



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

April 18, 2025 | Day 108

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

Former Navy Captain Jagmohan named CMD of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders.



18-Apr-25

Former Navy Captain Jagmohan has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) following approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. His tenure is set to last until September 30, 2029, or until further orders. Captain Jagmohan, who has over 25 years of experience in the Indian Navy, previously held significant roles in design and project management at Goa Shipyard Limited and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited. His appointment is notable as it was made in relaxation of eligibility criteria, emphasizing the government's confidence in his capabilities to drive MDL, a key player in India's defense shipbuilding sector, towards greater innovation and efficiency in naval construction and modernization, crucial for strengthening India's naval defense strategy.

Rajnath Singh: India Aims for Self-Reliance in Defense Production



18-Apr-25

India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted the country's ambition to surpass Rs 3 lakh crore in military hardware production by 2029, emphasizing a self-reliant defense ecosystem aimed at reducing import dependence. He acknowledged challenges in aero engine manufacturing but noted progress with the Kaveri project and collaborations with global firms.

Singh reported a significant increase in defense exports, projecting Rs 30,000 crore this year, and underscored the government's commitment to innovation, particularly through support for start-ups. He reinforced that India's enhanced military capabilities serve as credible deterrents for peace, positioning the nation as a key player in the global defense landscape while ensuring resilience in supply chains.

Indian Army to Boost Border Security with 9 New Laser Counter-Drone Systems



18-Apr-25

The Indian Army is set to acquire nine more laser-based counter-drone systems to enhance its capabilities along the borders with Pakistan and China, following successful neutralization of hostile drones, including those used for smuggling and reconnaissance. Developed by the DRDO, these systems effectively target enemy drones within an 800 to 1,000-meter range using a 2-kilowatt laser. This procurement, part of an emergency acquisition plan, aims to bolster counter-terrorism efforts in Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally, India is developing a more powerful 30-kilowatt system for broader aerial threats, reinforcing India's position among nations with advanced air defense technologies.

India Achieves World's Highest 3D Printed Military Bunker at 11,000 Feet



18-Apr-25

India has successfully completed the world's highest 3D printed military bunker at an altitude of 11,000 feet in Ladakh, through Project PRABAL, led by Simpliforge Creations and IIT Hyderabad in collaboration with the Indian Army. This innovative structure was constructed in just five days, utilizing a custom-engineered concrete

mix designed to withstand extreme high-altitude conditions, including low oxygen and sub-zero temperatures. The project exemplifies the effective partnership between academia and industry, showcasing India's growing capabilities in additive manufacturing and rapid infrastructure deployment in challenging environments. It marks a significant advancement in defense preparedness, establishing a precedent for future applications of 3D printing technology in military infrastructure and potential off-world construction projects, demonstrating India's resolve to leverage cutting-edge technology in strengthening its strategic capabilities.

Rajnath Singh Addresses Challenges in Aero Engine Manufacturing

SHARE

18-Apr-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted the challenges in manufacturing aero engines in India, especially amid delays in the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) TEJAS MK-1A program. While acknowledging advancements in the indigenous Kaveri engine project, Singh noted technology gaps that India is addressing through partnerships with global firms like GE Aerospace and Safran. The ongoing negotiation for joint production of F414 engines is expected to significantly boost domestic capabilities. Singh emphasized a shift towards self-reliance in defense production, with ambitions to enhance defense exports and transition India into a formidable global hub for defense manufacturing, despite persistent challenges in technological complexity and funding.

India to Boost Air Force with 40 New Rafale Jets Amid Threats

SHARE

17-Apr-25

The Indian government is set to acquire an additional fleet of 40 Rafale fighter jets to bolster the Indian Air Force (IAF), addressing operational readiness concerns amid rising threats from China and Pakistan. This decision follows IAF Chief Amar Preet Singh's warnings about declining fighter jet numbers and delays in indigenous Tejas aircraft deliveries. Additionally, the Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the purchase of 26 Rafale Marine jets for the Navy, highlighting a strategic partnership with France. These acquisitions underscore India's commitment to enhancing its air superiority and naval capabilities, crucial for maintaining regional stability.

