



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

March 17,2025 | Day 076

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
SIKA	535.55	494.39	+8.33%
BHARATFORG	1076.35	1039.25	+3.57%
GRSE	1336.55	1303.35	+2.55%
ZENTEC	1238.8	1214.55	+2.0%
ADANIENT	2252.7	2221.1	+1.42%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
TEMBO	481.8	679.1	-29.05%
MIDHANI	256.11	270.06	-5.17%
LOKESHMACH	134.67	141.76	-5.0%
NIBE	801.45	843.4	-4.97%
HIGHENE	445.85	461.25	-3.34%

Defense Business and Industry

India's Defense Exports Hit Record High, Paving Way for Global Leadership

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17-Mar-25

India's defense exports have reached a record high of Rs 21,083 crore in FY24, marking a 32.5% increase from the previous year and solidifying its position in the global military supply chain. With a decade-long growth of 31 times in defense exports, the government aims for Rs 50,000 crore by FY29, driven largely by rising demand from Europe amid manufacturing constraints. A planned Rs 1.5 trillion defense procurement by March 2025 is set to enhance military capabilities, while the shifting global dynamics, particularly NATO's dependence on U.S. funding, create further opportunities for Indian defense manufacturers to fulfill emerging needs.

IIIT-B and Indian Air Force Join Forces for Advanced Waveform Tech

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The International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) has partnered with the Indian Air Force's Software Development Institute to develop advanced waveform technology, a significant move towards India's self-reliance in defense technologies. This collaboration will involve joint research and development, with IIIT-B providing certification support to ensure high standards of reliability. The initiative, as highlighted by key leaders from both institutions, underscores the importance of academia in bolstering India's technological sovereignty and reducing dependence on foreign defense equipment. This

partnership strengthens IIIT-B's role in national security innovation and reflects the broader commitment of the Armed Forces to indigenization efforts.

Rafael and Elbit Win Contract for Advanced Naval EW System

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17-Mar-25

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Elbit Systems have secured a four-year contract to supply a Naval Decoy Control & Launching System (DCLS) for NATO frigates, enhancing their electronic warfare capabilities. This state-of-the-art system integrates Rafael's advanced decoy countermeasures and Elbit's DESEAVAR MK-4, designed to counter sophisticated missile threats. With the ability to deploy various decoy rounds and support both passive and active measures, the system significantly improves vessel survivability in modern combat scenarios. Such advancements not only bolster NATO's naval defenses but also reinforce India's strategic interest in developing robust electronic warfare solutions, ensuring operational readiness against evolving maritime threats.

Successful ASTRA Missile Test Enhances India's Defense Capabilities

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17-Mar-25

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), along with DRDO and HAL, successfully test-launched the ASTRA missile from the LCA AF MK1 prototype on March 12, 2025, off the coast of Chandipur, Odisha. This Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) demonstrated its capabilities by accurately striking a flying target and is set to enhance the LCA AF MK1A variant's induction into the Indian Air Force. The achievement highlights the collaborative efforts of various organizations and showcases India's growing self-reliance in defense technology. Defence Minister

Rajnath Singh commended the teams involved, emphasizing the importance of indigenous development in strengthening national security.

Rafale's Record Orders Boost India's Fleet Amid Supply Hurdles



17-Mar-25

Dassault Aviation's Rafale fighter jet has achieved a record backlog of 299 aircraft orders, valued at \$43.2 billion, amid supply chain challenges. India is set to procure 26 naval Rafale M jets, enhancing its operational capabilities against regional threats, particularly from China and Pakistan. The backlog raises concerns for India's rapid fleet expansion as it faces a shortfall in fighter squadrons. Establishing a Rafale assembly line in India could expedite deliveries and strengthen bilateral ties with France, aligning with India's Make in India initiative. However, this would require significant investment and assurances regarding quality management from Dassault amidst ongoing production constraints.

JF-17 Block III's Limited AESA Radar Renders PL-15 Less Effective



17-Mar-25

The latest analysis from Air Forces Monthly highlights a significant limitation of the Pakistan Air Force's JF-17 Block-III fighter jet due to its AESA radar's reduced range, which hampers its ability to independently operate advanced BVRAAMs like the Chinese PL-15. This reliance on external support from AWACS systems, such as the Swedish Saab 2000 Erieye, introduces vulnerabilities, particularly in contested environments where electronic warfare may disrupt communications. In contrast, the Indian Air Force boasts advanced capabilities with aircraft like the Rafale and Su-30 MKI, equipped with superior radars and missiles, underscoring India's greater tactical advantage in modern air combat scenarios.

Indian Army Develops Cost-Effective Kamikaze FPV Drone



17-Mar-25

The Indian Army's 2(l) Armoured Brigade, in collaboration with the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), has successfully developed a cost-effective Kamikaze FPV drone, showcasing India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology. This drone features a customizable warhead, enhancing its lethality while leveraging indigenous materials to reduce dependence on foreign supply chains and lower costs. Its efficient design promises comparable

performance to international counterparts, increasing the Army's operational flexibility against various threats. The successful validation trials further affirm the system's reliability and effectiveness, marking a significant advancement in India's drone warfare capabilities and strategic autonomy in defense.

