



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

April 17,2025 | Day 107

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
NIBE	1398.95	1339.7	+4.42%
HIGHENE	488.45	474.25	+2.99%
ASTRAMICRO	767.4	746.95	+2.74%
PTC	180.06	176.48	+2.03%
TANEJAERO	287.1	281.5	+1.99%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
ROSSELLIND	77.66	82.74	-6.14%
ZENTEC	1497.7	1513.9	-1.07%
MIDHANI	285.55	287.95	-0.83%
MAZDOCK	2710.6	2731.9	-0.78%
IDEAFORGE	363.0	365.8	-0.77%

Defense Business and Industry

India Aims for ₹3 Lakh Crore Defense Output by 2029 with Domestic Growth



17-Apr-25

India's defense sector is experiencing significant growth, with projections to reach a production value of ₹3 lakh crore (\$36 billion) by 2029, driven by strong policy reforms and a record number of domestic orders. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the importance of self-reliance, stating that 75% of the capital procurement budget is reserved for domestic companies, supporting the 'Make in India' initiative. Recent reports highlight that 92% of contracts awarded in 2024-25 were to the domestic industry, emphasizing the government's commitment to enhancing indigenous production capabilities. The focus on critical technologies, coupled with a robust order pipeline and the transformation of legacy systems like the Ordnance Factory Board, positions India as a competitive global defense hub, ready to meet evolving security challenges while contributing to global supply chains.

EU Naval Force Proposes Joint Anti-Piracy Drill with India



17-Apr-25

The EU Naval Force has proposed a joint counter-piracy exercise with India, marking a significant advancement in maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean. This initiative, presented during Vice Admiral Ignacio Villanueva Serrano's visit to India, aims to enhance tactical operations and communication between the two navies. The exercise, set for late May, reflects the

shared commitment to a secure and inclusive maritime environment, building on past successful collaborations, including the capture of 70 pirates last year. Both India and the EU emphasize the importance of maintaining a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific, highlighting their strategic partnership amidst ongoing maritime security challenges.

Defence Minister Advocates Shift to Resilient Supply Chains



17-Apr-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed challenges in global supply chains, highlighting the shift from the Just-in-Time (JIT) model to a Just-in-Case (JIC) approach in response to trade tensions and geopolitical instability. He emphasized India's commitment to self-reliance in defence manufacturing, citing significant advancements in indigenisation, particularly in aero engine manufacturing and shipbuilding, with over 90 warships and the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant now produced domestically. The government has also supported startups and MSMEs with procurement approvals exceeding ₹2,400 crore and technology development projects surpassing ₹1,500 crore. Singh's remarks indicate a strategic pivot towards enhancing resilience in the defence sector by reducing reliance on foreign components and fostering local capabilities, positioning India for future global uncertainties while promoting innovation and exports.

India's DRDO Achieves Milestone with 30 kW Laser Weapon System



17-Apr-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has made significant strides in directed energy weapons (DEWs), successfully testing a 30 kW laser system capable of neutralizing aerial

threats and planning an airborne megawatt-grade DEW for missile defense. The 30 kW DEW, which demonstrated remarkable precision over a 5 km range, positions India alongside global leaders in laser technology, while the upcoming MW-grade system aims to target tactical ballistic missiles at distances potentially exceeding 500 km. This initiative underscores India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities, ensuring a multi-layered missile defense architecture, and addressing threats posed by neighboring adversaries. The phased development approach ensures that foundational technologies are adequately advanced, reflecting DRDO's strategic foresight in bolstering national security through cutting-edge innovation.

India Targets Russian Arms Clients with Affordable Loans for Exports SHARE

17-Apr-25

India is strategically expanding its defense exports by offering low-cost loans through the Export-Import Bank to target countries traditionally reliant on Russian arms. With a goal to double arms exports to \$6 billion by 2029, India aims to compete with Western producers by showcasing its capabilities in higher-end munitions. The government plans to deploy more defense attaches to promote Indian weapons in Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia, building on successes like increased arms sales to Armenia. This initiative not only diversifies India's defense partnerships but also enhances its geopolitical influence amid a shifting global arms landscape.

Indian Navy's TEDBF Could Transform into a 5th-Gen Stealth Fighter SHARE

17-Apr-25

India's Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF) program may evolve into a fifth-generation stealth aircraft, potentially rivaling the Air Force's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). Initially designed as a 4.5-generation fighter, the TEDBF aims to incorporate advanced stealth features, aligning with strategic needs in the Indian Ocean Region amidst rising global naval capabilities. The project is on track for a scheduled rollout by 2030, with a maiden flight targeted for 2032. While initially powered by imported engines, plans for an indigenous engine are in place. This evolution underscores India's commitment to enhancing its naval combat capabilities and technological parity against global powers like China and the US.

Defence Committee Crafting AMCA Strategy for Timely IAF Delivery SHARE

17-Apr-25

A high-level Defence Committee led by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh is formulating a production strategy for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), with a report due by April 2025. This initiative aims to enhance self-reliance in defense technology, addressing financial and logistical challenges while ensuring timely delivery to the Indian Air Force (IAF). Key strategies under consideration include establishing Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), increasing aircraft orders for cost efficiency, strengthening the domestic supply chain, and exploring selective international cooperation. The swift induction of the AMCA is vital for maintaining the IAF's operational readiness amid global advancements in military aviation technology.

Indian Army Enhances Mobility with Kapidhwaj Vehicle Induction SHARE

16-Apr-25

The Indian Army has inducted the indigenously adapted Kapidhwaj Specialist Mobility Vehicle, enhancing operational capabilities in extreme terrains, particularly in regions like Siachen and Ladakh. This all-terrain amphibious vehicle, designed for harsh climatic conditions, played a crucial role in a recent casualty evacuation mission, emphasizing India's commitment to self-reliance in defense. The Kapidhwaj, based on the SHERP N1200, is tailored for logistics support and troop movement in difficult areas, showcasing India's shift towards indigenous military solutions. Its deployment highlights the Army's focus on mobility and technology to address evolving threats along the Line of Actual Control and improve operational efficiency in mountainous warfare.

