian Navy's Blue Water capabilities by enabling at-sea replenishment. The FSS will support humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations while promoting self-reliance in the defense sector through indigenously designed vessels and equipment. This project exemplifies strong public-private partnerships and aligns with the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, bolstering the domestic shipbuilding industry and enhancing maritime operational readiness.

Indian Navy Welcomes 9th ACTCM Barge, Boosting Capabilities



14-Mar-25

The Indian Navy has inducted its ninth Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge, LSAM 23, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, enhancing its operational capabilities. This induction is part of a contract signed with MSME shipyard Suryadipta Projects Pvt. Ltd. for eleven barges, of which eight have already been delivered. These indigenously designed and built barges, collaborating with an Indian ship designing firm and the Indian Register of Shipping, are crucial for the transportation, embarkation, and disembarkation of ammunition and supplies to Navy

platforms at jetties and outer harbors. This initiative not only showcases the Navy's commitment to operational readiness and logistical efficiency but also reinforces the Government of India's Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, promoting the growth of domestic defense capabilities and the MSME sector.

Russia Joins Race to Supply Medium Transport Aircraft to IAF



14-Mar-25

Russia is re-entering the competition to supply medium transport aircraft (MTA) to the Indian Air Force, aiming to partner with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for the multi-billion dollar project. India seeks to acquire at least 80 aircraft to replace its aging An-32 fleet, with a focus on local production and technology transfer. The IL-276 aircraft is being offered by Russia, while other global manufacturers like Airbus, Lockheed Martin, and Embraer are also vying for the contract, emphasizing the importance of collaborative partnerships in bolstering India's defense capabilities and enhancing manufacturing self-reliance. This initiative aligns with India's broader strategy to modernize its military assets through indigenous development.

IdeaForge Boosts R&D Spending to Elevate Drone Innovations



14-Mar-25

IdeaForge, a prominent Indian drone manufacturer, is set to increase its R&D spending following a strategic partnership with U.S.-based Vantage Robotics, aimed at enhancing its ISR capabilities and expanding into the North American market. The collaboration focuses on advancing next-gen drone technologies for defense and enterprise applications. CEO Ankit Mehta emphasized the need for increased government support and investments in the drone sector to establish India as a

global leader in this field. The recent budgetary allocations and the Production Linked Incentive scheme align with these goals, propelling innovation and operational scaling in India's burgeoning drone industry.

MRFA Winner's Role in Boosting India's AMCA Jet Development



14-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is looking to expedite the development of its Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) by leveraging the expertise from the winner of the Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) tender. Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh highlighted that the MRFA winner could provide crucial technology transfer in areas like engine design and stealth technology, which are vital for the AMCA program. This collaboration could enhance India's indigenous capabilities and align with the "Make in India" initiative, enabling private firms to gain essential skills for future advanced fighter jet production. Overall, this strategic approach aims to bolster India's defense capabilities amidst regional challenges.

Amrita University partners with Indian Navy to boost defense R&D.



14-Mar-25

Amrita University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy to collaborate on research and development across its nine campuses, focusing on enhancing self-reliance in defense technology. This partnership is a significant step towards bolstering India's defense capabilities, aligning with the government's push for Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). By leveraging academic expertise, the initiative aims to innovate and develop indigenous solutions that can meet the operational needs of the Indian Navy. This collaboration underscores the importance of integrating educational institutions with defense forces to strengthen national security and technological advancements.

Collins Aerospace Unveils Advanced Testing Facility in Bengaluru



14-Mar-25

Collins Aerospace has inaugurated an Engineering Development and Test Center (EDTC) in Bengaluru, enhancing local aerospace product development, testing, and certification. This state-of-the-art facility will expedite the testing process for aerospace systems, crucial for meeting stringent global safety standards, while supporting the Make in India initiative

by creating skilled jobs. The EDTC will initially focus on avionics and advanced structures but is set to expand its services across all RTX businesses in the future. This investment underscores India's growing significance in the global aerospace supply chain and reaffirms Collins Aerospace's long-term commitment to fostering innovation in the country.

Airbus Chooses Rocket Lab for Solar Panels on OneWeb Satellites



14-Mar-25

Rocket Lab has been selected by Airbus Constellation Satellites to supply high-efficiency solar panels for 100 OneWeb Low Earth Orbit satellites, aimed at enhancing global internet access, particularly in remote areas. This partnership builds on their previous collaboration, where Rocket Lab provided over 450 solar panel shipsets for earlier OneWeb satellites. With the capacity to generate approximately 80 kW of power, these innovative solar panels will support advanced connectivity solutions. This initiative signifies a significant milestone in satellite technology and underscores the importance of international collaborations in the space sector, which can bolster India's own aspirations in satellite communications and space exploration.

