



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

January 16, 2025 | Day 016

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
AZAD	1679.4	1582.5	+6.12%
BDL	1201.45	1134.0	+5.95%
ZENTEC	2236.9	2150.25	+4.03%
ASTRAMICRO	768.0	741.4	+3.59%
COCHINSHIP	1446.1	1396.35	+3.56%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
TANEJAERO	383.05	388.95	-1.52%
ROSSELLIND	72.33	72.79	-0.63%
NIBE	1570.35	1577.5	-0.45%

Defense Business and Industry

MoD signs Rs 2,960 crore deal with BDL for Navy's MRSAMs



16-Jan-25

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a significant contract worth Rs 2,960 crore with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to supply Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MRSAM) for the Indian Navy. This contract, which emphasizes the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, will enhance India's defense capabilities and support the indigenization of advanced military technology, with a majority of the content being produced domestically. The MRSAM system will be a standard fit on numerous Indian Naval Ships and future platforms, generating approximately 3.5 lakh mandays of employment in the defense sector, including for various MSMEs. This initiative reflects India's commitment to strengthening its defense industry and reducing reliance on foreign military assets.

India and France Unite on Trajan Artillery; Armenia Enhances Defense



16-Jan-25

India company L&T and French Nexter have successfully developed the Trajan 155 mm towed artillery gun system, which Armenia has chosen to enhance its military capabilities. This collaboration highlights India's growing defense manufacturing prowess, with significant subsystems designed domestically. Additionally, Armenia has procured India's Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers and Akash air defense systems, strengthening its defense posture amidst regional security challenges. This partnership

not only bolsters Armenia's military integration but also positions India as a competitive player in the global arms market, showcasing its technological advancements and reinforcing strategic ties with like-minded nations.

Indian Navy's AIP Trials for Project-75I Submarines Face Hurdles



16-Jan-25

The Indian Navy faces challenges in its Project-75I submarines, particularly regarding Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) systems from Navantia and ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems, neither of which fully meets the Navy's requirements for operational readiness and scalability. Meanwhile, Pakistan, backed by Chinese support, is set to outpace India in AIP-equipped submarines, projecting a total of eleven by 2030, compared to India's nine by 2032. Despite India's commitment to indigenous technology, including a developed AIP system ready for integration, delays in procurement processes pose a significant hurdle. This situation highlights a potential shift in the regional naval balance, with Pakistan's advancements in submarine capabilities enhancing its strategic posture in the increasingly competitive Indian Ocean. The Indian Navy must expedite its development and procurement processes to maintain a tactical edge and ensure regional stability.

Optimus to Produce KunWay Drones in India for Defense Needs



16-Jan-25

Optimus Unmanned Systems Private Limited has partnered with Taiwan's KunWay Technology to manufacture drones in India, aligning with the Indian government's "Make in India" initiative. This collaboration aims to enhance local production

capabilities and address India's defense and security needs. The partnership reflects India's growing technological prowess and ambition to become a global hub for drone manufacturing, with the drone industry projected to reach a market value of USD 23 billion by 2030. This initiative not only supports national defense strategies but also positions India as a key player in the global drone market, fostering economic growth and technological advancement.

India to Provide Rafale MRO Services to Indonesia After Jet Deal SHARE

16-Jan-25

India is positioning itself as a pivotal player in the global defense maintenance sector by offering Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) services for Rafale fighter jets to Indonesia, following Jakarta's \$8.1 billion deal for 42 jets. This initiative not only showcases India's growing MRO capabilities but also aims to deepen defense ties with Indonesia, fostering potential military partnerships and technology transfers. By utilizing its experience with Rafale jets, India enhances local support and cost efficiency for Indonesia, aligning with its "Make in India" initiative. This strategic move establishes India as a regional hub for aircraft maintenance, reinforcing its commitment to strengthening defense collaborations in Southeast Asia.

AI and Ancient Wisdom Unite: Indian Army Celebrates 77th Day SHARE

16-Jan-25

The Indian Army showcased a grand military extravaganza titled 'Gaurav Gatha' in Pune to celebrate the 77th Army Day, blending ancient wisdom with modern technology through AI-generated visuals. The event highlighted the evolution of warfare, featuring live combat demonstrations, historic military tales from the Ramayana and Mahabharata, and celebrated the valor of women warriors. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and other dignitaries attended, witnessing a portrayal of India's military history, including significant post-independence conflicts. This initiative aligns with 'Project Udbhav', promoting indigenous military discourse and integrating ancient strategic insights into contemporary practices, reflecting India's commitment to a future-ready defense force.