Indian Army's Make-II Initiative Fuels Indigenous Defense Innovation SHARE

17-Apr-25

The Indian Army's Make-II initiative is significantly enhancing self-reliance and innovation in defense technology, focusing on industry-funded prototype development for critical systems. With around 145 projects, including 45 Make-II initiatives valued at Rs 1,13,000 crore, the program aims to reduce dependence on imports and bolster domestic manufacturing capabilities. Groundbreaking contracts have been signed for systems like the Manoeuvrable Expendable Aerial Target and Vehicle Mounted Counter Swarm Drone System, aligning India's military capabilities with

modern warfare requirements. This strategic shift not only promotes indigenous innovation but also positions India as a global player in defense technology, supporting economic growth while retaining intellectual property within the nation.

RTI activist demands action against IdeaForge for using Chinese drone parts.



17-Apr-25

An RTI activist has raised concerns about IdeaForge after its partners were disqualified from Indian Army drone tenders due to the use of Chinese components, which he claims poses a national security threat. The Army is reportedly developing measures to prevent such issues, following past cancellations related to Chinese parts. IdeaForge contends that the disqualification was due to non-critical components and denies any significant national security implications. The activist has appealed to various government offices for stricter actions against IdeaForge, alleging prior security breaches. This situation underscores the ongoing scrutiny of defense procurements in relation to national security and indigenization efforts.

SpaceX Leads Bid for Trump's "Golden Dome" Missile Defense Initiative



17-Apr-25

Elon Musk's SpaceX, along with partners Palantir and Anduril, is leading the bid for President Trump's "Golden Dome" missile defense project, proposing a satellite system to detect and neutralize missile threats. With over 180 companies vying for involvement, the initiative aims for significant advancements in U.S. missile defense capabilities, albeit with concerns over a subscription model that might limit government control. Despite SpaceX's advantages in technology and experience, uncertainty remains about its ability to deliver an integrated defense system. This initiative underscores a shift toward innovative tech participation in U.S. defense, potentially transforming traditional contracting dynamics.

GRSE Begins Building Acoustic Research Ship for DRDO's Needs



17-Apr-25

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) has commenced the construction of an Acoustic Research Ship (ARS) for the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), vital for enhancing India's underwater domain awareness. The 93 m long vessel

will support advanced oceanographic research and trials, featuring diesel-electric propulsion, a dynamic positioning system, and a capacity for 120 personnel. This ship is a successor to the INS Sagardhwani, showcasing GRSE's expertise in building specialized research vessels. The initiative underscores India's commitment to strengthening its maritime capabilities and reflects the growing collaboration between defense research and shipbuilding sectors to enhance national security.

Empower Private Shipyards to Boost India's Naval Fleet Expansion



17-Apr-25

The Indian Navy aims to expand its fleet to 200 ships by 2035, necessitating a shift from state-owned to private shipyards for warship development. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) currently favors public sector units, limiting private players like Pipavav Shipyard, which possess superior infrastructure and innovation capabilities, from securing contracts. This bias stifles competition and delays naval expansion, risking India's maritime security amidst growing threats, particularly from China. To achieve its ambitious goals, the MoD must empower private shipyards through equitable contract distribution and long-term support, fostering a robust defense industrial base aligned with the Make in India initiative for economic growth and enhanced naval capacity.

VTDS Secures 90-Year Lease for Defence Facility in UP Corridor



17-Apr-25

Vijayan Trishul Defence Solutions Private Limited (VTDS) has signed a 90-year lease deed with the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority for a 20-hectare plot in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor, marking a significant step in establishing an indigenous defence manufacturing facility in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. This initiative aligns with the Indian government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, focusing on self-reliance and innovation in defence. VTDS aims to contribute to India's defence capabilities by producing high-quality small arms and ammunition, which will also foster local employment and regional industrial growth, further solidifying India's position as a global defence manufacturing hub.

India's Gaurav Glide Bomb: A Game-Changer in Precision Strikes

🕒 SHARE

17-Apr-25

India's Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully developed the Gaurav, a 1,000 kg-class Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB), enhancing the Indian Air Force's (IAF) precision strike capabilities with a range of 100 kilometers. Conducted trials from a Su-30 MKI demonstrated its advanced GPS and Inertial Navigation System (INS), ensuring accuracy even in contested environments. The Gaurav sets a new benchmark in indigenous defense innovation, showcasing India's growing self-reliance through collaboration between public and private sectors. This development addresses crucial gaps in standoff weaponry, potentially reshaping India's tactical approach while reducing dependence on foreign military supplies.

MAN Energy Solutions to Equip Indian Navy's New Fleet Support Ships

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17-Apr-25

The Indian Navy has embarked on a significant modernization initiative by securing a contract with MAN Energy Solutions to supply advanced propulsion systems for five new Fleet Support Ships (FSS), reinforcing India's focus on self-reliance. These vessels, equipped with state-of-the-art 20V32/44CR marine engines, will enhance operational capabilities and support long-range deployments while also being prepared for humanitarian missions. This collaboration, involving Hindustan Shipyard Limited and private partner Larsen & Toubro, exemplifies India's strategy to bolster its shipbuilding capacity and local manufacturing under the Make in India initiative. The FSS, with a displacement of 44,700 tons, will ultimately strengthen India's maritime presence in the Indian Ocean region.

IAF Invites Private Sector to Develop Indigenous Mi-17 Rotor Blades

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17-Apr-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has called upon private sector firms to develop indigenous Main Rotor Blades for its Mi-17 helicopters, crucial for various operations across India. The current reliance on Russian-made blades poses challenges due to limited Total Technical Life (TTL) and long lead times in supply, especially amid geopolitical tensions. By fostering local manufacturing, the IAF aims to enhance the reliability and operational readiness of its fleet, reduce procurement costs significantly, and meet increasing

demands, particularly in high-stress areas like Ladakh. This initiative underscores India's commitment to bolstering its defense capabilities and self-reliance in the military sector.