Bangladesh Seeks Drone Tech in China Amid Regional Security Shift

SHARE

18-Apr-25

Bangladesh is enhancing its military capabilities by sending a delegation to China to procure drone and anti-drone technologies, anticipating potential involvement in US-backed operations in Myanmar. The move follows the deployment of Turkish-made Bayraktar TB-2 drones for border surveillance and reflects Dhaka's ambition to indigenize military technology. This dual engagement with China and Turkey highlights Bangladesh's strategy to diversify its defense procurement and strengthen its military readiness amid evolving regional threats. As India closely monitors these developments, it underscores the necessity for India to bolster its own defense capabilities and enhance border security measures.

India Boosts Military Space Capabilities with Private Sector Aid

SHARE

18-Apr-25

India is set to significantly enhance its military space capabilities through the SBS-III program, which integrates private sector involvement for the first time in developing military satellites, with three South Indian firms constructing 31 of 52 planned satellites. This initiative reflects a strategic response to China's advancing space capabilities and aims to bolster India's surveillance, communication, and deterrence across multiple orbits. The forthcoming military space doctrine will further institutionalize these developments, ensuring a comprehensive approach to space warfare. By fostering public-private partnerships, India is establishing itself as a formidable space power while preparing for future challenges in an increasingly contested domain.

India's 651 kW Water-Jet Propulsion System Shines in Sea Trials

SHARE

18-Apr-25

The successful preliminary sea trials of the 651 kW Water-Jet Propulsion System, designed by L&T in collaboration with DRDO, highlight India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology, featuring over 70% indigenous content. This innovative propulsion system enhances maneuverability and stealth, crucial for high-speed naval operations in complex environments, while also reducing maintenance needs. Its potential integration into the Navy's fleet for Fast Interceptor Crafts and patrol vessels signifies a notable advancement in India's maritime engineering capabilities. Moreover, this achievement emphasizes

the importance of public-private partnerships in driving defense innovation and bolstering India's strategic maritime defense capabilities.

DVIPA Defence to Manufacture Indigenous UGRAM Assault Rifles



18-Apr-25

DVIPA Defence is set to produce indigenous 7.62 mm x 51 mm assault rifles, specifically the UGRAM, designed to meet the Indian Army's operational needs while enhancing self-reliance in defense manufacturing. Supported by the TDB, this initiative aims to replace outdated INSAS rifles, enabling better interoperability and efficiency within the armed forces. The UGRAM features a modular design with advanced materials and mechanisms, reflecting India's commitment to indigenous production under the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. This development not only reduces reliance on imports but also positions India for future defense exports, bolstering its strategic autonomy and capabilities.

Zorawar Light Tank Begins Key Rajasthan Trials Ahead of 2027 Induction



18-Apr-25

The Zorawar light tank, developed by L&T and DRDO, is entering critical desert trials in Rajasthan as part of India's push for indigenous defense capabilities, with the aim of inducting it into the Indian Army by 2027. Following successful high-altitude evaluations in Ladakh, these trials will test the tank's 105 mm gun under extreme heat, vital for enhancing operational readiness against security challenges, particularly along the Line of Actual Control with China. The project aligns with India's 'Atmanirbharta' initiative and seeks to improve strategic mobility and effectiveness, ensuring the Zorawar meets the Army's specific requirements for a service life of 30 years.

Indian Army to Replace Bofors FH77 with Dhanush and ATAGS by 2030



18-Apr-25

The Indian Army will phase out the Bofors FH77 howitzers starting in 2030, transitioning to indigenous artillery systems like the Dhanush and ATAGS, enhancing its artillery capabilities. The Bofors, effective in the Kargil conflict, face operational challenges due to aging and spare part shortages. The Dhanush offers improved range and precision, while the ATAGS, with a range exceeding 48 kilometers, is set to significantly bolster long-range artillery with plans for 1,500 units. This modernization effort supports India's self-reliance

in defense production and demonstrates a commitment to adopting advanced technologies for enhanced operational readiness and firepower.