DG Propulsion Successfully Tests J40 Jet Engine's Vertical Configuration SHARE

16-Jan-25

DG Propulsion has conducted multiple vertical configuration test runs of the J40 jet engine, which showcases advancements in aerospace technology with a focus on efficiency and performance. The tests confirmed stable thrust output, effective thermal management, and acceptable vibration levels, reinforcing the engine's reliability and operational efficiency. The J40 utilizes a dual-flow system for enhanced thrust while minimizing fuel consumption and is designed to meet stringent environmental standards. Its versatility in integration across commercial and military applications positions it as a competitive option in the aerospace market, with ongoing research aimed at further optimizing its performance and potentially redefining aviation standards.

DRDO's Mission: Boosting Indigenous Defense Innovation by 2025 SHARE

16-Jan-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) aims to complete 100 critical projects by 2025, enhancing India's defence capabilities through indigenous technology and increased collaboration with the private sector. Emphasizing innovation, DRDO focuses on developing advanced technologies, including aerospace systems, while fostering local manufacturing to reduce dependence on foreign technologies. This strategy not only strengthens national security but also positions India as a leader in global defence technology, aligning with its vision of becoming a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047. Through these efforts, India is set to bolster its operational readiness and contribute significantly to the local economy and global defence landscape.

Indian Army Successfully Evaluates Upgraded Nag Missile Carrier SHARE

16-Jan-25

The Indian Army has successfully completed the field evaluation of the Nag Missile Carrier version-2 (NAMICA-2) at Pokhran, marking a pivotal advancement in India's indigenous defense capabilities. This upgraded system can launch six Nag MkII Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) and features enhanced mobility through its BMP-2 Sarath chassis, optimizing battlefield efficiency. The Nag MkII ATGM's advanced imaging infrared seeker offers precision targeting in diverse conditions, capable of engaging modern armor

effectively. This development significantly strengthens India's anti-armor warfare capabilities and underscores the nation's commitment to enhancing its military readiness and self-reliance in defense technology.

Indian Army Chief Launches Trials for Advanced Mounted Gun System



16-Jan-25

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi announced that the Indian Army has conducted over 300 trials of the innovative Mounted Gun System (MGS), a 155mm/52 caliber artillery system designed for modern warfare, emphasizing rapid deployment and mobility. The MGS, adapted from the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System, can operate in diverse environments and boasts a maximum firing range of 45 kilometers with impressive accuracy. The ongoing trials aim to validate its performance under various conditions and refine logistics and integration, ensuring it effectively supports mechanized forces. This development enhances the Indian Army's tactical advantage, enabling effective engagement while minimizing vulnerability to counter-battery fire.

India's MoD to Finalize 156 Prachand LCH Procurement by 2025



16-Jan-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) is on track to finalize the procurement of 156 indigenous Prachand Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) by March 2025, with a total estimated value of ₹53,000 crore (\$6 billion). This acquisition aims to bolster the Indian Army and Air Force capabilities, particularly for operations in challenging terrains at high altitudes. The procurement process has gained momentum following the Defence Acquisition Council's approval in November 2023, and a Request for Proposal was issued in June 2024. This significant investment not only addresses strategic military needs but also promises to stimulate the local defense industry and create jobs, underscoring India's commitment to self-reliance in defense.

India's BMD Phase-II: Advancing Against Ballistic and Hypersonic Threats



16-Jan-25

India's Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) program is advancing with the successful testing of the AD-1 Interceptor missile under Phase II, which introduces limited anti-hypersonic capabilities alongside its primary function of neutralizing ballistic missiles. The AD-1's design allows it to engage threats up to 5,000 km and demonstrates early-stage capability against

hypersonic glide vehicles during their terminal phase. This development underscores India's strategic foresight in countering evolving missile threats and sets the stage for Phase III, which will bring specialized interceptors to enhance its defense framework. Overall, this initiative reflects India's commitment to strengthening its deterrence posture in the face of advancing military technologies.

GTRE Enhances STFE for Enhanced Air Launch Capabilities



16-Jan-25

The Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), part of India's DRDO, is working on enhancing the Small Turbo Fan Engine (STFE) to enable air-launch capabilities. This modification is crucial for adapting the STFE, primarily used in subsonic cruise missiles and UAVs, for the challenges of aerial deployment, focusing on fuel management and operational resilience. Successful adaptation could significantly bolster India's strategic military capabilities, allowing for rapid response and stand-off operations. Moreover, this initiative aligns with India's goal of self-reliance in defense manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign, reducing dependency on foreign technology while expanding the nation's defense technology footprint.