Tejas Mk2 Prototype Set for Late 2025, First Flight in Early 2026

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17-Apr-25

Recent clarifications regarding India's Tejas Mk2 fighter jet indicate the prototype rollout is scheduled for late 2025, with the first flight expected in early 2026, countering earlier speculation of an earlier timeline. The Tejas Mk2, a significant advancement in India's military aviation, will incorporate modern features, including an indigenous AESA radar and enhanced payload capabilities, aiming for a production target of 120-180 units by 2035 to replace aging aircraft. Development is progressing steadily, bolstered by substantial government investment, and the program is on track despite minor subsystem integration delays. The initiative reflects India's commitment to enhancing its indigenous defense capabilities.

Rolls-Royce Unveils Custom 110kN Engine for India's AMCA Program

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17-Apr-25

Aerospace giant Rolls-Royce has proposed a new 110kN engine specifically designed for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), ensuring full Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for India. This bespoke engine, tailored for the AMCA's requirements, aims to enhance India's aerospace capabilities and align with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. The focus on indigenous development and complete ownership of technology will empower Indian industries and engineers, fostering innovation. The AMCA project, anticipated to achieve its first flight by 2029-2030, will initially utilize imported engines but will transition to the Rolls-Royce co-developed engine for subsequent variants, further securing India's defense technology independence.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Gen Manoj Pande: Urgent Transformation Needed in India's Defense

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17-Apr-25

Former Indian Army chief Gen Manoj Pande emphasized the urgent need for transformation in India's defense sector during the THE WEEK Defence

Conclave 2025. He argued that defense reforms should be integrated into broader transformational efforts to enhance capability, operational preparedness, and efficiency across all three armed services. Gen Pande highlighted that while reforms focus on specific organizational changes, transformation entails a fundamental shift in mindset and encompasses more extensive organizational changes. He outlined a five-phase process for successful reforms, stressing the importance of participatory and collaborative evolution to achieve defined objectives and timelines, underscoring that transformation is essential for a multi-agency ministry like defense.

Experts Urge Bold Reforms in India's Defense "Make or Buy" Strategy



17-Apr-25

At THE WEEK Defence Conclave, experts discussed India's defense strategy focusing on the "make or buy" dilemma in weapon manufacturing. Lt Gen Rahul R. Singh emphasized the need for self-reliance in defense production, advocating for risk-taking in procurement decisions. While acknowledging the complexity of indigenous aircraft manufacturing, Air Marshal Sanjeev Kapoor highlighted the unique environmental challenges faced by Indian armed forces. Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan pointed out the urgency of acquiring modern technology, noting that India currently lags in procurement, reinforcing the necessity for a balanced approach between buying and manufacturing. The consensus supports enhancing indigenous capabilities while addressing immediate operational needs.

India Prioritizes Indigenous AMCA Over UK-Japan-Italy Fighter Program



17-Apr-25

India has reaffirmed its commitment to the indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program, denying interest in participating in the UK-Japan-Italy Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP) for developing a sixth-generation fighter. Indian Air Force officials clarified that no formal discussions have occurred regarding GCAP, despite earlier media speculation. The focus remains on AMCA, which is set to be a 5.5-generation stealth aircraft with advanced capabilities, aimed for induction by 2035. This approach emphasizes India's strategic goal of achieving technological independence in defense, underscoring the national policy of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and the prioritization of domestic capabilities over foreign collaborations.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India Aims for Global Military Dominance and Defence Leadership



17-Apr-25

India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Defence Production Secretary Sanjeev Kumar highlighted the nation's commitment to becoming a global leader in defence production and exports at recent conclaves. Singh emphasized the vision for self-reliance and innovation, aiming for a military that ranks as the world's best. He noted the significant increase in domestic defence production from Rs 40,000 crore in 2014 to over Rs 1.27 lakh crore today, targeting Rs 3 lakh crore by 2029. Kumar underscored the rising defence exports, which surged from Rs 2,000 crore a decade ago to Rs 24,000 crore this year, and stressed the importance of private sector involvement and long-term orders to enhance India's defence ecosystem. Both leaders reinforced that India's robust defence capabilities are intended for deterrence and security, contributing to global stability without seeking conflict.

Pakistan Army Chief's Kashmir Comments Spark Tensions with India



17-Apr-25

Recent statements from Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir have reignited tensions over Kashmir, labeling it as Pakistan's "jugular vein" and reinforcing the two-nation theory. India responded robustly, asserting that the only connection Kashmir has with Pakistan is its obligation to vacate illegally occupied territories, emphasizing that Kashmir is an integral part of India. India's Ministry of External Affairs dismissed Munir's remarks as factually incorrect and underscored India's stance against external intervention in what it considers a domestic issue. Additionally, India's concerns regarding Pakistan's role in cross-border terrorism were highlighted, especially in the context of the recent extradition of a key figure linked to the 2008 Mumbai attacks. This exchange reflects the deep-seated ideological divide and ongoing disputes that frame the India-Pakistan relationship, with both sides asserting their historical and legal claims over Kashmir.

India and UK Forge Stronger Military Ties and Defense Collaboration



17-Apr-25

India and the UK are enhancing their military ties through the 24th Defence Consultative Group Meet, co-

chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and his UK counterpart David Williams in London. Discussions emphasized advancing defence capabilities, particularly through collaboration on advanced technologies and the Make in India initiative, including joint development of missile systems and integrated propulsion systems for naval platforms. The UK is set to deploy its Littoral Response Group to the Indian Ocean in 2024, further solidifying security cooperation. This partnership not only fosters military enhancement but also aligns with broader economic cooperation, as evidenced by the recent announcement of 400 million euros in export and investment deals between the two nations. Overall, the talks indicate a robust strategy to bolster defense manufacturing and regional security, reflecting India's growing role in the global defense landscape.