Eve and UI Helicopter Join Forces to Advance AAM in South Korea



14-Mar-25

Eve Air Mobility and South Korea's UI Helicopter have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop an Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) ecosystem in South Korea, leveraging their expertise to enhance urban and rural connectivity via eVTOL technology. The collaboration aims to align technical and operational standards with South Korean regulatory requirements and is poised to stimulate local economies while improving urban mobility. With South Korea's proactive initiatives, including the K-UAM Grand Challenge, this partnership signifies a crucial step towards a sustainable AAM infrastructure, underscoring the country's pioneering role in global air mobility advancements. The collaboration is expected to foster productive dialogue with policymakers to ensure effective implementation.

Collins Aerospace Secures Production Approval for Advanced PNT System



14-Mar-25

Collins Aerospace has received Full Rate Production approval for its Mounted Assured Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) Generation II system, known as MAPS GEN II, which will be produced for U.S. Army and Marine Corps combat vehicles. This advanced navigation solution enhances operational effectiveness by integrating satellite and secured positioning data, essential for modern warfare scenarios. The system supports diverse mission profiles including combat and logistics, aligning with the Department of Defense's modernization goals. The successful rollout of MAPS GEN II reflects strategic advancements in resilient navigation technologies, crucial for maintaining operational superiority in contested environments.

Indra and Rheinmetall Team Up to Modernize Leopard 2 E Combat System



14-Mar-25

Indra and Rheinmetall Electronics have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to upgrade the Leopard 2 E Combat System, enhancing its capabilities with advanced C4I technologies. This partnership builds on their previous collaboration in providing fire control and C4I systems for the Spanish Leopard 2 E tanks, allowing for seamless integration and flexible fleet management. As NATO and EU members boost defense budgets, this initiative underscores the commitment to modernize military assets and improve operational readiness. The collaboration highlights the importance of cutting-edge technology in maintaining competitive defense capabilities, particularly in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

Navantia Launches Second Corvette for Saudi Navy, Boosting Defense Ties



14-Mar-25

Navantia has commenced construction of the second corvette for the Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF) at its San Fernando shipyard, just three months after starting the first unit. This contract entails building three additional ships based on the AVANTE 2200 model, enhancing RSNF's capabilities in maritime surveillance, defense, and warfare. It will create around 2,000 jobs and includes support for crew training and operational evaluations by the Spanish Navy. This initiative

underscores the growing defense collaboration between Spain and Saudi Arabia, reflecting the strategic importance of naval capabilities in the region.

Spain's S-82 Submarine Achieves Key Safety Milestones



14-Mar-25

The S-82 Narciso Monturiol submarine, part of Spain's S-80 series, has reached a key safety milestone with the successful power-up of its equipment, alongside the completion of over 1,500 harbour tests. This submarine features innovative technology, including an anaerobic propulsion system that enhances stealth capabilities, allowing it to remain submerged for extended periods. The S-80s are recognized as the most advanced conventional submarines globally, attracting interest from various navies. This progress highlights Spain's growing presence in the international defense market, emphasizing the importance of cutting-edge technology in submarine warfare, a domain where India is also advancing significantly with its indigenous projects like the Kalvari-class submarines.

BAE Systems to Equip Colombian Navy with Bofors 40 Mk4 Gun



14-Mar-25

BAE Systems has secured a contract from Damen Naval to supply the Bofors 40 Mk4 naval gun system for the Colombian Navy's PES frigate, enhancing its anti-aircraft and anti-surface capabilities. This marks Colombia as the second Latin American nation to adopt this versatile naval gun, following Brazil, demonstrating BAE's growing influence in the region's defense sector. The Bofors 40 Mk4 features advanced munitions technology, allowing for rapid switching among different ammunition types and providing heightened operational flexibility. This contract not only strengthens Colombia's maritime defense but also signifies a promising collaboration between BAE Systems and Damen Naval for future naval projects.

India-South Africa Conclave Boosts Defense Collaboration



14-Mar-25

The India-South Africa Business Conclave 2025 emphasized strengthening defense collaborations, with key firms like Rheinmetall Denel Munition and SAAB expressing interest in deepening ties. India's Defence Attache, Captain Atul Sapahia, highlighted the historic defense relationship marked by joint exercises and training programs. There are promising opportunities for local production of defense systems, including a

recent MoU for SAAB's laser warning system. As India pivots from a defense importer to a self-reliant power, collaborative ventures in artillery, shipbuilding, and technology sharing are set to bolster military capabilities, aligning with BRICS objectives and enhancing regional security cooperation.

Former DRDO Chief Proposes Defense Industries in Andhra Pradesh



14-Mar-25

Former DRDO Chief met Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu to propose establishing defense sector industries in the state, receiving positive support for swift approvals and essential infrastructure. This initiative aligns with the national focus on indigenous defense production. The Chief Minister emphasized an investment-friendly environment, which is crucial for attracting defense aerospace manufacturing to the region. Additionally, discussions on enhancing engineering courses to better serve the defense industry were highlighted. The Andhra Pradesh government's commitment to industrial development is further underscored by recent approvals for significant investment proposals, aimed at generating over 80,000 jobs, showcasing the state's potential as a hub for defense innovation.