Azad Engineering secures \$112M multi-year deal with GE Vernova



16-Jan-25

Azad Engineering, a Hyderabad-based company, has secured a significant multi-year supply agreement valued at USD 112 million with GE Vernova International LLC, USA. This six-year contract involves providing complex rotating and stationary airfoils for advanced gas turbine engines, catering to the increasing global demand in the power generation sector. Azad Engineering specializes in precision-forged and machined components across various industries, including clean energy and defense. This partnership not only enhances India's standing in the aerospace and defense supply chain but also signifies the growing recognition of Indian firms in the global market for high-tech manufacturing and engineering solutions.

India Unveils Indigenous UGV Platform: A Major Defense Breakthrough



16-Jan-25

The unveiling of an indigenous Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) platform by the Defence Innovation Accelerator (DIA) at IIT Kharagpur represents a

significant advancement in India's defense technology and self-reliance. Developed in collaboration with CSIR-CMERI and VRDE under DRDO, the UGV features innovative hub motor technology for enhanced maneuverability and efficiency across diverse terrains. Its capabilities include reconnaissance, logistics support in hazardous situations, disaster response, and border patrol, thereby reducing human risk in critical operations. This development underscores India's commitment to bolstering its defense capabilities and advancing its indigenous defense industry, reflecting a strategic shift towards greater autonomy in defense technology.

INS Nilgiri: India's First Warship Ready to Tackle Drones

🕒 SHARE

16-Jan-25

The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Nilgiri, the first Indian-made warship equipped with the Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM) system and advanced DART ammunition, enhancing its capabilities against modern aerial threats, including drones and anti-ship missiles. This development highlights India's growing prowess in indigenous defense manufacturing, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative aimed at self-reliance in defense technology. The integration of such advanced systems on INS Nilgiri is a significant step in showcasing India's ability to produce warships that meet global standards, reinforcing its strategic defense posture amid evolving maritime challenges. This capability underscores India's commitment to modernizing its naval forces and enhancing national security.

India's Solar Group Unveils 'Bhargavastra' to Tackle Drone Swarms

🕒 SHARE

16-Jan-25

India's Solar Group has successfully tested the 'Bhargavastra', a counter-drone system capable of firing 64 guided micro-missiles in a single salvo, addressing the rising threat of drone swarms. This innovative system, which utilizes both hard-kill and soft-kill methods, showcases India's advancements in indigenous defense technology and is designed to operate effectively across diverse terrains. The proactive development of 'Bhargavastra' reflects a commitment to innovation, positioning India as a growing defense exporter. With the system's demonstrated precision and integration capabilities, it stands to enhance national security, especially amid the increasing use of drones in modern warfare.

PM Modi: 60 Naval Ships to Boost Economy by ₹3 Trillion, Create 840K Jobs

🕒 SHARE

16-Jan-25

Prime Minister Modi highlighted the economic benefits of India's naval shipbuilding program, noting the construction of 60 vessels will generate around Rs 3 trillion and create 840,000 jobs, boosting the "Make in India" initiative. The commissioning of three new warships underscores India's focus on self-reliance in defense, with 75% indigenous content in new ships. The government aims to modernize the military, enhance operational efficiency, and expand its presence in the Indian Ocean Region, reflecting a strategic push towards greater indigenous defense production and regional security. This commitment is further evidenced by India's rising defense budget and successful domestic projects like the INS Vikrant and Scorpene-class submarines.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Israel and Hamas Agree to Six-Week Ceasefire with U.S. Support

🕒 SHARE

16-Jan-25

Israel and Hamas have agreed to a six-week ceasefire deal, facilitated by the U.S. and Qatar, marking a significant step towards easing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The agreement outlines a phased approach, beginning with an immediate cessation of hostilities and the release of Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. Key provisions include a substantial increase in humanitarian assistance to Gaza and a structured plan for further negotiations on reconstruction and additional hostages. This truce, achieved with the support of both the Biden and Trump administrations, underscores the importance of international cooperation in fostering regional stability and addressing critical humanitarian needs while also aiming to prevent Gaza from becoming a base for terrorism.

Russia Promises Retaliation After Ukraine's Major Missile Strikes

🕒 SHARE

16-Jan-25

In a significant escalation of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, Ukraine launched its most extensive attack to date, firing U.S.-made ATACMS ballistic missiles and UK-made Storm Shadow cruise missiles deep into Russian territory, targeting military and energy facilities. Russia's

military vowed retaliation, employing its advanced hypersonic missile, Oreshnik, in response to these strikes. The Ukrainian General Staff reported successful hits on critical infrastructure, while Russian forces retaliated with a barrage of missile strikes on Ukrainian energy sectors, particularly in the middle of winter. The situation remains tense as the geopolitical landscape shifts with the impending inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump, raising uncertainties about U.S. support for Ukraine. This ongoing conflict underscores the pivotal role of international arms supplies in influencing the dynamics between Ukraine and Russia, as well as the broader implications for regional stability in Eastern Europe.