Indian Navy to Receive 26 Rafale M Jets by Late 2029



17-Mar-25

The Indian Navy is set to enhance its maritime capabilities with the acquisition of 26 Rafale Marine fighter jets, expected to begin arriving by late 2029. This \$7 billion deal, negotiated with France, includes 22 single-seater Rafale M variants and four twin-seater Rafale B trainers, aimed at overcoming the limitations of the aging MiG-29K fleet and bridging the gap until the indigenous Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF) is operational. The Rafale M jets will significantly bolster India's carrier strike group, addressing increasing maritime challenges from China and enhancing the Navy's power projection and surveillance capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region.

Indian Navy Extends MiG-29K Service Life to 2040 Amid TEDBF Delays



17-Mar-25

The Indian Navy has extended the operational life of its MiG-29K fleet to 2040 due to delays in the Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF) program, initially set to replace the MiG-29K by 2035. The TEDBF, which requires extensive testing for carrier operations, has faced development setbacks, with its first flight now scheduled for late 2029. This pragmatic adjustment ensures the Navy maintains air combat capabilities while addressing critical requirements for the TEDBF. Strategic upgrades, including enhancements to avionics and radar, are planned for the MiG-29K during this extension, reinforcing the Indian Navy's commitment to its carrier air wing capabilities.

IAF Fast-Tracking RFP for 114 Fighter Jets to Boost Readiness



17-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to expedite the procurement process for 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) by issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) by late 2025 or early 2026. A high-level committee's recommendations aim to reduce the extensive tendering timeline from years to mere weeks by limiting detailed examinations to just two shortlisted vendors, thereby addressing the current shortfall in the IAF's

fighter squadron strength. This strategic move is crucial in light of increasing regional security threats, allowing for a more efficient evaluation of contenders like the Dassault Rafale and Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet, facilitating a swift decision-making process that enhances national defense readiness.

IAF Chief Urges Boost in Indigenous Arms Production for Prolonged Conflicts



17-Mar-25

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh emphasized the need for India to enhance indigenous weapon production to prepare for potential prolonged conflicts with adversaries like China and Pakistan. He highlighted lessons from the Ukraine-Russia war, advocating for self-sufficiency in military logistics to mitigate vulnerabilities related to external supply disruptions. Singh called for establishing local production lines for critical IAF systems and munitions to ensure uninterrupted combat capability during extended engagements. While the indigenous Tejas fighter jet marks progress, heavy reliance on foreign components remains a concern; thus, accelerating indigenization is deemed essential for bolstering national security and operational readiness.

Armenia Boosts Air Defense with India's Akash 1S Missile System



17-Mar-25

Armenia has acquired nearly 15 units of India's Akash 1S missile system and 400 missiles, marking a significant advancement in its air defense capabilities and strengthening India-Armenia defense ties. Valued at approximately \$720 million, the Akash 1S is notable for its dual-guidance capability and effective range of 18-30 kilometers, enhancing Armenia's deterrence against aerial threats, particularly drones. This strategic shift illustrates Armenia's intent to diversify its defense partnerships beyond Russia, showcasing India's emergence as a reliable defense exporter in the global market, while also potentially altering regional security dynamics in the South Caucasus amidst evolving threats.

Astra Microwave Enhances Production for Tejas' Uttam AESA Radar



17-Mar-25

Astra Microwave Products Limited has significantly enhanced its production capabilities to manufacture 36 Uttam Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars annually, bolstering India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing. This advancement supports

the indigenous Tejas fighter jet program and aligns with the government's Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. The Uttam AESA radar's advanced features, including multi-target tracking and resistance to electronic jamming, make it a crucial asset for modern aerial warfare, increasing the operational effectiveness of the Indian Air Force. With 95% indigenous content, this development not only reduces dependency on foreign suppliers but also showcases India's growing technological expertise in defense.

Lockheed Martin to Deliver All MH-60R Seahawks to Indian Navy by 2026



17-Mar-25

Lockheed Martin has committed to delivering all remaining MH-60R Seahawk helicopters to the Indian Navy by the end of 2026, with ten already operational and the full order of 24 being completed a year ahead of schedule. Valued at approximately \$2.6 billion, this procurement enhances India's maritime defense capabilities, particularly in anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, and search-and-rescue missions. The advanced features of these helicopters, including multi-mode radar and missile deployment capabilities, will significantly bolster the Navy's operational prowess in the strategically critical Indian Ocean Region, marking a vital step in modernizing India's naval fleet and strengthening defense ties with the United States.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Parliament's Budget Session: Key Defense and External Affairs Reports Ahead



17-Mar-25

The Budget Session of the Indian Parliament resumes after a brief hiatus, with significant reports and bills set to be presented in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Notably, the Standing Committee on Defence will present its report regarding grants for the Ministry of Defence for the financial year 2025-26, reflecting the government's commitment to enhancing defense capabilities. Additionally, discussions on the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Railways will take place. This session underscores the government's focus on national security and strategic defense initiatives, which are vital for India's geopolitical positioning and regional stability.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Army Chief: China's Rise Challenges India's Global South Leadership SHARE

17-Mar-25

Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi highlighted the challenges posed by China's rise to India's ambition of leading the Global South during a lecture in Delhi. He stressed the need for India to focus on Africa as a future power center, emphasizing the importance of technological advancements and a strong defense industrial base for national security. General Dwivedi called for reforms in the UN Security Council to better represent the Global South and advocated for India's active role in conflict resolution and peacekeeping. He underscored the necessity of aligning with global partners and leveraging the Indian diaspora for humanitarian efforts, reinforcing India's pivotal position in a multipolar world.