Building a Local Supply Chain for Export-Ready Fighter Jets



14-Mar-25

India's initiative to engage the private sector in fighter jet production under the Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat programs aims to enhance indigenous defense capabilities and reduce import reliance. Experts emphasize the necessity of creating an exportable ecosystem with a fully localized supply chain, particularly for engines, to achieve competitive pricing and profitability, as current costs are inflated by foreign dependencies. Successful exports could position India as a global defense supplier, generating significant revenue and creating high-skill jobs while also strengthening geopolitical ties. Thus, establishing a domestic manufacturing base is paramount for sustaining private aerospace ventures and ensuring India's defense self-sufficiency.

Breakthrough in MiG-29 OBOGS Enhances India's Aerial Defense



14-Mar-25

In a significant advancement for India's defense capabilities, the CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL) has collaborated with the Indian Air Force's

11 Base Repair Depot to resolve a critical issue with the MiG-29 fighter jets' On-Board Oxygen Generation System (OBOGS). Researchers developed an innovative process to rejuvenate the zeolite material, enhancing its performance and lifespan, which is vital for ensuring pilots receive adequate oxygen at high altitudes. The successful lab-scale trials and subsequent scaling up have ensured that the refurbished OBOGS units perform reliably, thereby bolstering the operational readiness of the MiG-29 fleet, ultimately enhancing India's aerial defense capabilities.

India Can Boost Su-57E Production Rates Over Su-30MKI: Rostec



14-Mar-25

Rostec has revealed that India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) can increase production rates of the Su-57E, the export variant of Russia's fifth-generation stealth fighter, more efficiently than the Su-30MKI. The Nashik facility, currently set for 12 Su-30MKIs annually, could produce 14 Su-57Es per year, a 16.67% increase, due to the latter's smaller dimensions allowing better space utilization and compatibility with existing tools. The Su-57E's advanced design may also facilitate faster assembly compared to the more complex Su-30MKI. This transition underscores India's capability to enhance its defense manufacturing and modernize its air force effectively, bolstering its strategic position in the region.

Gridbots' KATANA Autonomous Weapon System Excels in High-Altitude Trials



14-Mar-25

Gridbots Technologies, an Indian firm, has successfully completed high-altitude trials for its KATANA Autonomous Weapon System, showcasing exceptional performance at 15,000 feet and temperatures as low as -20°C. The system can autonomously detect and neutralize threats, including drones, achieving a precision of 30 cm at a 400-meter target, and can track over 20 targets simultaneously. KATANA's advanced features, such as rapid target locking and versatile firepower options, position it as a game-changer in modern warfare, crucial for India's defense strategies amid evolving threats. This successful trial reflects India's growing capabilities in advanced defense technologies and enhances its operational readiness in challenging environments.

Indian Army's ATGM Dilemma: Ignoring Indigenous 3rd-Gen Solutions SHARE

14-Mar-25

The Indian Army's reliance on aging 2nd-generation anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) is under scrutiny, as locally developed 3rd-generation systems are primed for induction. Indigenous alternatives like the Nag, MPATGM, and Amogha-III offer advanced features such as fire-and-forget technology and enhanced armor penetration, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. However, the Army's hesitance to fully transition to these capabilities raises concerns about operational readiness. To modernize its arsenal, a phased induction of indigenous ATGMs, alongside a streamlined collaboration between the DRDO and private sector, is essential for enhancing frontline effectiveness and reducing import dependency.

LCA Tejas Mk1A Upgrades to ASRAAM for Enhanced Combat Edge SHARE

14-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is enhancing the close combat capabilities of its LCA Tejas Mk1A by integrating the Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM), replacing the older R-73 missile. The ASRAAM offers improved range, maneuverability, and resistance to countermeasures, essential for modern air combat scenarios. This upgrade aligns with India's Make in India initiative, promoting local production and technology transfer, which will bolster domestic defense manufacturing. The integration of the ASRAAM, along with the already included Python-5 missile, strengthens the IAF's operational readiness against contemporary threats, underscoring India's commitment to self-reliance in defense.

HAL Boosts Tejas Mk1 Trainer Production: Nine Units Completed SHARE

14-Mar-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully completed the production of nine Tejas Mk1 Trainer aircraft, part of an 18-unit order for the Indian Air Force (IAF), with more units expected by the end of 2024. The two-seat trainers, which maintain full combat capabilities, are crucial for modernizing the IAF's training fleet and addressing shortages in advanced training aircraft. Despite facing engine supply challenges, HAL's commitment to indigenous production under the Make in India initiative is evident. The Tejas Mk1 Trainer's dual-role capability enhances flexibility, ensuring pilots are well-prepared for modern

aerial warfare while transitioning seamlessly to frontline squadrons.