India Rebuts Pakistan's Claim on Kashmir as "Jugular Vein" SHARE

17-Apr-25

India has strongly rebutted Pakistani Army Chief General Asim Munir's claim that Kashmir is Pakistan's "jugular vein," asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and urging Pakistan to vacate its illegally occupied territories. The Ministry of External Affairs emphasized that the historical context of Kashmir's accession to India following an invasion by Pakistani forces underlines India's sovereignty over the region. Additionally, India criticized Pakistan's failure to bring to justice the perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, underscoring Islamabad's reputation as a hub of global terrorism. This ongoing tension over Kashmir continues to mark a significant point of contention between the two nations.

US Vice President Vance to Discuss Trade with PM Modi Next Week SHARE

17-Apr-25

US Vice President J D Vance is set to visit India from April 18 to 24, where he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss critical economic and geopolitical issues, particularly related to trade amid global disruptions caused by tariff conflicts from the previous US administration. This visit underscores the strengthening of India-US ties, following previous high-level engagements, including those by the Director of National Intelligence. The discussions are likely to touch on a bilateral trade agreement, reflecting both nations' interests in navigating current trade challenges while enhancing collaboration in various sectors. The

visit highlights India's growing significance in US foreign policy and economic strategy.

Experts Urge Reforms for India's Defense Amid Global Conflicts SHARE

17-Apr-25

At THE WEEK Defence Conclave 2025, experts emphasized the urgent need for continuous reforms in India's defense sector, advocating for Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) amid rising global conflicts. Lieutenant General Vinod Khandare highlighted the importance of a holistic approach to indigenisation, while Lieutenant General D.P. Pandey warned of evolving warfare dynamics and the need for multi-domain strategies. Group Captain Rajiv Kumar Narang pushed for tri-service integration and a Defence and Aeronautical Commission to streamline procurement. All panellists agreed that India must accelerate its defense capabilities as reliance on foreign technology is unlikely, given the global military-industrial complex's reluctance to foster peace.

Zelensky Accuses China of Sending Troops to Support Russia SHARE

17-Apr-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has accused China of supplying Russia with troops and artillery, alleging that Chinese nationals are being recruited to fight in Ukraine. He claims there are 155 Chinese citizens combatting against Ukraine, having been trained in Moscow and deployed to the frontlines. This development raises questions about China's neutrality in the conflict, as Beijing denies involvement while supporting Russia economically and diplomatically. Zelensky's strategy appears to leverage U.S. concerns over China to regain Western support, though exposing captured fighters may contravene humanitarian laws, highlighting the complex interplay of geopolitics and ethical considerations in modern warfare.

Iran-U.S. Nuclear Talks Reach Critical Turning Point, Says IAEA Chief SHARE

17-Apr-25

Talks between Iran and the U.S. regarding Tehran's nuclear program are at a critical juncture, according to Rafael Grossi, head of the IAEA. As negotiations resume in Rome, tensions heighten amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, with U.S. threats of airstrikes if a deal isn't reached. Iran has escalated its uranium enrichment to near weapons-grade levels, raising concerns about its nuclear ambitions. Grossi emphasizes the need for a positive outcome while Iran

insists on the IAEA's impartiality. This situation underscores the intricate balance of diplomacy and security in the region, with significant implications for Middle Eastern stability and global non-proliferation efforts.

Moscow to Use Seized US Company for Army Food Supply



17-Apr-25

Moscow plans to utilize the seized American-owned company Glavprodukt to supply food to its army, potentially straining U.S.-Russia relations amid ongoing negotiations over the Ukraine conflict. This move, which involves Glavprodukt being placed under state control, reflects Russia's strategy to secure military supplies after struggling with logistics during the prolonged war. The seizure has drawn attention to the relationship between state agencies and private entities, particularly involving the food supplier Druzhba Narodov, which historically supplied the national guard. This situation underscores Russia's increased defense spending and asset control in response to its military needs.

Russia warns Germany: Supplying missiles could escalate conflict



17-Apr-25

Russia has warned Germany that supplying Taurus missiles to Ukraine would result in Berlin being seen as a "direct participant" in the conflict, following statements from incoming Chancellor Friedrich Merz expressing support for such assistance. Despite Germany's current reluctance, Merz believes it should act in coordination with allies, noting that other European countries are already providing similar support. This situation places Germany under pressure to balance its commitment to Ukraine with the risk of escalating tensions with Russia, particularly as the Kremlin has threatened direct confrontation over missile strikes on critical infrastructure like the Kerch bridge. The evolving dynamics in Germany's leadership raise questions about its future role in the Ukraine conflict.

North Korea Reaps \$20 Billion from Arms Deals with Russia



17-Apr-25

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, North Korea has reportedly earned over \$20 billion through arms supplies, with estimates suggesting it provides nearly half of Russia's artillery shells, significantly bolstering its military efforts. The partnership has historical roots, with North Korea's military assistance enabling Russia

to maintain its offensive in Ukraine despite Western sanctions. This collaboration raises strategic concerns, as it not only strengthens Russia's position in the conflict but could also embolden its actions in East Asia, potentially affecting regional stability. As the war continues, North Korea's indispensable role in supporting Russia signifies a troubling shift in global military dynamics.

Trump Thwarts Israeli Strike on Iran Amid Nuclear Negotiations



17-Apr-25

US President Donald Trump reportedly blocked an Israeli plan to strike Iran's nuclear sites as Washington pursues a new deal to limit Tehran's nuclear ambitions. Despite Israel's request for military assistance, Trump, during Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent visit to the White House, favored direct talks with Iran instead. This comes amidst rising tensions, with Iran reportedly enriching uranium close to weapons-grade levels. The US aims to stabilize the region and curb Iranian nuclear capabilities while maintaining diplomatic channels, reflecting a strategic approach that seeks to balance military readiness with diplomatic engagement to address potential threats.