Modi and Luxon Strengthen Indo-Pacific Ties for Regional Growth SHARE

17-Mar-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, focusing on trade, defense cooperation, and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific. During Luxon's visit, the leaders discussed initiating Free Trade Agreement negotiations and institutionalizing defense collaboration, including joint exercises and military partnerships. They also condemned terrorism unequivocally and emphasized the need for formal agreements on immigration and digital cooperation. Luxon highlighted the importance of rich political interactions and the growing Kiwi-Indian community in New Zealand, showcasing their potential to enhance bilateral relations. Both leaders showcased shared ambitions for a prosperous Indo-Pacific, reflecting a strategic alignment that promises to deepen ties across multiple sectors, including security, trade, and cultural exchanges.

Army Chief Dwivedi: Ongoing Threats Demand India's Vigilance and Reform SHARE

17-Mar-25

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi warned that while the world appears to be cooling down from major conflicts like Ukraine and Gaza, subnational

threats such as terrorism and radicalization persist, alongside a concerning shift towards authoritarianism. He emphasized the importance of emerging technologies as a new deterrent factor and highlighted India's strategic challenges, particularly the growing China-Pakistan nexus, which necessitates preparedness for a two-front conflict. Dwivedi advocated for reform in global governance to elevate India's influence and called for India to engage more robustly with the Global South. His address underscores the need for a dynamic security strategy that combines military readiness with diplomatic engagement, technological advancements, and a focus on humanitarian leadership to enhance India's role in the evolving geopolitical landscape.

Doval and Gabbard Meet in Delhi to Boost Global Security Ties SHARE

17-Mar-25

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met with US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard in Delhi, focusing on enhancing intelligence cooperation to address terrorism and emerging technology threats. The high-level security meet also included intelligence chiefs from various allied nations, discussing global challenges like the Russia-Ukraine conflict and security in the Indo-Pacific. With tensions between India and Canada over the Nijjar case, Doval's discussions with Canadian intelligence chief Daniel Rogers are particularly significant. This conclave underscores India's commitment to strengthening global security partnerships and addressing anti-India elements operating internationally, further solidifying the India-US strategic alliance.

Rajnath Singh and US Intelligence Chief Discuss Defense Ties SHARE

17-Mar-25

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh met US Director of National Intelligence Ms. Tulsi Gabbard in New Delhi on March 17, 2025, reinforcing the robust India-US bilateral defense partnership. They discussed strategic security as a cornerstone of their cooperation and reviewed advancements in military exercises, defense industrial integration, and information-sharing, particularly in maritime domains. The leaders explored collaborations in defense innovation and niche technologies, emphasizing interoperability and resilience in defense supply chains. Singh expressed appreciation for Gabbard's admiration for Indian culture, highlighting the deepening ties between the two nations, which are

crucial for addressing contemporary global security challenges.

US Pulls Back from EU's Russia War Crimes Probe in Ukraine SHARE

17-Mar-25

The U.S. is withdrawing from an EU-led investigation into Russian war crimes in Ukraine, signaling a shift in foreign policy under President Trump. This decision reduces the role of the Justice Department's War Crimes Accountability Team, which had previously supported Ukraine in prosecuting Russian military personnel. Concerns are mounting among European allies regarding the future of accountability for wartime atrocities as the U.S. steps back, leaving Ukraine and Europe to shoulder this responsibility. Critics view this withdrawal as a disengagement from Ukraine's struggle, potentially undermining efforts to hold Russia accountable for its actions, which could embolden further aggression.

Trump and Putin to Discuss Ukraine War and Potential Divisions SHARE

17-Mar-25

U.S. President Donald Trump is set to speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss efforts to end the ongoing war in Ukraine, a conversation that could pivot American foreign policy. Trump revealed that topics of discussion would include land and power plants, indicating potential negotiations on dividing assets in the conflict. European allies express concern over Trump's favorable stance towards Putin and his critical view of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy. Meanwhile, Russia continues to control significant areas of Ukraine, including the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, raising international security alarms. The evolving dynamics of these discussions could significantly impact regional stability and geopolitical alignments.

Russia Seeks Guarantees for Ukraine's Neutrality in Peace Deal SHARE

17-Mar-25

Russia is demanding "ironclad" guarantees in any peace treaty with Ukraine, insisting on Kyiv's exclusion from NATO and its neutral status, according to Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko. Russia opposes any NATO deployment, asserting that foreign military presence would escalate tensions. While the U.S. is negotiating a ceasefire, European leaders like French President Macron suggest troop deployment decisions lie with Ukraine. Grushko argues that eliminating the

prospect of Ukraine's NATO membership is crucial for regional security, highlighting the complexity of achieving lasting peace in the ongoing conflict. This stance underscores the geopolitical tensions surrounding NATO's influence in Eastern Europe.

SIPRI Report: Pakistan's Military Heavily Reliant on China SHARE

17-Mar-25

A recent SIPRI report highlights Pakistan's increasing dependence on China for military equipment, with Chinese arms accounting for 81% of its imports over the past five years. This reliance enhances Pakistan's defense capabilities but limits its ability to diversify and innovate domestically, raising concerns about strategic flexibility and potential vulnerabilities in supply chains. The partnership, while economically beneficial through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, could compromise Pakistan's autonomy if Beijing's priorities shift. The situation underscores the need for Pakistan to invest in indigenous production and reduce over-reliance on a single supplier to secure its long-term defense interests.