Zen Tech Launches Revolutionary Drone Mothership for Precision Strikes SHARE

14-Mar-25

Zen Technologies showcased its groundbreaking Airborne Killer Drone System at Aero India 2025, presenting a VTOL-capable mothership designed to launch smaller autonomous drones for precision strikes. With an operational range exceeding 100 kilometers and flight endurance surpassing three hours, this system enhances tactical flexibility in diverse environments, critical for counter-insurgency and border operations. It operates at altitudes up to 6 kilometers, evading ground air defenses, and provides real-time video feeds for situational awareness. This innovative technology positions the Indian armed forces at the forefront of autonomous warfare, significantly improving operational efficiency and effectiveness while minimizing risks to personnel.

BDL Launches Prabha: A Revolutionary Laser Guided Missile SHARE

14-Mar-25

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have unveiled the Prabha Laser Beam Rider Guided Missile (LBRGM) at Aero India 2025, showcasing India's advancements in indigenous defense technology. This advanced anti-tank guided missile features laser beam riding guidance for high accuracy and effectiveness against armored targets, with a lightweight design suited for various launch platforms, including Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICVs). The Prabha missile represents a strategic enhancement of the Indian Army's capabilities, reinforcing India's commitment to self-reliance in defense and addressing critical gaps in operational readiness against evolving threats. This development underlines India's growing prowess in sophisticated weaponry tailored to its unique security needs.

Indian Army Fast-Tracks Indigenous MALE Drones for Himalayan Ops SHARE

14-Mar-25

The Indian Army is urgently seeking the rapid acquisition of indigenous Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) drones to enhance its surveillance capabilities amid rising tensions with China along the Himalayan border. The existing fleet, mainly consisting of older Israeli models, is under strain and nearing the

end of operational life. With rigorous requirements for altitude and endurance, the Army is encouraging both public and private sectors to expedite the development of advanced UAVs like the Archer NG and Tapas BH-201, despite their current developmental challenges. This proactive approach underscores India's commitment to bolstering its defense capabilities in a strategically critical region.

Airbus and Boeing Reluctant to Build Final Assembly Lines in India SHARE

14-Mar-25

Airbus and Boeing are hesitant to establish Final Assembly Lines (FALs) in India despite the country's burgeoning aviation market and government incentives. Their reluctance stems from a desire to safeguard existing manufacturing operations and avoid fostering potential competition akin to China's COMAC. While both companies engage with Indian suppliers, the absence of FALs limits technology transfer and high-skilled job creation. Despite major aircraft orders from Indian airlines, the focus remains on maintaining core intellectual property rather than forming robust industrial partnerships, which could be detrimental to their long-term relationship with a vital growth market like India.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

China's 7.2% defense budget hike prompts India to boost self-reliance. SHARE

14-Mar-25

China's defense budget for 2025 has increased by 7.2% to \$245 billion, intensifying the military disparity with India. In response, India plans to enhance its defense capabilities, emphasizing self-reliance through the 'Aatmanirbhar' initiative and the upcoming 'Year of Reforms' in 2025-26. The Indian defense budget has seen a notable rise, with a focus on domestic procurement, modernizing forces, and enhancing R&D, including a substantial allocation for DRDO. India's position as a growing defense exporter highlights its commitment to bolstering indigenous production, even as it faces challenges in timely procurement and modernization to counter threats from China and Pakistan effectively.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Putin Commends Modi and Global Leaders for Peace Efforts in Ukraine SHARE

14-Mar-25

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed gratitude towards global leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for their efforts in seeking a resolution to the Ukraine conflict, emphasizing that India supports peace rather than neutrality. Modi reiterated this stance, stating that "this is not the era of war," and aligned with U.S. President Trump's push for a proposed 30-day ceasefire. The Kremlin has indicated a cautious optimism regarding the ceasefire discussions, noting that Putin has conveyed signals of support for Trump's proposal while also raising questions about its execution. Both leaders' collaborative efforts reflect a commitment to diplomatic solutions in a complex geopolitical landscape, showcasing India's proactive role in promoting peace amidst global tensions.

Bangladesh Dismisses India's Concerns as Unwarranted Interference SHARE

14-Mar-25

Bangladesh's foreign ministry has dismissed India's recent concerns regarding the safety of minorities and the law-and-order situation in Bangladesh as "unwarranted" interference in its domestic affairs. The comments from India, made by its foreign ministry, emphasized the need for an inclusive electoral process and highlighted issues stemming from the release of violent extremists. The Bangladeshi government, led by chief adviser Muhammad Yunus, is fostering ties with China, indicating a potential geopolitical shift amid a deteriorating internal situation marked by rising crime and instability. While Bangladesh insists on its sovereignty, the reality remains that its internal strife could eventually impact regional security dynamics, underscoring India's cautious approach in advocating for stability and democracy in its eastern neighbor.