Indian Airlines Set to Gain from China's Boeing Delivery Ban



17-Apr-25

Indian airlines, including Air India Express and Akasa Air, are poised to benefit from China's ban on Boeing deliveries due to U.S.-China trade tensions. This situation allows Indian carriers to expand their fleets amid booming aviation demand, with Air India Express already receiving redirected Boeing 737 Max jets. The Indian aviation market is projected to grow significantly, and the Tata Group's Air India is also negotiating for additional wide-body jets to reclaim market share. However, challenges remain, such as the impending depletion of redirected aircraft and potential delivery gaps, underscoring the need for strategic navigation amidst ongoing geopolitical uncertainties.

Ukrainian S-400 Success: A Wake-Up Call for Pakistan's Air Force



17-Apr-25

The recent success of Russia's S-400 air defense system in downing Ukrainian jets signifies a pivotal shift in regional air defense dynamics, particularly for the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). India's strategic deployment of S-400 systems along its western borders challenges Pakistan's aerial tactics, as these advanced

systems can track and engage targets from extensive ranges, effectively neutralizing threats even before they approach Indian airspace. Pakistan's reliance on aging aircraft like the F-16 and JF-17, coupled with inadequate countermeasures against the S-400's capabilities, necessitates a reevaluation of its military strategy. The S-400 ensures India's airspace remains secure, compelling Pakistan to explore asymmetric warfare approaches to maintain its defense posture.

Pakistani Think Tank Fears US-India SMR Deal Boosts India's Submarine Program



SHARE

17-Apr-25

A Pakistani think tank, CISS, has expressed concerns over the U.S. approval for Holtec International to transfer Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technology to India, fearing it could enhance India's nuclear submarine capabilities, thus altering the regional power balance. The technology, intended for civilian energy, could be repurposed for military use, potentially advancing India's Strategic Submarine programs. However, India's SMR initiative primarily targets energy security and decarbonization, adhering to IAEA safeguards. While Pakistan considers similar technologies, the CISS's alarm underscores its anxiety over India's growing technological prowess amid strategic partnerships with global powers, which may inadvertently fuel regional arms competition.

Military Operations

India Boosts Air Power with Rafale Jets Amid Defense Challenges



SHARE

17-Apr-25

India's defense landscape is currently witnessing significant developments as the Indian Air Force (IAF) seeks to procure 40 additional Rafale fighter jets, expanding its existing fleet of 36 Rafale C jets. In tandem, the Indian Navy is finalizing a deal for 26 Rafale Marine jets to enhance its aircraft carrier capabilities. While the acquisition aligns with India's strategic need to bolster its air power amid regional threats, it raises questions regarding long-term defense planning and indigenous manufacturing commitments. The IAF faces a dwindling squadron strength of just 31 against a sanctioned 42, with concerns over budget constraints and the efficiency of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in delivering indigenous fighters. Critics argue that bypassing competitive bidding for the Rafale deal undermines transparency, yet proponents

emphasize the need for rapid procurement to ensure readiness. The initiative embodies India's "Make in India" vision, calling for greater indigenization in defense production, especially as future negotiations may involve local assembly of Rafale jets. As India seeks to balance immediate operational needs with commitments to self-reliance, the success of this ambitious bet on Rafale jets could reshape its defense posture and strengthen its strategic partnerships, particularly with France. The ongoing discussions signal a critical moment for India's defense procurement strategy, underscoring the urgency for a comprehensive plan that addresses both current capabilities and future requirements.

Indian Army's Spear Corps Showcases Tactical Readiness in Arunachal



SHARE

17-Apr-25

The Indian Army's Spear Corps recently conducted a high-stakes field exercise in Arunachal Pradesh, testing next-gen combat gear and emphasizing tactical dominance in challenging terrains. This drill highlighted advancements in mobility, ISR capabilities, and smart decision-making, ensuring troops are prepared for real-time combat scenarios. Concurrently, the fourth edition of the India-US Tiger Triumph exercise showcased enhanced humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, reflecting the growing military cooperation between the two nations. Together, these developments underscore India's commitment to transforming its military readiness through integrated, technology-driven strategies, positioning itself for future challenges across diverse operational theaters.

ARMEX-24 Expedition: Indian Army's High-Altitude Combat Readiness



SHARE

17-Apr-25

The Indian Army's recent ARMEX-24 expedition in North Sikkim highlights its operational readiness in high-altitude conditions along the Line of Actual Control. Conducted from March 22 to April 14, 2025, the mission tested soldiers' endurance and showcased indigenous technology, aligning with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. This expedition not only reinforces military capabilities but also engages local communities, promoting development and environmental preservation. Moreover, it serves as a motivational call to India's youth, emphasizing resilience and discipline. Such initiatives demonstrate the Army's commitment to preparedness and adaptability, signaling to adversaries that Indian forces are consistently mission-ready in challenging terrains.

General Dwivedi reviews Sudarshan Chakra Corps' readiness and honors veterans.



17-Apr-25

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the operational readiness of the Sudarshan Chakra Corps in Bhopal, emphasizing the Indian Army's commitment to combat readiness and innovative practices. He recognized the contributions of five veterans with the Veteran Achiever Award for their societal impact, including initiatives supporting ex-servicemen and underprivileged communities. The visit to Yodhasthal highlighted the importance of civil-military cooperation and aimed to inspire future generations. This event underscores the Indian Army's dual focus on maintaining operational excellence while honoring the legacy and continued contributions of its veterans, reinforcing the country's dedication to both defense and community development.

India and African Nations Launch Inaugural Naval Drills in Ocean



17-Apr-25

India and several African nations have commenced the sea phase of their inaugural naval drills, Aikeyme, in the western Indian Ocean, aimed at enhancing maritime security and cooperation amid China's expanding influence. The exercises include joint maneuvers and anti-piracy operations involving significant Indian naval assets, reinforcing India's role as a trusted partner in the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, the harbor phase showcased advancements in defense technology from Indian firms, reflecting India's ambition to increase defense exports significantly. This initiative underscores India's commitment to countering challenges like illegal fishing and piracy while fostering goodwill with African partners, positioning India strategically against China's assertive maritime policies.