DRDO to Test Enhanced SAAW with 100km Range for Precision Strikes



18-Apr-25

DRDO is set to enhance India's precision strike capabilities by testing an upgraded version of the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW), now featuring an Electro-Optical seeker, enabling it to engage moving targets effectively within a 100km range. This advancement signifies a substantial leap in missile technology, allowing for autonomous target tracking and improved accuracy, even under enemy countermeasures. The SAAW's versatility extends its roles from disabling static infrastructure to engaging mobile threats, proving crucial in varied operational landscapes. With flight tests anticipated in mid-2025, this initiative underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology and operational readiness for modern combat scenarios.

Bellatrix Aerospace Launches U.S. Manufacturing in Delaware



18-Apr-25

Bengaluru-based Bellatrix Aerospace is expanding into the U.S. by establishing a propulsion systems manufacturing facility in Delaware, aiming to cater to the growing U.S. commercial space market. This expansion reinforces India's rising prominence in the global aerospace sector, supported by a significant partnership with an undisclosed U.S. satellite manufacturer. Bellatrix's advanced green propulsion technologies, which offer cost-efficient alternatives to traditional systems, demonstrate the company's commitment to sustainability and innovation. With experienced leadership and a focus on local production, the initiative is set to enhance collaboration with U.S. customers, reflecting a strategic move that aligns with increased demand for efficient satellite propulsion solutions.

Pipavav Shipyard Revives Operations, Aims for Naval Contracts



18-Apr-25

Pipavav Shipyard in Gujarat, now under Swan Defence and Heavy Industries Ltd, is set to resume shipbuilding operations after overcoming past financial difficulties. The shipyard has successfully completed repair work on four vessels, including three for the Indian Coast Guard, showcasing its renewed efficiency. With

ambitious plans to establish itself as a leading maritime hub, Pipavav aims to support India's goal of expanding its naval fleet under the Make in India initiative. This revival aligns with the Indian Navy's target of increasing its warship count to 175-200 by 2035, emphasizing the crucial role of private shipyards in achieving this objective.

IAF Aims for Rafale Source Code to Enhance Indigenous Integration SHARE

18-Apr-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is seeking access to the source code of the Dassault Rafale fighter jet to enhance the integration of indigenous weapon systems, addressing past challenges faced with the Mirage-2000 fleet due to limited access. This move aims to improve operational flexibility and reduce reliance on foreign vendors for software updates, allowing Indian engineers to develop necessary modifications in-house. While Dassault has cooperated in past integrations, concerns over intellectual property and potential risks to competitive advantage may complicate negotiations. The IAF's push reflects a significant step towards self-reliance in defense, aligning with India's strategic goal to fortify its military capabilities.

Dhvani HGV: India's Game-Changer in Hypersonic Range and Power SHARE

18-Apr-25

The DRDO's unveiling of the Dhvani Blended Wing Body Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV) has marked a significant advancement in India's hypersonic technology, reportedly surpassing the Agni-V missile's range of 5,500 km, with estimates between 6,000 and 10,000 km. This cutting-edge HGV, designed for enhanced aerodynamic efficiency and maneuverability at speeds exceeding Mach 5, allows India to project power globally, targeting regions across Asia, Europe, and parts of North America. The Dhvani's unique flight profile, combining ballistic and glide phases, enhances its deterrence capability, positioning India as a formidable player in the evolving geopolitical landscape and challenging traditional missile defense systems.

Avadi Ordnance Depot Sends Mahindra LSVs to Northern Command SHARE

18-Apr-25

The Ordnance Depot at Avadi has dispatched indigenously built Mahindra Light Specialist Vehicles (LSVs) to the Indian Army's Northern Command, enhancing tactical mobility in challenging terrains like Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. These versatile

vehicles, designed for rapid field operations, feature a modular design for various configurations such as armored transport and weapon carriers. This initiative exemplifies the success of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat program by emphasizing local manufacturing and technological integration in defense logistics. The deployment of these LSVs is crucial for maintaining operational readiness in contested areas, particularly in light of ongoing tensions along the Line of Actual Control with China.

Dassault Aviation to Launch MRO Hub Near Noida, Advancing India's Aerospace Goals SHARE

18-Apr-25

French aerospace giant Dassault Aviation plans to establish a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility and a Centre of Excellence near Noida International Airport, bolstering India's aerospace sector and defense ties with France. This initiative, aligned with the Make in India vision, aims to create a skilled workforce through specialized training programs and reduce reliance on overseas MRO services, potentially lowering maintenance costs for the Indian Air Force's Rafale and Mirage fleets. While there are challenges in land allocation and regulatory approvals, the project promises to enhance operational readiness and could establish Uttar Pradesh as a key aviation hub, further supporting India's defense export ambitions and regional stability.