Pakistan Analysts Urge Separatist Desks Amid BLA Hijack Claims SHARE

17-Mar-25

Pakistan-backed analysts have provocatively called for the establishment of separatist desks targeting India, following unsubstantiated allegations from the ISI linking India to a train hijacking by the Baloch Liberation Army. These proposed desks aim to exploit existing regional tensions, including separatism in Punjab, Kashmir, and the Northeast, as well as stirring grievances related to the Tamil issue. While these calls reflect Pakistan's attempts to distract from its internal security issues, they also risk inflaming relations in South Asia. India's consistent denouncement of such narratives as baseless propaganda underscores its commitment to national integrity amidst attempts to destabilize the region through social media-driven misinformation.

India and Australia Elevate Defence Ties in 9th Policy Talks SHARE

17-Mar-25

The ninth India-Australia Defence Policy Talks took place in New Delhi on March 17, 2025, with both nations emphasizing their commitment to enhancing bilateral defence cooperation, including maritime domain awareness and interoperability across various domains. Key agreements were finalized, reflecting the

growing complexity of joint exercises and exchanges. As part of their collaboration, the countries are focused on accelerating cooperation in defence science and technology and will prepare for the next 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in Australia in 2025. This dialogue marks a significant step in strengthening the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, contributing to regional peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.

thereby reinforcing its influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Army Chief Calls for Commitment to Strengthen Nigeria's Security



17-Mar-25

The Chief of Army Staff of Nigeria, Lt. -Gen. Olufemi Oluyede, emphasized the responsibility of the Nigerian Army to enhance national security during his visit to the 12 Brigade in Lokoja. He praised the troops for their sacrifices and announced initiatives to improve their welfare, including increased allowances and housing schemes. Oluyede highlighted the importance of security for national development and urged soldiers to commit to making Nigeria safer. He conducted inspections of ongoing projects, including a new borehole and upgraded medical facilities, reinforcing his dedication to improving conditions for troops and their families.

Indian Army and Assam Rifles recover 16 weapons in Manipur operation.



17-Mar-25

The Indian Army and Assam Rifles, under SpearCorps, conducted a successful intelligence-based joint operation in Manipur from March 14 to 16, recovering 16 weapons, including rifles, pistols, and grenades, in coordination with local police and other security forces. This operation followed earlier efforts on March 12 and 13, which resulted in the seizure of 50 weapons and explosives across multiple districts. Such coordinated efforts underscore the Indian defense forces' commitment to maintaining law and order in the region, enhancing security, and effectively combating armed insurgency. This proactive approach reflects India's dedication to safeguarding its territorial integrity and ensuring public safety in volatile areas.

US Airstrikes in Yemen Intensify Pressure on Iran-Backed Houthis



17-Mar-25

The U.S. has intensified military operations in Yemen against the Iran-aligned Houthi movement, conducting airstrikes that have reportedly resulted in significant casualties. This escalation aims to counter Houthi threats to international shipping amid broader regional tensions linked to Iran's influence. The Houthis continue to assert their autonomy while launching attacks purportedly in support of Palestinians, despite being labeled by the U.S. and allies as a destabilizing force. The situation highlights the complex dynamics of Middle Eastern geopolitics, where the U.S. seeks to

Military Operations

Security forces neutralize IED in Kupwara, showcasing vigilance



17-Mar-25

Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have demonstrated their effectiveness in counter-terrorism operations, notably in Kupwara district, where they recovered and destroyed an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Narikut Forest, averting a potential tragedy. The Indian Army, alongside the Border Security Force (BSF), confirmed their commitment to maintaining peace in the region through social media, emphasizing their dedication to a terror-free Kashmir. Additionally, an encounter erupted in Krumhoora village of Zachaldara when security forces initiated a cordon and search operation based on intelligence regarding terrorist presence. The situation escalated when the terrorists opened fire, leading to an active engagement. These incidents underline the ongoing challenges faced by security forces in countering terrorism in the region, while also showcasing their proactive measures and readiness to neutralize threats, reflecting the Indian military's resilience and strategic approach to ensuring the safety and security of citizens in Jammu and Kashmir.

INS Ranvir and BNS Abu Ubaidah Strengthen Maritime Security



17-Mar-25

The Bongosagar 2025 Naval Exercise saw the Indian Navy's INS Ranvir collaborating with the Bangladesh Navy's BNS Abu Ubaidah in the Bay of Bengal, a move aimed at enhancing operational coordination and maritime security in the region. This joint exercise underscores India's commitment to its SAGAR initiative (Security and Growth for All in the Region), fostering stronger ties with neighboring countries and promoting regional stability. The exercise reflects India's proactive approach to maritime security and its role as a leader in fostering collaboration in a strategically important area,

curb Iranian influence amidst ongoing regional conflicts, raising concerns about further escalation and its implications for global trade and security.

Zelenskyy appoints new general staff chief to boost military strength

 SHARE

17-Mar-25

Ukraine's President Zelenskyy has appointed Andrii Hnatov as the new chief of the general staff to bolster military effectiveness amidst ongoing combat in the Kursk region and heightened pressure in Donetsk. This personnel shift follows Ukraine's recent setbacks in reclaiming territory, now leading to a diminished bargaining position as calls for a ceasefire grow louder. Defense Minister Umerov emphasized ongoing military transformations, while the previous chief, Barhylevych, will oversee military standards. Despite past successes, Ukraine's current retreat highlights the challenges it faces against advancing Russian forces, underscoring the importance of strategic military leadership during this critical phase of the conflict.