Russia Shifts to Mass Assault Tactics in Ukraine Conflict



17-Apr-25

Russian forces are reportedly adopting new mass assault tactics, involving larger groups of infantry and armored vehicles, as they prepare for intensified offensives against Ukraine. This marks a shift from their previous strategy of smaller, more gradual attacks, which were often countered effectively by Ukrainian forces. Despite heavy losses inflicted on the Russians during recent assaults, Ukrainian military officials note that these tactics may indicate a more aggressive

approach by Moscow. The evolving battlefield dynamics, including advancements in drone warfare, are complicating traditional combat strategies for both sides, highlighting the ongoing challenges and adaptations in this protracted conflict.

Russia Intercepts 71 Drones as Ukraine Targets Shuya Again



17-Apr-25

Russian air defense systems successfully intercepted 71 Ukrainian drones across various regions, with the Kursk area experiencing the highest number of downed drones. Notably, the town of Shuya has been targeted for two consecutive nights, linked to a Russian missile brigade responsible for a recent deadly strike in Ukraine. Although there were no reported casualties in Shuya, the persistent drone strikes highlight the ongoing conflict and Ukraine's efforts to retaliate against Russian military infrastructure. This escalation underscores the complexities of warfare and the significance of air defense capabilities, which are crucial for both sides in maintaining operational security and executing strategic objectives.

India-Uzbekistan DUSTLIK-VI Joint Military Exercise Kicks Off in Pune



17-Apr-25

The 6th edition of the India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-VI commenced at Aundh, Pune, from April 16 to 28, 2025. This exercise focuses on joint multi-domain sub-conventional operations in a semi-urban scenario, emphasizing counterterrorism strategies such as territory capture and joint operations. The Indian contingent, featuring personnel from the JAT Regiment and the IAF, will collaborate with Uzbek forces to enhance interoperability and share best practices. This annual exercise, alternately hosted by both nations, significantly bolsters defense cooperation and strengthens bilateral relations, showcasing India's commitment to regional security and collaboration with friendly nations in countering terrorism.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Army Jawan Arrested for Training Suspect in YouTuber's Grenade Attack



17-Apr-25

An Indian Army jawan, Sepoy Sukhcharan Singh, has been arrested for allegedly training an accused in a

grenade attack on Jalandhar-based YouTuber Roger Sandhu. Singh, who was posted in Jammu and Kashmir, reportedly provided online instructions on grenade handling through social media to Hardik Kamboj, leading to the attack on March 15-16. The incident has raised concerns about military personnel's use of social media and the potential misuse of their expertise. While Singh is now in police custody, the investigation has revealed a total of nine arrests related to this case, which has drawn connections to organized crime, with Pakistani gangster Shehzad Bhatti claiming responsibility, highlighting the ongoing security challenges in Punjab with multiple recent grenade incidents.

22 Naxalites Arrested, Explosives Seized in Chhattisgarh Crackdown



17-Apr-25

In a significant crackdown, 22 Naxalites were arrested and a range of explosives, including tiffin bombs and detonators, were seized in Chhattisgarh, reflecting intensified operations by the CRPF's CoBRA unit and local police. This operation, along with the surrender of 26 Naxalites, emphasizes the effectiveness of the ongoing security strategies against insurgency in the region. The sustained pressure from security forces has led to a decline in Naxalite activities, showcasing the government's commitment to a zero-tolerance approach to Naxalism. The developments underscore a critical phase in making Chhattisgarh Naxal-free, which is essential for regional stability and development.

Indian Army Recovers Ultra Device, Unveiling JeM Tactics in Kishtwar



17-Apr-25

In a significant counter-terror operation in Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir, Indian security forces unearthed a sophisticated terrorist hideout linked to the Pakistan-backed Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), recovering a hybrid communication device called the "Ultra." This rare gadget, which combines mobile phones with encrypted radio technology, facilitates covert communication in challenging terrains, suggesting a well-organized module planning potential strikes. The operation showcased advanced surveillance techniques, including drone support, indicating the Indian forces' commitment to neutralizing terror threats. The recovery of the Ultra device may provide crucial intelligence for tracking remaining operatives and underscores India's proactive stance in counter-insurgency efforts.

CRPF Launches CoBRA Battalion for Counter-Terrorism in J&K



17-Apr-25

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has announced the formation of a new CoBRA battalion dedicated to counter-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir, as revealed by CRPF Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh during the force's 86th Raising Day event. This battalion will enhance operations in forested areas previously plagued by terrorist incidents and will be equipped with modern weaponry and technology. Established in response to ongoing challenges in both Kashmir and Left Wing Extremism, the new unit reflects India's commitment to strengthening its counter-terrorism capabilities and maintaining security in sensitive regions. The move signifies proactive measures to address evolving threats with specialized training and strategic deployment.

Poonch Resident Arrested Over Suspicious Calls from Pakistan



17-Apr-25

A Poonch resident was arrested in Samba after suspicious phone calls from three Pakistani numbers were found on his mobile phone, prompting an investigation by Jammu and Kashmir Police into potential links to terrorist activities. This incident is part of a broader anti-terror operation in the region, where local and foreign terrorists are being targeted; last week, three Pakistani terrorists were neutralized in Kishtwar. Security forces emphasize that the terror ecosystem relies on logistical support from overground workers and sympathizers, which includes locals motivated by money or propaganda, highlighting the challenges faced in combating terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Former IAF Chief: Human Skills Key in Digital Warfare Era



17-Apr-25

Former IAF Chief V R Chaudhari emphasized the rising importance of soldiers in the digital warfare landscape, despite increasing automation and AI integration. He highlighted how historical conflicts have reshaped military strategies and the need for digitally fluent personnel across armed forces. Chaudhari discussed the convergence of data, AI, and technology, while

advocating for training every Indian soldier in digital literacy to maintain operational effectiveness. He underscored the necessity of human insight in interpreting complex data, preparing for sophisticated threats, and adapting to evolving warfare economics, thus advocating for a technologically advanced military that balances human judgment with digital capabilities to enhance national defense.