CAG Critiques HAL for ALH-Dhruv Certification Delays, Calls for Reforms SHARE

18-Apr-25

The CAG has criticized HAL for delays exceeding a decade in obtaining EASA certification for the ALH-Dhruv, resulting in financial losses of ₹108.24 crore and diminished export potential. The report attributes these setbacks to HAL's inadequate engagement with civil aviation standards, contrasting military certification experiences. The CAG recommends establishing a dedicated Civil Certification Task Force within HAL and enhancing the Ministry of Defence's role in international certification efforts to streamline processes. Strengthening bilateral agreements with global certification bodies could expedite future approvals, ensuring HAL remains competitive in the international light utility helicopter market.

IAF Boosts Strike Power with Khagantak-225 Glide Bomb on Su-30MKI SHARE

18-Apr-25

The Indian Air Force is integrating the indigenous Khagantak-225 glide bomb, developed by JSR Dynamics in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited, with its Su-30MKI fighter aircraft. This 243 kg precision-guided munition boasts a 180 km range and advanced guidance systems, enhancing the IAF's long-range strike capabilities and strategic deterrence amidst regional security challenges. The Khagantak-225 is a significant achievement in India's push for self-reliance in defense, showcasing the vital role of the private sector in bolstering national defense capabilities. Its advanced features, including an AI-enabled seeker, ensure operational effectiveness against contemporary threats, solidifying India's technological parity with adversaries like China and Pakistan.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh Strengthens Ties in UK Visit SHARE

18-Apr-25

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh recently concluded a significant two-day visit to the UK, where he co-chaired the 24th India-UK Defence Consultative Group meeting, focusing on enhancing military cooperation and promoting advanced technological collaboration. Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to deepening defence ties, aligning discussions with the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the Roadmap to 2030. Singh emphasized the capabilities of Indian start-ups in key defence areas and encouraged UK firms to invest in India's Defence Corridors, promoting the 'Make in India' initiative. Additionally, the visit coincided with the announcement of £400 million in export and investment deals, showcasing a robust multifaceted partnership that extends beyond defence into trade and technology sectors, ultimately seeking to modernize the armed forces of both nations. This reflects India's strategic push towards self-reliance while fostering international defence relations.

General Manoj Pande calls for transformative reforms in defense modernization. SHARE

18-Apr-25

Former Army Chief General Manoj Pande emphasized the need for leapfrogging reforms in India's defense modernization at The Week Defence Conclave, advocating for a shift from incremental to transformative strategies to enhance self-reliance and operational readiness. He highlighted the significance of the Agnipath scheme in human resource management and underscored that reforms should align with broader organizational transformations to optimize outcomes across services. Pande pointed out the importance of collaboration and clear objectives in the reform process, asserting that modernizing the defense forces while managing the timeline for indigenization is critical for achieving the goal of 'Atmanirbharta' in defense.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India Calls Out Pakistan for Distancing from 26/11 Mastermind SHARE

18-Apr-25

India has condemned Pakistan's attempts to distance itself from Tahawwur Hussain Rana, the extradited mastermind of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, asserting that Pakistan remains the "epicentre of global terrorism." Rana, now in the custody of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), faces serious charges including conspiracy to wage war against India. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs emphasized the need for Pakistan to act against other perpetrators of the attacks it continues to protect, while highlighting the international implications of Pakistan's failure to deliver justice in this case. Additionally, the extradition serves as a reminder of Pakistan's ongoing challenges with terrorism, as reflected in its ranking on the Global Terrorism Index. This situation underscores India's persistent efforts to seek accountability and justice while pressing for international awareness regarding Pakistan's counterterrorism obligations.