Future Conflicts Will Be More Violent and Unpredictable, Warns Defence Minister



16-Jan-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted the increasing unpredictability and violence of future conflicts, emphasizing the emergence of non-state actors and the rapid technological advancements transforming warfare, particularly in cyber and space domains. He asserted the necessity of a robust military for national security and India's strategic autonomy, advocating self-reliance in defense production, which reached a record ₹1.27 lakh crore. Singh also underscored India's humanitarian role in disaster response and praised the armed forces' strength as a deterrent against adversaries. He reinforced that peace is a sign of strength, aligning with India's vision of a developed nation by 2047, where a secure military foundation is paramount for progress.

India-US Report Uncovers Criminal Links, Urges Legal Action



16-Jan-25

A high-powered enquiry committee in India has submitted a report concerning organized criminal groups and terrorist organizations that threaten the security interests of both India and the US. The investigation was prompted by US claims regarding an assassination attempt on Khalistani separatist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun. The committee recommended expedited legal action against an individual identified during the probe and emphasized the need for enhanced systems and procedures to bolster India's response capabilities. This collaborative investigation reflects the growing partnership between India and the US in addressing transnational security challenges, underscoring the importance of

coordinated action against criminal elements that undermine regional stability.

Pakistan Denies Indian Accusations of State-Sponsored Terrorism



16-Jan-25

Pakistan has dismissed allegations by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi regarding state-sponsored terrorism, calling them baseless. Singh accused Pakistan of destabilizing India through terrorism and emphasized the need for dismantling its terror infrastructure in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Gen Dwivedi reiterated that Pakistan is the epicenter of terrorism affecting Jammu and Kashmir, which he stated is under control. The Pakistan Army criticized these remarks as politically motivated, asserting that India should focus on its own actions rather than making accusations, and reiterated its stance on Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory needing resolution in line with UN resolutions.

Pakistan's Missile-Naming Strategy Under Fire After Ghaznavi Critique



16-Jan-25

Pakistan's missile-naming strategy, historically aimed at taunting India by glorifying Afghan invaders like Mahmud Ghaznavi, faces backlash after Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif labeled Ghaznavi a "plunderer." This statement has sparked domestic debate about national identity and the ethics of celebrating historical figures who invaded India. Moreover, it strains Pakistan's relationships with Afghanistan, as Kabul views this practice as an appropriation of its history. The incident reveals the vulnerabilities in Pakistan's narrative and its attempts to assert dominance over India, indicating a potential reconsideration of its missile-naming conventions amidst rising geopolitical tensions.

China's new barges raise alarm over potential Taiwan invasion.



16-Jan-25

China's development of "special-purpose barges" has raised concerns among analysts regarding its potential intentions to invade Taiwan. These flat-bottomed vessels, under construction at Guangzhou Shipyard International, are designed to quickly deploy troops and equipment, with features enabling efficient unloading in challenging coastal conditions. Experts suggest that these developments indicate Beijing's serious commitment to forcefully annexing Taiwan. The barges enhance China's "pier-free unloading" capability, a

significant strategic advancement that reflects its long-term military planning, reinforcing the notion that China sees military action as a viable option in its pursuit of territorial claims over Taiwan.

New US NSA Mike Waltz Reaffirms India's Crucial Role Amid China



16-Jan-25

Incoming US National Security Advisor Mike Waltz emphasized the continuation of key policies from the Biden administration, particularly concerning India as a vital partner against China's growing assertiveness. Highlighting the importance of alliances such as AUKUS and the Quad, Waltz reaffirmed the US's commitment to promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific. His remarks, echoed by outgoing NSA Jake Sullivan, showcased a unified approach towards countering Chinese economic practices and enhancing technological cooperation. The strong US-India partnership is critical in this geopolitical landscape, underlining India's pivotal role in regional stability and security amidst China's challenges.

Iran Confirms No Mutual Defense Clause in Russia Pact



16-Jan-25

A strategic cooperation agreement between Russia and Iran will not feature a mutual defense clause, as confirmed by Iran's envoy Kazem Jalali. He emphasized that Iran prioritizes its independence and security, rejecting the notion of joining any bloc, unlike Russia's partnerships with North Korea and Belarus, which include such provisions. This distinction highlights Iran's intent to maintain self-reliance in its defense strategy. The upcoming talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on January 17 are expected to culminate in the signing of this comprehensive strategic partnership pact, marking a significant step in bilateral ties without military obligations.