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh Calls for Innovative Security Strategies SHARE

14-Mar-25

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh emphasized the need for innovative strategies to address evolving security challenges during the Commanders Conference of the Southern Air Command in Thiruvananthapuram. He highlighted the hybrid nature of future warfare across multiple domains, urging commanders to keep pace

with advancements in space, cyber, and electronic warfare. The Air Chief acknowledged the Southern Air Command's credible operational readiness and its contributions to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. This focus on enhancing capabilities and leveraging human resources underscores India's commitment to maintaining a robust defense posture amid increasing geopolitical complexities.

Putin Signals Openness to Ceasefire Talks with Trump Amid Tensions



14-Mar-25

Recent developments in the Ukraine conflict highlight an evolving ceasefire negotiation between Russia and the US, with President Putin signaling openness to discussions following a proposal for a 30-day pause in hostilities. US envoy Steve Witkoff's visit to Moscow has led to cautious optimism about potential dialogue, although Ukrainian President Zelensky has accused Russia of manipulating the ceasefire proposal with preconditions. Meanwhile, Putin has called for Ukrainian troops in the Kursk region to surrender, promising them dignified treatment, reflecting a continued hardline stance amid shifting dynamics. The absence of former envoy Keith Kellogg from negotiations, reportedly at Russia's request due to his pro-Ukraine stance, further illustrates the complexities surrounding the peace talks and the entangled interests at play.

Bangladesh Labels Indian Media's Coup Claims as Malicious Disinformation



14-Mar-25

Recent articles highlight a tumultuous situation in Bangladesh, where military coup rumors have been dismissed by both Bangladeshi and Indian authorities as disinformation aimed at destabilizing the nation. Despite the political upheaval following the removal of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's military leadership, particularly Army Chief General Vakar-uz-Zaman, has reportedly thwarted a pro-Pakistan conspiracy allegedly orchestrated by the ISI to undermine his position. This conspiracy involved Lt Gen Faizur Rahman, who was under scrutiny for secretive meetings with Islamist factions and Pakistani diplomats. India's timely intervention is credited with safeguarding General Zaman and fortifying Bangladesh's military against Islamist influence. The situation remains tense, with ongoing unrest and protests further complicating the political landscape. Overall, India's support appears crucial in maintaining

stability and countering foreign influences in Bangladesh's military affairs.

EU Looks to Indian Weapons as Defense Spending Ramps Up



14-Mar-25

In a significant development, several European Union countries are looking to procure Indian-made weapons systems, fueled by U.S. calls for increased defense spending amid rising global tensions. This shift towards Indian defense offerings, characterized by cost-effectiveness and technology transfer opportunities, aligns with the EU's need to bolster military capabilities and reduce reliance on U.S. arms. Additionally, the EU's announcement of an \$850 billion defense plan is expected to further benefit Indian defense firms like Bharat Dynamics and Solar Industries as global defense spending rises, creating avenues for partnerships and joint ventures. With India's defense exports reaching over ₹21,000 crore in FY 2022-23, the push for self-reliance and modernization positions India as a pivotal player in the evolving global defense landscape.

South Korea's economy faces challenges from geopolitical tensions and a construction slump



14-Mar-25

South Korea's economy is facing increasing downward pressure due to geopolitical uncertainties and a construction slump, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The ministry's report highlights persistent employment difficulties, especially in the construction sector, which saw a significant decline in jobs for the tenth consecutive month. To mitigate these economic challenges, the government plans to implement job creation measures, provide financial support to low-income households, and assist small businesses affected by global trade uncertainties and US tariffs. This situation underscores the vulnerability of economies amid global trade wars and the necessity for proactive government intervention to stabilize the market.

Naga Army Chief Calls for Unity in Upholding National Identity



14-Mar-25

The Naga Army chief, Longvibu Anthony Ningkhan Shimray, emphasized the importance of steadfastness in upholding the Naga national principle, which he described as a divine covenant. He urged the Naga people to rekindle their collective spirit in pursuit of

their common aspirations. This call for unity and commitment to their cultural identity reflects ongoing sentiments within the region regarding self-determination and national pride. Shimray's statements underscore a critical aspect of the Naga political landscape, highlighting the need for cohesion among the Nagas as they navigate complex socio-political challenges while aiming for a peaceful resolution to their aspirations.