Ukraine Investigates Attack on Indian Pharma Unit, Blames Russia SHARE

18-Apr-25

Ukraine has opened a criminal investigation into the attack on an Indian pharmaceutical company's warehouse, claiming it was targeted by a Russian

missile, while Russia denies involvement, suggesting it may have been hit by a misfired Ukrainian air defense missile. The Ukrainian Embassy in India criticized Russia's narrative as lacking credibility and accused Moscow of deliberately targeting Indian businesses. Russia, on the other hand, asserts that its military operations were focused on Ukrainian military targets and not civilian infrastructure. This incident highlights increasing tensions not only between Ukraine and Russia but also the complex geopolitical implications for India, which has historical ties with Russia and is now diplomatically involved in defending its business interests abroad. The situation underscores the need for India to navigate its relationships carefully amidst rising hostilities in the region.

US VP Optimistic About Ending Russia-Ukraine Conflict SHARE

18-Apr-25

The U.S. is actively pursuing a peace proposal to end the Russia-Ukraine war, with Vice President JD Vance expressing optimism about negotiations following discussions with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. The U.S. has presented terms to its allies that include potential sanctions relief for Russia amid a ceasefire, albeit with occupied Ukrainian territories remaining under Russian control, a point of contention for Ukraine. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio indicated that the U.S. may abandon its mediation efforts if progress isn't made swiftly. Additionally, European leaders are rallying behind the U.S. to ensure Ukraine is adequately supported post-conflict, although Kyiv firmly rejects any discussions regarding territorial concessions. This scenario underscores the complexities of international diplomacy, where balancing security guarantees and territorial integrity remains paramount for Ukraine, while the U.S. seeks to maintain a strategic influence in Europe amidst a challenging geopolitical landscape.

India Rejects Pakistan's Claim on Kashmir as 'Jugular Vein' SHARE

18-Apr-25

India has firmly rejected Pakistan Army Chief Gen Asim Munir's assertion that Kashmir is Pakistan's "jugular vein," emphasizing that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral Union Territory of India. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal highlighted Pakistan's ongoing reputation as a hub of global terrorism, especially in light of the extradition of terror suspect Tahawwur Rana from the US to India. Jaiswal called on Pakistan to bring justice to the Mumbai attacks' perpetrators, underscoring the disconnect

between Islamabad's claims and its failure to address terrorism. This exchange further illustrates the entrenched geopolitical tensions and differing narratives surrounding Kashmir and counter-terrorism efforts in the region.

Pakistan's Army Chief Undermines Peace with Anti-Hindu Rhetoric SHARE

18-Apr-25

Pakistan's Army Chief, General Asim Munir, recently delivered a speech reaffirming the two-nation theory, emphasizing an inherent division between Hindus and Muslims and rejecting any possibility of coexistence. His rhetoric not only dismisses India's aspirations for peace but also highlights Pakistan's foundational anti-Hindu ideology, which has historically justified hostility towards India. This perspective challenges the belief that a stable Pakistan could contribute positively to regional security, instead suggesting that such stability would likely intensify Pakistan's aggressive posturing, particularly regarding Kashmir and support for terrorism. Munir's assertions serve as a wake-up call for India to reassess its approach towards Pakistan, recognizing the enduring antagonism rooted in its state ideology.

INS Sunayna Docks in Mozambique to Boost Maritime Cooperation SHARE

18-Apr-25

The Indian Navy ship INS Sunayna recently arrived at Nacala Port, Mozambique, on April 17, 2025, after participating in the inaugural India-Africa multinational maritime exercise AIKEYME 25 in Tanzania, marking a significant step in enhancing maritime cooperation between India and African nations. The mission, part of India's SAGAR initiative (Security and Growth for All in the Region), aims to promote international collaboration and capacity building, with joint training exercises planned with the Mozambique Navy, including Visit, Board, Search and Seizure drills and community engagement programs. The exercise involved nine countries, enhancing India's role in the security of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), and was celebrated as a milestone in strengthening India-Tanzania relations and broader partnerships with Africa. Additionally, a defense expo, Africa India Key Maritime Engagement 2025, showcased defense products from participating countries, further solidifying defense ties and highlighting India's commitment to meeting African nations' defense needs. The overall initiative not only fosters regional security and trust among nations but also develops collaborative solutions to maritime

challenges, reinforcing India's strategic importance in the Indian Ocean and its dedication to collective growth and stability in the region.