Japan Launches NATO Mission Amid Rising Tensions in Asia



16-Jan-25

Japan has launched an independent mission to NATO to enhance cooperation amid rising tensions from Russia, China, and North Korea. This move follows Japan's ambition to create a NATO-like security framework in Asia and reflects deepening ties between NATO and Indo-Pacific partners, including Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea, particularly in the context of a more assertive China and the

repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Japan's initiative signifies a strategic pivot towards collaborative security efforts in the region, despite concerns from Beijing regarding the potential formation of a NATO-like alliance in Asia, indicating a significant shift in geopolitical dynamics.

Bangladesh Army Officer Meets Pakistan Air Force Chief, Signaling Thaw in Ties



16-Jan-25

A top Bangladesh Army officer recently met with Pakistan's Air Force Chief to enhance bilateral collaboration and address regional security concerns, marking a thaw in relations that have historically been strained since the 1971 Liberation War. This meeting comes in the wake of Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August 2024, leading to a warming of ties between the two nations. Discussions focused on defense collaboration, intelligence sharing, and the need for resilience against external influences. Such high-level military engagements indicate a significant shift in Bangladesh's foreign relations strategy, potentially benefiting regional stability and security dynamics, especially in the context of India's ongoing strategic interests in South Asia.

India Applauds Gaza Ceasefire and Hostage Release Agreement



16-Jan-25

India has welcomed the recent Gaza ceasefire and the hostage release agreement between Israel and Hamas, following 15 months of violent conflict. The Ministry of External Affairs expressed hope that this deal will facilitate a safe and sustained humanitarian aid supply to the people of Gaza and emphasized India's consistent calls for the release of hostages, a ceasefire, and a return to diplomatic dialogue. This development reflects India's commitment to peace and stability in the region, underscoring its role as a responsible global player advocating for humanitarian considerations amid geopolitical tensions.

U.S. Sanctions on Pakistan May Boost India's Regional Power



16-Jan-25

The recent U.S. sanctions on Pakistani entities involved in long-range missile programs, as highlighted by analyst Adnan Aamir, could reshape South Asian power dynamics by inadvertently strengthening India's strategic position. These sanctions aim to limit Pakistan's missile technology development, which is

central to its defense against India. Consequently, India may assert greater dominance in regional conflicts, especially given its recent defense collaborations with the U.S. However, critics argue that this selective enforcement raises concerns over U.S. foreign policy consistency, as India's own advancements have not faced similar scrutiny. Overall, the sanctions may enhance India's security while complicating U.S. relations with Pakistan and China.

Rajnath Singh and UK Defence Secretary Discuss Enhanced Cooperation

16-Jan-25

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh engaged in a telephonic conversation with UK Secretary of State for Defence, Mr. John Healey, on January 16, 2025, to discuss ongoing defense cooperation and the need to sustain bilateral relations. They highlighted significant advancements in defense technology, including Electric Propulsion and jet engines, and expressed satisfaction with the recent Statement of Intent on Electric Propulsion. Both ministers also reviewed the exchange of military instructors and explored opportunities for enhanced maritime engagements in the Indo-Pacific, reflecting the UK's growing focus in the region. This dialogue underscores the strengthening defense ties that are vital for regional security and technological collaboration.

Military Operations

12 Militants eliminated as Security forces clash with Naxalites in Chhattisgarh

16-Jan-25

An encounter between security forces and Naxalites occurred in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district during an anti-Naxalite operation. The firefight began around 9 am and involved personnel from the District Reserve Guard, CRPF's CoBRA unit, and additional battalions. This clash follows a recent spike in Naxalite violence, highlighted by an incident earlier in the month where Naxals ambushed security personnel using an IED, resulting in multiple casualties. The ongoing operations underscore the Indian security forces' commitment to countering Naxalite threats and ensuring regional stability, reinforcing their capability to respond decisively to such challenges.

Indian Armed Forces Launch "Devil Strike" for Airborne Excellence

16-Jan-25

The Indian Armed Forces are conducting Exercise Devil Strike from January 16 to 19, involving elite airborne units from both the Indian Army and Air Force. This exercise aims to validate complex airborne operations and enhance operational readiness in challenging environments, focusing on logistics and advanced technologies for effective troop insertion. By integrating state-of-the-art equipment, the exercise underscores the commitment of the Indian Armed Forces to operational excellence and adaptability. This initiative reflects India's strategic emphasis on ensuring preparedness against evolving threats, thereby enhancing the capabilities of its military in joint operations and reinforcing national security.