Cyber Security is Vital: MoD Advisor Warns of Design Loss Risks



17-Apr-25

Lt Gen (Retd) VG Khandare, Principal Advisor to the Ministry of Defence, underscored the critical importance of cyber security in national defense, stating that losing proprietary designs can have devastating consequences. He highlighted the alarming rise in cyber-attacks, with a reported 300% increase from 2021 to 2024. The Cyber Sikshit Bharat initiative aims to bolster India's digital infrastructure and create a cybersecurity center of excellence. Khandare emphasized the need for both public and private sectors to treat strategic information with utmost confidentiality, while also calling for collaboration with international partners to enhance cyber resilience, thus positioning India as a leader in global cyber defense efforts.

US Extends Key Cybersecurity Funding Amid Concerns of Lapse



17-Apr-25

The U.S. government has extended funding for the essential Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) program, ensuring uninterrupted operation amidst concerns about potential disruption in the cybersecurity sector. This extension follows warnings from MITRE about the risks of lapsing funding, which could negatively impact national vulnerability databases and critical infrastructure. In response to sustainability concerns, CVE board members have initiated the creation of the CVE Foundation, a non-profit aimed at securing the program's independence from government reliance. The transition plan's specifics remain unclear, but the foundation is intended to bolster the program's global credibility and community-driven approach in managing cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

India Blocks Over 7.15 Billion Cyberattacks Amid Rising Threats



17-Apr-25

In 2024, India faced a staggering increase in cyberattacks, with over 7.15 billion attacks blocked,

driven significantly by API and bot threats. The report highlighted a 20% rise in attacks, particularly affecting sectors like retail, manufacturing, BFSI, and healthcare, where vulnerabilities were exploited extensively. Notably, attacks on APIs surged by 873%, emphasizing the urgent need for enhanced cybersecurity measures. Despite advancements in security technologies, a significant number of vulnerabilities remained unpatched, underscoring the necessity for faster vulnerability management and the adoption of automated security solutions, especially for SMEs, to counter the evolving cyber threat landscape effectively.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Supreme Court: Indian Military Nursing Service Personnel Now Ex-Servicemen in Punjab



17-Apr-25

The Supreme Court ruled that personnel from the Indian Military Nursing Service (IMNS) qualify as "ex-servicemen" under Punjab's 1982 recruitment rules, recognizing their significant contributions to the armed forces. The judgment emphasizes that excluding IMNS personnel undermines the resettlement objectives for veterans, crucial for maintaining morale within the defense forces. The court upheld that IMNS members, akin to other military branches, are entitled to equal treatment in civil services, thus reinforcing the need for inclusive policies that acknowledge the diverse roles within the armed forces, ultimately benefiting society by facilitating their integration into civilian life.

Supreme Court: Neglecting Veterans Risks Youth Joining Army



17-Apr-25

The Supreme Court has emphasized the importance of effective resettlement for ex-servicemen to maintain the morale of serving defense personnel, stating that neglect in this area may deter talented youth from joining the armed forces. This ruling arose from a case involving the appointment of a retired member of the Indian Military Nursing Service, highlighting that proper policy recognition of ex-servicemen's contributions is vital. The court noted that Punjab, contributing significantly to the armed forces, underscores the necessity of integrating veterans into civil life, which not only supports their well-being but also strengthens societal fabric. This initiative is essential for motivating future generations to serve in the military.

Miscellaneous

IIT-H and Simpliforge Achieve Record 3D Printed Structure in Leh SHARE

17-Apr-25

Simpliforge Creations and IIT Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Indian Army, achieved a significant milestone by constructing India's first on-site 3D printed military structure at 11,000 feet in Leh under Project PRABAL. This groundbreaking achievement is the world's highest in-situ 3D construction, developed to withstand extreme high altitude and low oxygen conditions. The project highlights the potential of indigenous technology and academic-industry partnerships in enhancing defense infrastructure, aligning with the Make-in-India initiative. The successful deployment of this protective bunker emphasizes India's commitment to innovation in defense preparedness, paving the way for rapid, adaptable construction in challenging terrains.

Farooq Abdullah rebuts ex-R&AW chief Dulat's claims on Article 370 SHARE

17-Apr-25

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah criticized ex-R&AW chief A.S. Dulat for claims in his upcoming memoir regarding Abdullah's alleged support for the abrogation of Article 370. Abdullah dismissed Dulat's assertions as baseless and motivated by personal gain, highlighting that he and his son were detained during the abrogation and emphasizing his party's long-standing opposition to it. He refuted Dulat's claims about their relationship and political maneuvering, insisting that they are inaccurate and distort his political actions. Abdullah's rebuttal underscores the ongoing contentious discourse surrounding Article 370 and the political narratives shaping perceptions in Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Scientist Detects Possible Life Signs on Exoplanet K2-18b SHARE

17-Apr-25

An Indian-origin scientist, Dr. Madhusudhan, and his team using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope have detected potential biosignatures, including dimethyl sulphide (DMS), in the atmosphere of exoplanet K2-18b, located in the habitable zone of its star. While these findings, suggesting a chemically active atmosphere possibly supportive of life, are exciting, the confidence level remains at "three sigma," requiring further

validation. Researchers caution against premature conclusions, noting alternative non-biological explanations for DMS's abundance. The potential discovery underscores the significance of ongoing astrobiological research and advances in observational technology, paving the way for future insights into the existence of life beyond Earth.

Piyush Goyal Discusses Starlink's Investment Plans in India SHARE

17-Apr-25

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met with a Starlink delegation to discuss investment plans in India amidst ongoing negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement with the U.S. Starlink, backed by SpaceX, is viewed as a potential disruptor in the satellite internet market, where rivals like Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications are yet to commence operations due to pending spectrum allocation rules. The meeting highlights the importance of securing the necessary licenses and clearances for Starlink to operate, which is crucial for enhancing India's technological landscape and broadband accessibility. This engagement reflects India's strategic focus on advancing its digital infrastructure while fostering international partnerships in technology and innovation.