China, Russia, and Iran urge end to U.S. sanctions and nuclear talks



14-Mar-25

Representatives from China, Russia, and Iran recently called for an end to U.S. sanctions on Iran and the resumption of nuclear talks, asserting that diplomatic engagement is vital. This comes amid heightened tensions following U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal and Iran's escalating uranium enrichment to near weapons-grade levels. While Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful, the geopolitical dynamics suggest a growing alignment among these nations against U.S. influence, particularly as they bolster military and energy ties. For India, fostering strong ties with the U.S. and maintaining regional stability is critical, as it navigates complex relationships with its neighbors amid these developments.

China to host SCO defense officials' meeting on security cooperation



14-Mar-25

Defence officials from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will convene in Qingdao, China, on March 26-27 to discuss future security cooperation among member states, including India. The meeting aims to enhance collaboration in defense and security, leveraging SCO's strong counter-terrorism framework, the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS). With China taking the lead as the rotating president, the SCO's focus on collective security is notable, especially in light of regional tensions. India's participation is crucial for fostering strategic partnerships and addressing mutual security challenges within the evolving geopolitical landscape in Asia.

IAF Chief Questions China's Claims on 6th-Gen Fighter Jet's Capabilities



14-Mar-25

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh of the Indian Air Force has cast doubt on China's claims of a successfully flown sixth-generation fighter jet, emphasizing that mere flight does not equate to advanced capabilities. He pointed

out the need for rigorous assessments of the aircraft's true performance, suggesting that the claims might be more propaganda than reality. With China's previous advancements like the J-20, skepticism remains over whether their latest prototype can genuinely meet the standards expected of sixth-generation fighters, which require a comprehensive set of advanced features. This highlights the competitive landscape in military aviation and the importance of substantiated technological advancements.

Military Operations

Indian Army deploys Sherp ATVs for UN peacekeeping in South Sudan.



14-Mar-25

The Indian Army is deploying indigenously developed Sherp All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) for peacekeeping operations under the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, enhancing operational mobility in extreme terrain. These ATVs, known for their adaptability and amphibious capabilities, will serve as a force multiplier, improving logistics and response times for UN peacekeepers. This deployment reflects India's commitment to the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and highlights its evolving defense capabilities on the global stage, reinforcing India's role in promoting international peace and security. Additionally, the Border Security Force personnel at the India-Pakistan border participated in Holi celebrations, showcasing the human aspect of defense forces amid operational duties.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

17 Maoists, including 9 with Rs 24 lakh bounty, surrender in Chhattisgarh.



14-Mar-25

Seventeen Maoists, including several high-profile members carrying a total cash reward of Rs 24 lakh, surrendered in Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh, citing disillusionment with the Maoist ideology and the exploitation of innocent tribals by senior cadres as key reasons for their decision. This surrender, part of a broader trend reflecting a decline in the Maoist grip on the region, brings the total number of Naxalites who have surrendered in Bijapur this year to 65. The ongoing efforts by the Indian government, including development initiatives like the Niya Nellanar scheme

aimed at providing basic amenities and the support of security forces, are credited for this shift. The surrender underscores a significant change in the dynamics of the Naxalite-Maoist insurgency in India, with increasing numbers of insurgents opting for rehabilitation and reintegration into society, facilitated by security measures and government policies designed to win local populations over. This movement away from insurgency not only highlights the diminishing appeal of violent tactics but also showcases the effectiveness of the Indian government's strategic combination of security operations and development programs in addressing the challenges posed by Maoist insurgency, thereby fostering a more stable environment in conflict-affected regions.

Four militants arrested in Manipur; significant arms seized SHARE

14-Mar-25

Multiple joint efforts by the Indian Army, Assam Rifles, and local police have successfully led to the arrest of militants and the recovery of a significant cache of weapons and ammunition. Four militants, including members of the Peoples Liberation Army and other banned groups, were apprehended, while authorities seized over 50 weapons, grenades, and improvised devices from various districts. These coordinated operations, driven by intelligence inputs, underscore the commitment of Indian security forces to restoring peace and security in Manipur amid the region's ongoing strife. The dismantling of militant infrastructure, including bunkers, demonstrates the proactive measures being taken to address local unrest, reflecting a strong resolve to ensure stability in the area.

18 Soldiers Among 26 Hostages Killed in Balochistan Attack SHARE

14-Mar-25

The recent hijacking of the Jaffar Express in Balochistan by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) resulted in the deaths of 26 hostages, primarily military personnel, amidst a failed negotiation strategy by Pakistan. The incident, which reflected the long-standing insurgency in Balochistan fueled by grievances such as poverty and resource exploitation, saw Pakistan's military launch an operation that ended with the death of all insurgents and the rescue of 354 hostages. However, the high casualty rate raises questions about the effectiveness of Pakistan's military-centric approach, which fails to address the region's underlying issues. The situation underscores the urgent

need for dialogue and a more nuanced strategy to mitigate the escalating violence and grievances within the Baloch population, as emphasized by ongoing tensions and a lack of trust in the government.