India's Concerns Lead to Cancellation of Pak-SL Naval Exercise



18-Apr-25

A planned naval exercise between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Trincomalee was shelved due to India's concerns about security implications in the strategically vital Indian Ocean region. Trincomalee's significance lies in its potential to influence maritime security and economic stability, particularly as China seeks to expand its influence in Sri Lanka. India's proactive approach includes enhancing defense ties with Sri Lanka, highlighted by a recent defense pact and efforts to develop Trincomalee as an energy hub. This underscores India's commitment to countering external threats while strengthening regional partnerships to ensure security in the Indian Ocean.

EU Naval Force Proposes Joint Exercise with Indian Navy for Maritime Security



17-Apr-25

The European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) has proposed a joint exercise with the Indian Navy aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation, particularly in counter-piracy operations, in the Indian Ocean. Vice Admiral Ignacio Villanueva Serrano emphasized the importance of coordination to maintain a secure maritime environment, highlighting successful past collaborations where the Indian Navy apprehended a significant number of pirates. This partnership reflects a mutual interest in ensuring the Indian Ocean remains a free and open area, as both forces acknowledge ongoing piracy threats, necessitating robust cooperation and resource sharing against common challenges, including the presence of the Chinese Navy in the region.

Russian Strikes on Ukraine Claim Two Lives, Intensifying Conflict



18-Apr-25

Russian strikes on Ukraine, particularly in Kharkiv and Sumy, resulted in two deaths and numerous injuries, highlighting the intensifying conflict. In Kharkiv, ballistic missiles reportedly caused extensive damage to civilian areas, while in Sumy, Iranian-made drones targeted infrastructure, killing one person. These attacks have drawn international condemnation, marking one of the deadliest periods since the invasion began in February 2022. Despite calls for a ceasefire, aerial assaults

continue, underscoring the urgent need for a diplomatic resolution to the conflict, as global leaders convene to address the escalating violence and explore pathways to peace.

Russia Ends Energy Truce, US Considers Exiting Peace Talks



18-Apr-25

Russia has declared the expiration of a 30-day moratorium on strikes against Ukrainian energy sites, escalating tensions as the US considers withdrawing from peace talks. Despite US efforts led by President Trump to negotiate a truce, including a mineral resource deal for Ukraine, no significant progress has been made. Ukrainian President Zelensky condemned the renewed Russian attacks, emphasizing the violence's timing just before Easter. Meanwhile, concerns have arisen over the US envoy's perceived bias towards Russia, complicating the peace process, while China denied allegations of supplying arms to Russia, maintaining its stance on non-lethal support in the conflict.

Yunus's Rise Sparks Concerns Over Islamist Influence in Bangladesh



18-Apr-25

The rise of Muhammed Yunus in Bangladesh has raised concerns over Islamist influence and a strategic pivot away from India towards closer ties with China and Pakistan. His administration's tolerance of Islamist factions has led to increased sectarian violence, particularly against Hindu minorities, alarming India due to potential spillover effects in its northeastern states. Furthermore, Yunus's proposed strategic access to the Bay of Bengal for China poses threats to India's maritime security. Indian analysts advocate for enhanced diplomatic engagement and security cooperation with Bangladesh to counterbalance these developments and maintain regional stability, emphasizing the importance of preventing Bangladesh from becoming a source of instability in South Asia.

India Champions a Democratic and Inclusive Bangladesh



18-Apr-25

India's Ministry of External Affairs has reaffirmed its commitment to a democratic and inclusive Bangladesh, emphasizing its support for participatory governance and minority rights. The recent suspension of the transshipment facility for Bangladeshi goods through Indian ports was attributed to logistical challenges affecting India's exports, though it does not hinder

Bangladesh's trade with Nepal and Bhutan. India underscores the importance of mutual trust and cooperation in strengthening bilateral ties, while also advocating for the investigation of violence against minorities in Bangladesh. This position reflects India's strategic focus on regional stability and its dedication to fostering constructive relationships in South Asia.