Israeli Airstrike Kills Three Amid Ongoing Gaza Tensions

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17-Mar-25

In a recent Israeli air strike in Gaza, three Palestinian men were killed, highlighting the ongoing tension despite efforts for a ceasefire mediated by Qatar, Egypt, and the U.S. The Israeli military justified the strikes by claiming they targeted "terrorists" attempting to plant bombs. Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation in Gaza worsens with a 16-day suspension of food, medicine, and fuel imports, impacting over 2.3 million residents. While Hamas continues to comply with ceasefire terms, tensions persist as both sides blame each other for undermining negotiations, underscoring the fragile state of peace in the region.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

India urges US to act against Khalistani terror group SFJ

 SHARE

17-Mar-25

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh urged US intelligence chief Tulsi Gabbard to take strong action against the Khalistani terror outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), which operates against Indian interests in the US. During bilateral discussions, the focus was on enhancing defense and security ties between India and the US, amidst concerns regarding SFJ's activities,

which seek to revive the separatist Khalistan movement. India has previously categorized SFJ as a terrorist organization and has actively sought international cooperation to curb its influence. The meeting underscores India's commitment to countering threats to its national security through diplomatic channels and strengthening international partnerships.

MHA Reveals Updated List of 67 Banned Terror Groups in India

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17-Mar-25

The Indian Ministry of Home Affairs has updated its list of 67 banned terrorist organizations and unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), which aims to curb terrorism and protect national security. This list includes 45 officially designated terrorist organizations and 22 unlawful associations linked to militancy and extremism in India. The measures under the UAPA facilitate freezing assets and prosecuting members of these groups. India's proactive approach demonstrates its commitment to countering evolving threats from various insurgent factions, reinforcing its legal framework to enhance national security and stability.

ASEAN Meeting to Boost Counter-Terrorism Cooperation with India

 SHARE

17-Mar-25

ASEAN member countries are set to enhance counter-terror cooperation at a two-day meeting co-chaired by India and Malaysia, featuring delegations from 10 ASEAN nations and eight dialogue partners, including the US and China. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh will deliver the keynote address, emphasizing a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism and extremism. The ADMM-Plus platform aims to foster collaboration among defense establishments across various areas, culminating in exercises and workshops over the next three years. This initiative reinforces India's growing influence in regional security dialogues and showcases its commitment to combating terrorism collaboratively with ASEAN partners.

Hafiz Saeed Wounded or Killed in Shooting Near Jhelum?

 SHARE

17-Mar-25

Reports suggest that Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind behind the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, was critically injured in a shooting near Jhelum, Pakistan, though official confirmation remains absent. The incident also saw the death of his nephew, Abu Qatal, a key operative in planning terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir. The

Pakistani government's silence on the matter implies a strategy to avoid international scrutiny amid rising tensions in the region. This situation underscores the persistent threat posed by Lashkar-e-Taiba and highlights Pakistan's historical tendency to deny involvement with high-profile terrorists, potentially complicating its diplomatic relations, particularly with India.

Baloch Army Claims 90 Pakistani Soldiers Killed in Attack



17-Mar-25

A recent attack in Balochistan, Pakistan, attributed to the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), resulted in the deaths of 90 soldiers from a military convoy headed to Taftan. The BLA claimed responsibility for a vehicle-borne suicide bombing and stated that they eliminated personnel on an additional bus, although these claims remain unverified. This incident follows a series of escalations by the BLA, including a hijacking of a train that led to the deaths of hostages. The ongoing conflict in Balochistan highlights the region's resource wealth and the ethnic tensions stemming from perceived discrimination against the Baloch people by the Pakistani government.

BLA Suicide Attack Claims Lives of 3 Pakistani Soldiers



17-Mar-25

The recent suicide attack by the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) on a Frontier Corps convoy in Pakistan resulted in the deaths of three soldiers, alongside additional casualties among civilians and terrorists. This incident, alongside a previous hijacking of the Jaffar Express train, underscores the rising violence and security challenges in Balochistan, fueled by longstanding insurgent demands for independence and regional control. High-ranking Pakistani officials, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, have condemned the attacks and vowed to combat terrorism. This situation highlights the complexities of Pakistan's internal security landscape, further emphasizing the need for robust counter-terrorism strategies to address these persistent threats.

Amritsar Temple Blast Suspect Neutralized in Police Encounter



17-Mar-25

A suspect linked to the March 15 blast outside the Thakur Dwara Temple in Amritsar was killed in a police encounter after opening fire on officers, injuring one. The police had acted on specific intelligence, tracking

the suspects to Rajasansi, where they were confronted. The Punjab Police suspect the involvement of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in this incident, which had caused panic but fortunately resulted in no injuries. The police are continuing their efforts to apprehend the second suspect who fled the scene. This incident underscores the ongoing challenges posed by cross-border terrorism and the proactive measures taken by Indian law enforcement to ensure public safety.