India Denounces Pakistan's Terrorism Claims Amid Train Attack Fallout SHARE

14-Mar-25

India has firmly rejected Pakistan's allegations of supporting terrorism following a deadly train attack in Balochistan that claimed 21 lives. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized that Pakistan should confront its internal issues rather than blame others, asserting that the world knows the true epicenter of global terrorism. Pakistan's Foreign Office accused India of sponsoring terrorism while simultaneously requesting Afghanistan to take action against groups like the Balochistan Liberation Army. This exchange highlights the ongoing blame game between the two nations, with India maintaining that credible evidence for such allegations remains absent, reinforcing its strategic position against Pakistan's attempts to divert attention from its internal security challenges.

Six Arrested, Including Army Personnel, for AK-47 Robbery SHARE

14-Mar-25

Bathinda Police have arrested six individuals, including two who claim to be Indian Army personnel, following a snatching incident involving an AK-47 rifle allegedly stolen from an army unit in Jammu. The suspects reportedly used the firearm to rob a hotel owner of ₹7,000. During their apprehension, one suspect was injured when he fired at the police, prompting a retaliatory shot. The police are verifying the military claims of the arrested individuals with army authorities. This incident raises concerns about security and weapon theft from the armed forces, highlighting the need for stringent measures to prevent such breaches that could potentially undermine national security.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Indian Army Brigadier Faces Sexual Harassment Allegations in Shillong SHARE

14-Mar-25

A Brigadier in the Indian Army has been accused of sexual harassment by the wife of a junior officer in

Shillong, Meghalaya. The woman has filed a formal complaint detailing multiple instances of alleged misconduct, including inappropriate remarks and physical intimidation, leading to a police case being registered under relevant sections of the law. The situation highlights serious concerns regarding behavior within military circles, emphasizing the need for a thorough investigation to uphold the Army's integrity. The ongoing inquiry reflects the Indian Army's commitment to address such serious allegations and maintain a respectful environment for all its personnel.

99-Year-Old INA Veteran Honors Netaji on His Birthday

📱 SHARE

14-Mar-25

R. Madhavan Pillai, a 99-year-old veteran of the Indian National Army (INA), recently celebrated his birthday by paying tribute to Netaji Subash Chandra Bose at the National War Memorial. As one of the last surviving INA members, Pillai's life exemplifies immense valor and sacrifice during India's fight for independence. Despite his advanced age, he honored fallen heroes by laying a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti, illustrating the enduring spirit of patriotism. The Indian Army expressed their respect for Pillai and all veterans who contributed to securing India's freedom, underscoring the importance of remembering and honoring such historical figures in shaping national identity.

Miscellaneous

SpaceX Delays Return of NASA Astronauts Due to Technical Issues

📱 SHARE

14-Mar-25

SpaceX has delayed the return of NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore from the International Space Station (ISS) due to a hydraulic system issue with the Falcon 9 rocket, which is crucial for the launch of Crew-10, scheduled for March 14. This crew change is necessary as Williams and Wilmore have been on the ISS since June, initially intended for a brief stay. The return of the astronauts has faced additional delays from adverse weather conditions. While technical difficulties have caused setbacks, NASA remains focused on ensuring the astronauts' safe return and successful mission execution. This situation highlights the complexities and challenges of space missions, emphasizing the importance of stringent safety measures and technical reliability in aerospace operations.

Kuki-Zo Council Ends Shutdown, Rejects Free Movement Plan

📱 SHARE

14-Mar-25

The Kuki-Zo Council in Manipur has lifted its indefinite shutdown, which began on March 9, but strongly opposes the free movement plan announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The council believes this plan undermines justice for the Kuki-Zo people, especially after a protest turned violent, resulting in the death of a youth. They continue to demand a separate political administration to secure justice and peace for their community. The council urges authorities to acknowledge their legitimate demands, emphasizing the need for a peaceful resolution that respects their rights and addresses security concerns in the region.

Strengthening India-Mauritius Ties Amid Regional Challenges

📱 SHARE

13-Mar-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Mauritius aimed to reinforce the strategic partnership between India and Mauritius, celebrating their shared cultural ties while prioritizing defense cooperation. The leaders committed to enhancing bilateral trade, with India offering significant economic initiatives, including a credit facility for water infrastructure. Amid China's growing influence in the region, especially through trade agreements with Mauritius, India is keen to maintain its presence in the Indian Ocean and support Mauritius in its sovereignty negotiations over the Chagos Archipelago. Modi's engagement underscores India's commitment to solidifying regional alliances and countering external pressures in an evolving geopolitical landscape.

Demolition of Kochi's Chander Kunj Army Towers to take 10 months.