Ukraine Downs 34 Russian Drones Amid Ongoing Aerial Assaults

16-Jan-25

Ukraine successfully intercepted 34 out of 55 Russian drones in a recent overnight attack, according to the Ukrainian air force. The engagement took place across 11 regions, with additional drones likely neutralized by electronic warfare. Despite these defensive measures, falling debris from the downed drones caused damage to energy infrastructure in Poltava, affecting over 300 users' power supply. This ongoing drone warfare highlights the pressures Kyiv faces, as Russian forces continue to launch frequent aerial assaults, compelling Ukraine to allocate significant resources for air defense. The resilience displayed by Ukraine underscores the critical importance of advanced defense capabilities in modern warfare, a lesson that resonates within South Asian strategic contexts, including India's defense planning.

BrahMos Missiles Fired in Salvo Mode, Boosting India's Defense Strength

16-Jan-25

The recent successful launch of BrahMos missiles in salvo mode by the Indian Western Command in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands highlights India's enhanced military capabilities and strategic posture in the region. This rapid-fire test demonstrates the ability to engage multiple targets simultaneously, reinforcing deterrence against potential threats from neighboring countries. The BrahMos missile, known for its speed and precision, continues to evolve, showcasing versatility across various platforms. This development

not only strengthens India's defense strategy but also underscores the nation's commitment to maintaining maritime security and control over critical routes, solidifying its position as a formidable power in the Indo-Pacific region.

Miscellaneous

India's ISRO Achieves Milestone with Successful Space Docking SHARE

16-Jan-25

India has achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing its Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX), making it the fourth nation globally to demonstrate autonomous space docking capabilities, following the USA, Russia, and China. The mission involved the precise docking of two satellites, SDX01 and SDX02, using the indigenously developed Bhartiya Docking System. This achievement positions India as a key player in international space exploration and lays the groundwork for future complex missions, including Chandrayaan-4 and the proposed Indian Space Station. The advancements made during SpaDeX not only enhance India's technological capabilities but also promise cost efficiencies in satellite operations and foster a burgeoning space industry, thereby strengthening India's strategic ambitions in space exploration and technology development.

US Removes Sanctions on Key Indian Nuclear Bodies to Boost Ties SHARE

16-Jan-25

The U.S. has lifted sanctions on three prominent Indian nuclear entities—Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre (IGCAR), and Indian Rare Earths (IRE)—as part of a broader strategy to strengthen civil nuclear cooperation, initially established nearly two decades ago. This move aims to enhance collaboration in clean energy and critical minerals, aligning with U.S. foreign policy to reduce barriers to joint research and development. The decision also reflects a geopolitical shift, as it counterbalances rising challenges from China, which faced sanctions of its own. By promoting deeper ties with India, the U.S. reinforces its commitment to energy security and technological advancement, marking a significant milestone for both nations in their long-term partnership in the nuclear and clean energy sectors.

Bangladesh Court Reduces ULFA Leader Baruah's Sentence to 14 Years SHARE

16-Jan-25

The Bangladesh High Court has reduced ULFA leader Pareswari Baruah's life sentence to 14 years for his involvement in a 2004 arms smuggling case, which included the seizure of ten truckloads of weapons.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

India Launches Cyber Security Grand Challenge 2.0 with ₹6.85 Cr Prize SHARE

16-Jan-25

The Indian government has launched the Cyber Security Grand Challenge 2.0 (CSGC 2.0), with a prize pool of 6.85 crore, significantly increasing from the previous edition. This initiative aims to foster innovative cybersecurity solutions across six areas, including API Security and AI Threat Detection, while providing mentorship and market access to startups. Unique to this challenge, participants retain the Intellectual Property Rights for their innovations. As India advances in digital technology, this challenge is crucial for enhancing the nation's cybersecurity capabilities, particularly in response to emerging threats posed by AI and quantum computing, underscoring the government's commitment to a secure digital ecosystem.

Leveraging GenAI to Strengthen Cybersecurity in India SHARE

16-Jan-25

A recent report by NASSCOM and the Data Security Council of India highlights the potential of Generative AI (GenAI) in combating cybersecurity threats, attributing 88% of breaches to human error. GenAI can autonomously detect, prevent, and respond to cyber threats while addressing the global shortage of cybersecurity professionals. Despite its advantages, the report warns of risks such as new cyberattack vectors and stresses the importance of implementing safety protocols to prevent breaches. As organizations invest more in cybersecurity, leveraging GenAI presents a significant opportunity to enhance productivity and safety in digital infrastructures, solidifying India's position in the evolving tech landscape.

destined for ULFA hideouts in India. The court found insufficient evidence to support the charges against Baruah and others, resulting in the commutation of sentences for several defendants. This development raises concerns regarding the implications for regional security, as Baruah remains a fugitive believed to be in China, highlighting the ongoing challenges India faces from separatist movements and cross-border arms trafficking that undermine stability in the northeastern states.