Kurdistan's Downing of Turkish Drone: A Cautionary Tale for Pakistan



17-Mar-25

The Kurdistan Freedom Guerrilla recently shot down a Turkish AKINCI drone, raising questions about the vulnerabilities of advanced unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), particularly for Pakistan, which has invested heavily in such technology. This incident, along with previous crashes in Libya and diminishing effectiveness in Ukraine, underscores that even sophisticated drones are not invulnerable in contested airspace. For Pakistan, reliance on these UAVs could prove precarious in potential conflicts with well-equipped adversaries like India, who possess advanced air defense capabilities. This highlights the necessity for Pakistan to bolster its countermeasures to safeguard its air operations against emerging threats.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

US Military Unprepared for Rising Threat of Drone Swarms



17-Mar-25

The U.S. military is grappling with the rising threat of drone swarms breaching its airspace, evidenced by recent incidents at Langley Air Force Base and other sensitive sites. Retired General Glen VanHerck emphasizes the need for stronger policies to address these incursions, which could be foreign in origin and pose risks to critical infrastructure. The challenge lies in the military's outdated detection systems, as current radar cannot effectively track low-flying drones. As drone technology evolves and conflicts demonstrate their capabilities, the U.S. must urgently enhance its counter-drone strategies to avoid being caught off guard by potential adversaries exploiting these vulnerabilities.

HAL Loses \$63,000 in Cyber Fraud During Procurement Deal [SHARE](#)

17-Mar-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has fallen victim to a \$63,000 cyber fraud during a procurement deal involving fighter aircraft parts from a US company. The scam, categorized as Business Email Compromise (BEC), occurred when a fraudulent email address, nearly identical to the legitimate one, misled HAL into transferring funds to a scammer's account. This incident highlights the vulnerabilities in cybersecurity within even leading defense firms, emphasizing the critical need for enhanced protocols to prevent such manipulations. Despite HAL's prompt reporting to authorities, recovering the lost funds may prove challenging due to the sophisticated nature of cybercriminals operating across borders. This underscores the importance of vigilance in digital communications.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

President Murmu Engages Future Leaders of Indian Naval Services [SHARE](#)

17-Mar-25

President Droupadi Murmu recently met with officer trainees from the Indian Naval Material Management Service and Indian Naval Armament Service at Rashtrapati Bhavan, highlighting the critical role these officers will play in supporting the Indian Navy amidst rising global geopolitical tensions. She emphasized the importance of leveraging advanced technologies for efficient logistics management and urged the officers to stay updated on technological advancements to enhance service delivery. The President's remarks underscore India's growing maritime cooperation and the necessity for innovative approaches in defense logistics, reinforcing the nation's commitment to enhancing its naval capabilities in a rapidly changing global landscape.

President Murmu Engages with Naval Officer Trainees, Strengthening Maritime Security [SHARE](#)

17-Mar-25

President Murmu recently met with Naval Officer Trainees in New Delhi, highlighting the importance of naval training and the role of the Indian Navy in national defense. This engagement underscores India's commitment to enhancing naval capabilities and

fostering strong ties with allied nations, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. The meeting symbolizes a strategic approach towards strengthening maritime security and showcases the government's emphasis on developing a skilled workforce within the defense sector. Such initiatives are crucial for maintaining regional stability and enhancing India's position as a key player in global maritime affairs.

Miscellaneous

Police Assault an Army Officer & Son in Patiala; 12 Suspended. [SHARE](#)

17-Mar-25

A senior Army officer, Col Pushpinder Singh Bath, and his son were assaulted by Punjab Police inspectors in Patiala, resulting in serious injuries. The police, provoked by a request to move their car, attacked them with sticks and baseball bats for about 45 minutes. Despite presenting evidence and requesting an FIR, they initially faced police inaction and threats. Following public outcry, twelve police officials including 3 Inspectors were suspended, though a local eatery owner contended that the officer and his son had been drinking alcohol, which led to the confrontation. This incident raises significant concerns about police conduct and accountability in India, especially towards military personnel.

PM Modi Gifts Ganga Water to US Intel Chief Gabbard, Strengthens Ties [SHARE](#)

17-Mar-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently met with US Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, to strengthen strategic partnerships between India and the United States. The meeting underscores India's commitment to deepening bilateral ties, crucial for regional stability and security. PM Modi's gesture of gifting Gabbard a vase of Ganga water from the Maha Kumbh mela highlights cultural diplomacy and symbolizes the spiritual bond between the nations. This interaction reflects India's proactive approach in enhancing its defense collaboration with the US, which is vital for addressing common security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. Such diplomatic efforts bolster India's standing as a key player in global geopolitics.

Amritpal Singh's Aides Released, Face Probe for Police Attack



17-Mar-25

The Punjab Police will bring back seven associates of radical preacher Amritpal Singh from Assam's Dibrugarh jail, as their detention under the National Security Act is not being extended. These associates are implicated in the 2023 Ajnala police station attack where they allegedly clashed with police to secure the release of their aides. The ongoing investigation will proceed without their formal arrests, as the police aim to uphold law and order amidst rising tensions associated with Khalistani sympathizers. This situation highlights the state's commitment to addressing security threats while managing the delicate balance of public safety and civil liberties.

Over 200 external investors secured land to boost J&K's economy.