Bengaluru Startups Unveil Quantum Innovations on World Quantum Day SHARE

17-Apr-25

On April 14, 2025, Bengaluru startups QpiAI and QNu Labs unveiled significant advancements in quantum technology, launching a 25-qubit quantum computer and a quantum-safe cryptography solution called QShield, respectively. These innovations align with India's National Quantum Mission, which aims to establish India as a leader in quantum research. QpiAI's 25-qubit system targets complex computations relevant to various industries, while QShield ensures secure communications against potential quantum threats, especially critical for defense and maritime applications. This progress reflects India's commitment to competing with global powers in transformative technologies, reinforcing Bengaluru's status as a vibrant deep-tech hub.

India to Overtake China in Air Passenger Traffic by 2026 SHARE

17-Apr-25

India is projected to surpass China in air passenger traffic growth by 2026, with an estimated growth rate of

10.5% compared to China's 8.9%. The Airports Council International (ACI) highlights India as one of the fastest-growing aviation markets, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.5% from 2023-2027. Significant infrastructure development is underway, including 50 new airport projects and over 1,700 planes ordered by domestic airlines. By 2043, India's yearly trips per capita are expected to increase to 0.4, showcasing the robust growth potential in the nation's aviation sector, further solidifying its strategic importance in the region.

College of Nursing, AH(R&R) Celebrates World Health Day 2025 with Focus on Maternal and Child Health



17-Apr-25

The College of Nursing, AH(R&R) celebrated World Health Day-2025 on April 17, focusing on the theme

"Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," which emphasizes Maternal and Child Health. First Lady Mrs. Navneet Nath inaugurated the event, showcasing various therapeutic diets such as diabetic, cardiac, renal, and antenatal & postnatal diets. The students' demonstrations underscored the importance of health awareness and education in fostering good habits within the community. This initiative highlights the critical role of maternal and child health in ensuring healthier futures, reinforcing the collective responsibility towards public health and well-being.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
NIBE	1406.65	1406.65	1385.0	1398.95	17357	4.42	71.21	1088.25	1622.9
HIGHENE	475.0	500.0	470.3	488.45	12925	2.99	50.93	487.44	627.22
ASTRAMICRO	746.0	769.0	743.0	767.4	417497	2.74	69.02	694.31	788.41
PTC	176.02	180.9	176.02	180.06	1444119	2.03	69.85	165.29	178.85
TANEJAERO	287.1	287.1	287.1	287.1	1465	1.99	41.64	307.99	448.26
CFE	483.95	483.95	483.95	483.95	1600	1.99	59.98	447.38	635.39
PREMEXPLN	384.0	405.0	380.35	392.2	347685	1.83	58.94	362.27	497.72
DCXINDIA	243.68	250.99	240.01	247.41	587834	1.34	54.19	234.97	323.32
BHARATFORG	1049.1	1071.9	1041.0	1068.2	1223336	1.24	48.22	1102.28	1366.84
AVANTEL	125.0	127.7	124.1	127.14	891685	1.23	62.01	116.16	-
APOLLO	118.71	120.3	117.1	119.74	7313464	0.87	52.32	119.02	110.53
SOLARINDS	12128.0	12349.0	12051.0	12233.0	90971	0.87	76.05	11047.75	10406.36
LT	3214.1	3249.9	3162.4	3247.3	3209331	0.61	47.93	3320.84	3535.74
KRISHNADEF	806.05	845.0	800.0	807.8	58500	0.54	66.66	691.94	704.73
BEL	293.0	296.6	291.15	295.15	13609937	0.53	58.25	290.74	289.87
HBLPOWER	514.5	522.05	510.4	517.7	880181	0.5	57.92	487.12	570.92
LMW	15730.0	15942.0	15547.0	15661.0	3415	0.47	54.22	15565.85	15936.51
DATAPATNS	1889.0	1913.0	1860.6	1897.4	543121	0.35	65.98	1721.32	2382.5
HAL	4209.0	4253.0	4192.1	4220.4	1216496	0.27	63.65	4074.0	4311.99
COCHINSHIP	1449.8	1479.9	1435.0	1449.8	888593	0.21	57.35	1419.41	1703.38
ADANIENT	2418.0	2448.6	2392.0	2418.1	1054797	0.1	58.87	2338.44	2685.86
BEML	3120.0	3168.4	3096.1	3109.6	220973	-0.22	57.92	2951.52	3749.38
MARINE	204.0	212.09	196.0	203.34	992455	-0.37	64.81	174.34	226.25
GRSE	1721.7	1764.0	1703.0	1714.6	1024910	-0.4	61.9	1656.18	1726.2
AZAD	1477.0	1477.0	1435.0	1465.8	221741	-0.41	58.81	1373.05	1553.84
BDL	1397.7	1414.4	1376.8	1393.2	1378623	-0.44	64.79	1300.06	1231.85
SIKA	670.0	670.0	634.2	664.6	17539	-0.5	67.39	605.11	530.7
MTARTECH	1413.0	1431.6	1386.2	1404.1	83406	-0.56	57.26	1326.33	1646.63
LOKESHMACH	0.0	165.6	165.0	165.6	9585	-0.63	45.16	152.82	339.3
PARAS	1032.15	1060.1	1029.0	1035.65	130986	-0.7	59.52	981.91	1092.68
IDEAFORGE	366.05	369.55	360.05	363.0	119812	-0.77	49.98	359.16	590.36
MAZDOCK	2731.9	2814.8	2695.0	2710.6	4150958	-0.78	60.75	2576.18	2298.91
MIDHANI	287.8	289.65	283.1	285.55	268757	-0.83	54.83	278.25	358.69
ZENTEC	1511.0	1527.7	1490.0	1497.7	219901	-1.07	59.22	1430.34	1707.66
ROSSELLIND	82.74	83.1	76.89	77.66	169924	-6.14	62.7	65.78	225.6