ALH-Dhruv and Tejas Excluded from Republic Day Flypast



16-Jan-25

The Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-Dhruv) and the Tejas aircraft, both crucial components of India's defense arsenal, will not participate in the Republic Day flypast due to safety concerns following a fatal crash of an ALH in January. The Indian Air Force has grounded the ALH fleet pending a probe, while the Tejas, despite its capabilities and recent procurement agreements for 83 jets, is excluded from the parade as the IAF has ceased flying single-engine aircraft during the event. The flypast will include 22 fighter jets and notable platforms like the Rafale, underscoring India's commitment to showcasing its military prowess despite these setbacks.

Indian and Argentine Armies Conquer Mt Aconcagua Together



16-Jan-25

On Army Day 2025, a joint expedition by the Indian and Argentine armies successfully summited Mt Aconcagua, highlighting the strong bilateral defense ties between the two nations. The eight-member Indian team, led by Lieutenant Colonel Manoj Joshi, collaborated with a 15-member Argentine contingent, emphasizing mutual understanding and trust. This achievement not only celebrates their shared military camaraderie but also reflects a historical partnership, elevated to a Strategic Partnership in 2019, encompassing diverse sectors including defense and cultural cooperation. The Indian community in Argentina, along with diplomatic engagements, further strengthens this enduring relationship, paving the way for enhanced collaboration in the future.

Digantara Launches India's First Privately Developed Space Surveillance Satellite



16-Jan-25

India's space tech start-up, Digantara, has launched the SCOT satellite, marking the country's first homegrown privately developed space surveillance capability. SCOT employs advanced dual-lens optical technology to monitor space debris and objects as small as 5 cm from a sun-synchronous orbit at 550 kilometers, enhancing tracking accuracy beyond traditional ground-based systems. This initiative is vital for national security and economic stability given the increasing congestion in Low Earth Orbit due to a surge in commercial satellites. The launch signifies a transformative step in establishing a robust space surveillance network, ensuring safer operations in a competitive orbital environment while underscoring India's growing capabilities in space technology.

India Grants 80 Police Vehicles to Boost Sri Lanka's Security



16-Jan-25

India has announced a grant to supply 80 police vehicles to Sri Lanka, valued at 300 million Sri Lankan rupees, to enhance public safety and law enforcement in the Northern Province. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha and Sri Lanka's public security ministry official DWRB Seneviratne. This initiative is part of India's broader people-centric development cooperation, which aims to improve various sectors in Sri Lanka, including health, education, and agriculture. Such assistance not only strengthens bilateral ties but also demonstrates India's commitment to regional stability and support for its neighbors in addressing vital security needs.

Tripura CM Saha to raise Bangladesh embankment concerns with Centre



16-Jan-25

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha has pledged to address the issue of a massive embankment being constructed by Bangladesh opposite Kailashahar in the Unakoti district. During a discussion in the Tripura Assembly, concerns were raised about the urgency of strengthening India's existing embankments, particularly the 40-year-old one at Rangaoti, to prevent potential flooding. Fisheries Minister Sudhangshu Das highlighted that some sections of the India-Bangladesh

border remain unfenced, contributing to issues like cattle smuggling. Saha assured that he would convey these concerns to the Centre, emphasizing the international implications of the situation and the need for a coordinated response to protect local communities.

Pixxel unveils India's first private earth imaging satellite constellation.

16-Jan-25



Bengaluru-based startup Pixxel has launched India's first private constellation of hyperspectral earth imaging satellites, Firefly, via SpaceX, marking a pivotal moment in advanced earth observation. These satellites, with a resolution of 5 meters, significantly enhance capabilities in agriculture and defense by detecting subtle environmental changes. With over 60 clients, including the US National Reconnaissance Organization and Indian agriculture entities, Pixxel aims to operationalize hyperspectral imaging for global challenges. This achievement positions India as a key

player in the burgeoning \$19 billion satellite imagery market, showcasing the country's innovative spirit and potential in space technology for transformative applications.