17-Mar-25

Over 200 investors from outside Jammu and Kashmir have been allotted land to establish business units in the region, particularly in Kathua and Samba districts, following the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. The amended industrial policy 2021-30 has attracted significant interest from entrepreneurs across various states, with a focus on sectors like manufacturing, IT, agriculture, and renewable energy. The government is actively fostering an investor-friendly environment through initiatives aimed at boosting industrial growth, particularly encouraging women entrepreneurs to participate. This influx of investment is expected to catalyze economic development and stability in the UT, highlighting a positive shift in the region's economic landscape.

PM Modi Highlights India's Role as a Global Peace Advocate on Podcast



17-Mar-25

In a recent podcast with Lex Fridman, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized India's historical commitment to peace, advocating for negotiation in the Russia-Ukraine conflict rather than warfare. He stated that both nations must engage in talks to resolve their issues, highlighting the global impact of the conflict, including crises in food and fuel. Modi's comments reflect India's role as a potential mediator, showcasing its diplomatic relations with both Russia and Ukraine. He reiterated that modern conflicts require cooperation and a departure from expansionism, underlining India's stance as a peace-promoting nation on the international stage.

Ambassador Maxian: India-Slovakia Relations Flourishing



17-Mar-25

Slovak Ambassador to India, Robert Maxian, highlighted the strengthening ties between India and Slovakia, with bilateral trade exceeding 1.3 billion euros last year. His comments came during the Raisina Dialogue, a significant conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics co-hosted by India's Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation. Ambassador Maxian emphasized Slovakia's commitment to India's development goals for 2047, showcasing active Slovak investments in India. The Raisina Dialogue, featuring over 800 speakers from around 130 nations, aims to address pressing global issues under the theme "Kalachakra: People, Peace, Planet," reinforcing India's growing influence on the world stage.

Indian Army Pioneers Sustainable Practices for a Greener India



17-Mar-25

The Indian Army is spearheading India's green transition by implementing sustainable practices that significantly reduce its environmental impact. Key initiatives include planting over 13.5 lakh trees, transitioning to electric vehicles, and utilizing hydrogen fuel cell technology for energy needs, notably through a partnership with NTPC Renewable Energy. The Army's commitment to environmental sustainability is further exemplified by the construction of the eco-friendly Thal Sena Bhawan, aiming for net-zero emissions, and large-scale afforestation drives across various regions. These efforts not only enhance operational efficiency but also align with national environmental goals, showcasing the Army's role as a responsible steward of the environment while fulfilling its security obligations.

Delhi Police to Appoint SHOs via Exam for First Time Ever



17-Mar-25

The Delhi Police is set to introduce a landmark change by appointing Station House Officers (SHOs) through an examination for the first time in its 70-year history. This initiative aims to enhance the recruitment process and ensure that qualified individuals are selected for key leadership roles within the police force. By implementing a standardized examination, the Delhi Police seeks to promote transparency, meritocracy, and professionalism in law enforcement. This strategic move is expected to improve operational efficiency and public trust in the police, aligning with modern

governance standards and addressing the evolving challenges of policing in a dynamic urban environment.

SpaceX Crew Dragon Docks at ISS, Welcoming Sunita Williams SHARE

17-Mar-25

The SpaceX Dragon Crew spacecraft successfully docked with the International Space Station (ISS), facilitating the arrival of Crew-10, which includes NASA astronauts and Roscosmos cosmonauts. This docking will enable standard leak checks and pressurization before the crew can open the hatch, increasing the ISS's crew to eleven. This event underscores international collaboration in space exploration, showcasing the capabilities of private entities like SpaceX in advancing human spaceflight. The successful integration of Crew-10 with the existing Expedition 72 further emphasizes the importance of sustained human presence in space, aligning with global efforts in scientific research and exploration.

India Launches Indigenous Aerosol Lidar for Enhanced Pollution Forecasting SHARE

17-Mar-25

India has unveiled its first indigenous aerosol lidar system, developed by DRDO, to enhance the Indian Meteorological Department's (IMD) ability to predict weather and air pollution. This advanced technology will allow for real-time vertical profiling of atmospheric parameters up to 20 km, providing critical insights into aerosol concentration and cloud properties, which were previously lacking. The lidar's integration of various channels for measuring atmospheric data signifies a significant leap towards self-reliance in environmental monitoring, eliminating dependence on costly imported systems. This development not only strengthens India's atmospheric research capabilities but also addresses the pressing issue of air quality in one of the world's most polluted countries.

Navi Mumbai Airport set to launch in June 2025, enhancing connectivity. SHARE

17-Mar-25

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani announced that the Navi Mumbai Airport is set for inauguration in June 2025, marking a significant advancement in India's infrastructure. This greenfield project, featuring two parallel runways, will initially handle 20 million passengers per annum and is expected to accommodate over 90 million upon full completion. The airport represents a major investment by the Adani

Group, which has expanded its portfolio to manage multiple airports across India, thus enhancing connectivity and contributing to the nation's economic growth. This initiative underscores India's commitment to modernizing its transportation infrastructure and boosting its aviation sector.

PM Modi: False narrative on Gujarat riots debunked by courts SHARE

17-Mar-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the portrayal of the 2002 Gujarat riots, asserting that a false narrative was created by political opponents to tarnish his image, despite judicial acquittal. He emphasized that previous riots in Gujarat were frequent, contrasting them with the peace maintained since 2002. Modi highlighted the judiciary's thorough investigation, which vindicated him and held the actual perpetrators accountable. He underscored his commitment to governance focused on development and unity rather than appeasement, asserting that Gujarat has remained devoid of major communal strife for over two decades. This narrative reinforces Modi's stance on justice and peace, advocating for a cohesive society free from divisive politics.