📱 SHARE

14-Mar-25

The demolition of the Chander Kunj Army Towers in Kochi, valued at approximately ₹150 crore, is set to take 9 to 10 months, as confirmed by an expert team. Following a Kerala High Court order due to structural issues, a committee is overseeing the demolition, assessing operational threats and safety concerns related to nearby infrastructure. The team, comprising professionals from various engineering firms, highlighted that while the demolition process may take only 10 seconds, significant preparatory work is necessary to safely bring down the structures, particularly given their proximity to each other and their weakened state. Timely action is recommended to mitigate risks associated with the unsafe buildings.

Goyal and US Trade Rep Discuss Strategic Bilateral Trade Deal



14-Mar-25

Piyush Goyal recently held discussions with the US Trade Representative to advance a bilateral trade agreement, aiming for completion by fall 2025. Emphasizing a strategic partnership, Goyal seeks to align with India's principles of "India First" and "Viksit Bharat" while addressing challenges like tariffs and market access. This dialogue follows an ambitious initiative to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, named "Mission 500," which aims to enhance economic prosperity and supply chain resilience. Goyal advocates for Indian exporters to adopt a proactive approach in a global market, while the government aims to safeguard their interests amid looming US tariff implementations.

India Diversifies Oil Imports, Cuts Russian Supply in February



14-Mar-25

India is strategically diversifying its oil imports, reducing reliance on Russian oil amidst ongoing Western sanctions, with February imports dropping to about 1.54 million barrels per day, the lowest since January 2024. Concurrently, oil imports from Africa and South America surged, reflecting a 60% increase from South America and a jump to approximately 3,30,000 barrels per day from Africa. This shift highlights India's adaptability in securing energy resources, as it also started sourcing oil from new producers like Argentina and Gabon. Despite this diversification, Russia remains the largest supplier, indicating India's balanced approach to energy security while navigating geopolitical challenges.

India Completes Design of Small Modular Nuclear Reactor for Energy Independence



14-Mar-25

The design stage of India's Small Modular Nuclear Reactor (BSMR), a 200 MW system modified from existing Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor technology, has been completed, with a focus on enhancing nuclear safety and enabling flexible deployment in energy-intensive industries. Jointly developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and NPCIL, it will utilize indigenous resources for manufacturing, supported by a government allocation of 20,000 crore to operationalize five SMRs by 2033. This initiative is part of a larger goal to increase India's nuclear capacity to 100 GW by 2047, reflecting a strategic commitment to

sustainable energy and energy independence while bolstering the domestic defense and energy sectors.

Naga MLAs and Governor Discuss Restoring Peace in Manipur



14-Mar-25

Six MLAs from the Naga community in Manipur met with Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla to discuss the challenges faced by local residents and expressed optimism about restoring peace and normalcy in the state. They committed to cooperating with the Governor's efforts in this regard. Additionally, representatives from the Churachandpur Meitei United Committee approached the Governor to highlight the difficulties faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) residing in relief camps, seeking assistance for their welfare. The Governor assured that their grievances would be addressed, reflecting a proactive approach to fostering stability and support in the region, crucial for the overall peace process in Manipur.

FM Critiques TN's Rupee Symbol Removal as Threat to Unity



14-Mar-25

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman criticized the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government's decision to remove the official rupee symbol from state budget documents, labeling it a dangerous move that undermines Indian unity and fosters secessionist sentiments. She emphasized that the rupee symbol, designed by a Tamil youth, represents India's identity in global finance and should not be replaced with a regional alternative. Sitharaman argued that this action contradicts the constitutional oath of elected representatives to uphold national integrity, especially as India aims to promote cross-border payments using UPI. This incident highlights the delicate balance between regional pride and national unity.

LAT Aerospace to Launch Affordable 24-Seater STOL Aircraft, Competing with HAL and NAL



14-Mar-25

LAT Aerospace, a startup backed by Zomato's Deepinder Goyal, plans to develop low-cost, 24-seater STOL aircraft, entering competition with HAL's Hindustan 228 and NAL's Saras MkII. This initiative aims to enhance regional air connectivity in India, particularly for underserved areas, by operating from very short runways. While LAT Aerospace's private backing may foster innovation and cost-effectiveness, it faces challenges like high capital requirements and

regulatory hurdles. The introduction of more efficient regional aircraft could make air travel accessible for smaller communities, thus promoting economic growth, although overcoming the advantages of established entities like HAL will be crucial for success.

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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
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
HIGHENE	456.05	473.9	454.0	463.55	8326	0.83	43.45	471.88	662.94
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	2482.65	2041	0.36	53.84	2416.36	2642.19
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
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
NIBE	905.8	935.0	883.1	887.75	33231	-3.04	28.55	1044.82	1704.24
TANEJAERO	320.0	324.9	299.5	305.0	26813	-3.25	46.69	299.1	470.97
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	699.9	712.25	679.1	679.1	53198	-5.13	49.03	663.66	464.77