Indian Navy to Honor Civilian Contributions on January 17, 2025



16-Jan-25

The Indian Navy is set to celebrate the Year of Naval Civilians on January 17, 2025, in New Delhi, with the Honorable Raksha Mantri as the Chief Guest. The event will highlight the significant contributions of Naval Civilians through exhibitions, an address by the Chief of Naval Staff, and the presentation of Prime Minister's Shram Awards. A commemorative short film and a song composed by Naval Civilian employees will further showcase their integral role in enhancing the Navy's operational capabilities. This celebration underscores the Navy's commitment to recognizing the hard work and dedication of its civilian workforce.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
AZAD	1682.0	1733.15	1660.05	1679.4	427871	6.12	47.83	1718.46	1575.21
BDL	1140.0	1229.0	1140.0	1201.45	1213351	5.95	54.66	1171.38	1229.83
ZENTEC	2184.0	2278.9	2180.05	2236.9	374802	4.03	45.78	2428.85	1576.35
ASTRAMICRO	750.9	769.5	750.9	768.0	80571	3.59	47.99	773.76	815.69
COCHINSHIP	1429.8	1459.2	1419.1	1446.1	232661	3.56	44.23	1495.03	1756.41
TEMBO	798.0	810.75	784.9	799.15	77609	3.5	53.46	801.45	418.17
HBLPOWER	540.0	565.45	540.0	549.7	1988393	3.3	37.22	606.7	570.86
BEL	273.4	278.05	271.4	276.15	17234302	3.1	42.75	285.05	284.59
AVANTEL	137.3	140.85	137.3	139.29	515183	2.97	37.05	150.64	-
GRSE	1444.85	1462.9	1429.1	1447.8	248484	2.8	40.28	1556.22	1633.42
CFE	699.0	716.0	686.5	687.0	20800	2.79	51.39	684.69	637.66
MARINE	244.95	249.0	233.9	244.15	153611	2.54	43.39	260.85	204.33
DATAPATNS	2160.0	2218.75	2160.0	2193.4	88969	2.52	37.89	2377.26	2716.28
HAL	3877.0	3944.6	3860.0	3918.75	1076967	2.51	36.38	4109.12	4500.38
BEML	3550.6	3632.6	3542.05	3592.35	215947	2.42	32.45	3913.33	4014.49
MIDHANI	316.1	324.65	316.1	322.8	161940	2.28	42.7	334.16	405.15
PARAS	1009.9	1028.0	1000.15	1013.75	94282	2.19	47.79	1014.99	1058.19
PREMEXPLN	483.95	483.95	461.6	464.85	48936	2.11	42.23	510.46	537.79
BHARATFORG	1190.0	1222.95	1190.0	1205.25	1506184	1.83	35.12	1265.45	1460.1
HIGHENE	602.3	618.0	600.0	616.7	3494	1.68	47.57	620.05	719.53
ADANIENIT	2500.0	2570.0	2418.85	2427.85	2841803	1.66	47.46	2445.41	2948.53
LMW	16290.0	16420.95	16029.15	16362.75	2069	1.62	45.27	16793.95	16314.82
PTC	138.0	139.2	135.8	138.13	1499290	1.41	38.95	143.35	197.79
LOKESHMACH	301.8	312.35	301.8	303.7	34679	1.17	39.65	319.4	390.45
IDEAFORGE	574.0	580.25	568.0	572.35	102961	1.15	43.33	592.22	682.69
MTARTECH	1647.0	1660.0	1620.15	1648.05	62655	1.13	47.28	1674.16	1787.41
SOLARINDS	9700.0	9763.4	9506.15	9635.15	61156	1.07	46.55	9707.72	10169.87
APOLLO	128.5	133.5	127.0	127.91	5483081	1.06	61.1	116.46	106.26
MAZDOCK	2254.7	2278.0	2232.2	2248.15	1230427	0.85	49.69	2255.32	2006.39
KRISHNADEF	690.0	704.95	683.2	693.4	29250	0.84	39.21	760.01	676.75
DCXINDIA	366.0	372.0	362.55	365.1	372384	0.7	56.5	354.9	339.19
SIKA	2379.95	2405.95	2360.05	2391.0	1554	0.59	40.03	2512.07	2578.61
LT	3535.0	3543.45	3483.75	3507.9	2305460	0.19	39.1	3596.73	3615.65
NIBE	1609.95	1649.8	1553.8	1570.35	24632	-0.45	39.52	1650.92	1755.38
ROSSELLIND	74.25	74.25	71.5	72.33	25815	-0.63	35.5	75.78	342.49
TANEJAERO	394.0	396.95	380.0	383.05	18089	-1.52	33.91	420.28	492.22