India Greenlights Chandrayaan-5 Mission with 250 kg Rover SHARE

17-Mar-25

The Indian government has approved the Chandrayaan-5 mission, as announced by ISRO Chairman V Narayanan. This mission will include a significant 250 kg rover to explore the Moon's surface, building on the successes of previous missions like Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-3, the latter of which achieved a historic soft landing on the Moon's South Pole in August 2023. Notably, the Chandrayaan-5 mission will be conducted in collaboration with Japan, reflecting India's commitment to international cooperation in space exploration. With ongoing efforts to establish an Indian Space Station and future missions like Chandrayaan-4, ISRO continues to position India as a leader in global space technology and research.

Starlink's Entry in India: Boosting Connectivity Amid Security Risks SHARE

17-Mar-25

Bharti Airtel's partnership with SpaceX to introduce Starlink's satellite internet in India aims to enhance connectivity, especially in underserved areas. However, this collaboration has raised security concerns among

geofencing measures. The government and regulatory bodies must work with Airtel and Starlink to ensure effective monitoring and accountability, thus balancing the benefits of improved connectivity with national security imperatives.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
SIKA	510.0	590.0	510.0	535.55	30438	8.33	63.2	486.16	528.47
BHARATFORG	1037.1	1079.55	1037.1	1076.35	628264	3.57	47.57	1060.97	1420.32
GRSE	1310.6	1355.0	1303.1	1336.55	1345787	2.55	47.71	1309.48	1717.69
ZENTEC	1224.0	1248.0	1205.2	1238.8	491075	2.0	44.6	1137.53	1670.76
ADANIENT	2200.0	2286.9	2198.0	2252.7	927737	1.42	52.52	2187.2	2774.97
HAL	3400.0	3484.0	3399.0	3439.9	1130061	1.29	47.54	3368.26	4408.39
APOLLO	113.9	117.91	112.84	113.84	5081323	0.97	46.18	114.37	109.31
PTC	155.71	158.0	155.26	157.35	1678790	0.88	65.09	148.23	182.98
COCHINSHIP	1305.1	1314.0	1283.25	1295.7	653089	0.31	46.99	1279.72	1765.03
MAZDOCK	2320.0	2348.0	2281.1	2322.05	2382741	0.26	58.08	2188.39	2218.25
LMW	15070.0	15135.8	14955.6	15059.2	1331	0.16	49.47	14736.18	15998.45
BEL	281.0	283.38	276.72	279.93	13883682	-0.05	58.47	262.91	290.41
SOLARINDS	10125.3	10199.7	10025.05	10088.65	65188	-0.08	68.27	9176.41	10261.03
BDL	1100.0	1137.4	1100.0	1107.15	825611	-0.1	51.09	1058.31	1252.65
LT	3190.0	3240.05	3159.0	3173.45	2805790	-0.43	38.53	3224.27	3563.1
KRISHNADEF	568.0	575.0	530.1	539.0	34500	-0.46	39.66	576.12	715.88
ROSSELLIND	59.9	59.9	57.02	57.13	24751	-0.78	38.02	59.5	266.49
ASTRAMICRO	630.0	631.75	615.1	617.7	127136	-0.87	41.22	619.19	808.65
BEML	2567.0	2581.95	2495.5	2517.65	245319	-1.41	37.41	2574.82	3881.63
PARAS	914.35	914.35	881.45	884.2	132978	-1.47	43.14	893.32	1105.95
AZAD	1289.2	1307.0	1251.0	1257.8	291462	-1.61	40.9	1291.47	1588.19
DATAPAT'TNS	1680.05	1694.65	1618.0	1635.55	2074821	-1.66	47.7	1542.0	2494.3
CFF	423.3	423.3	423.3	423.3	6200	-1.99	37.95	438.09	651.9
MARINE	160.0	167.0	156.0	158.15	287644	-2.03	41.12	160.6	222.02
HBLPOWER	413.65	419.65	405.0	406.4	1142703	-2.03	31.37	453.12	571.15
MTARTECH	1257.6	1270.0	1221.0	1228.55	120607	-2.31	35.75	1319.48	1694.74
AVANTEL	110.39	110.97	106.21	106.91	562607	-2.32	36.16	113.56	-
IDEAFORGE	337.0	339.8	322.45	324.4	245573	-2.76	26.56	365.27	627.59
PREMEXPLN	329.75	329.75	309.85	311.75	272576	-2.88	31.22	349.17	527.79
DCXINDIA	227.99	229.65	218.0	219.21	495411	-2.99	29.36	243.86	332.68
TANEJAERO	295.0	304.0	279.3	284.4	19801	-3.27	40.81	294.94	469.66
HIGHENE	455.05	459.95	436.0	445.85	5722	-3.34	39.66	468.08	659.49
NIBE	827.0	840.0	801.25	801.45	28100	-4.97	24.4	993.26	1696.31
LOKESHMACH	144.9	146.95	134.67	134.67	59945	-5.0	18.68	166.12	348.25
MIDHANI	270.02	272.2	255.0	256.11	405208	-5.17	42.72	260.09	374.87
TEMBO	0.0	481.8	481.8	481.8	2430	-29.05	31.39	652.76	466.07