India Emerges as a Strong Candidate for Expanded UNSC Seat



18-Apr-25

The Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on UN Security Council (UNSC) reforms, Ambassador Tareq AlBanai, has indicated that India is a strong contender for a seat in an expanded UNSC, emphasizing its significant role on the global stage. As discussions on reform progress, the proposed expansion could see the Council grow from 21 to 27 members. AlBanai highlighted that any new structure must prioritize inclusivity, transparency, and effectiveness to endure for the next century. This development reinforces India's burgeoning geopolitical influence and aligns with its aspirations for a more representative international governance structure, reflecting its growing clout in global affairs.

U.S. airstrikes on Yemen's Ras Isa port kill at least 38 amid escalating conflict.



18-Apr-25

U.S. airstrikes on the Ras Isa fuel port in Yemen reportedly killed at least 38 people, according to Houthi media, marking one of the deadliest days since the U.S. intensified its campaign against the Iran-backed group. The strikes aim to cripple the Houthis' fuel supply, responding to their recent missile and drone attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, which the Houthis claim are targeted at ships linked to Israel amid the Gaza conflict. While the attacks seek to degrade the Houthis' economic power, the escalation raises concerns about civilian casualties and the broader implications for regional stability, illustrating the complexities of U.S. involvement in the Middle East.

Indian Army Enhances LoC Defense with Loitering Ammunition



18-Apr-25

The Indian Army is enhancing its defenses along the Line of Control (LoC) by deploying loitering ammunition to counter increasing Pakistan-assisted terrorist infiltration. This strategic use of advanced technology, including indigenous systems like the Nagastra-1 and Israeli Harop drones, aims to provide precision in targeting and reduce risks to personnel. The capability to loiter enhances surveillance and disrupts enemy operations, reflecting a proactive approach to modern asymmetric warfare. Despite a history of ceasefire violations by Pakistan, the Army's emphasis on sophisticated munitions and integrated defense measures signifies a robust commitment to safeguarding national security and maintaining operational readiness in volatile regions.

Military Operations

Army Launches Inquiry into Civilian Incident in J&K's Rajouri



18-Apr-25

The Indian Army has initiated an enquiry into allegations of manhandling involving a university professor, Liaqat Ali, during a vehicle check in Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir. The incident occurred amid operations aimed at tracking potential terrorist movements, and preliminary reports indicate that Ali attempted to seize a soldier's weapon, leading to a scuffle that resulted in head injuries for the professor. The Army has reiterated its commitment to upholding professionalism and discipline during counter-terror operations and expressed the importance of civil cooperation for regional security. Despite the unfortunate confrontation, the Army's prompt response to investigate such allegations underscores its accountability and dedication to maintaining trust within the community, reflecting an understanding of the delicate balance required in sensitive operational environments.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

22 Maoists Surrender in Sukma Amidst Security Forces' Success



18-Apr-25

In Chhattisgarh, security forces have made significant strides against Maoist insurgents, with 22 Maoists surrendering in Sukma, alongside a major crackdown resulting in the deaths of two top Maoist leaders and the arrest of 22 others in Bijapur. The surrendered Maoists, inspired by a government rehabilitation scheme, included individuals with substantial bounties on their heads, highlighting the growing disillusionment

with Maoist ideology. Concurrently, operations led to the recovery of arms, explosives, and incriminating materials, showcasing the effectiveness of joint efforts by the Central Reserve Police Force and local police in combating left-wing extremism. The recent reduction in affected districts from 38 to 18 indicates a strategic success in the government's campaign to mitigate Maoist influence, reinforcing the commitment to restoring stability and development in affected regions.

Army Jawan Arrested for Online Training Linked to Jalandhar Attack

18-Apr-25

A soldier from the Sikh Light Infantry, Sepoy Sukhcharan Singh, has been arrested for allegedly providing online training to the main accused of a grenade attack on a Jalandhar-based YouTuber, which was claimed by a Pakistani gangster. Singh, who has served in the Army for eight years, including a stint in Jammu and Kashmir, faces scrutiny for his potential radicalization and the lapses that allowed his involvement. The incident raises serious concerns about internal security and the effectiveness of vetting processes within the Army, especially with the upcoming release of Agniveers. Punjab has seen a rise in grenade attacks, attributed to external influences and local gangs, amplifying the need for stricter monitoring and counterintelligence measures to safeguard national security.

Amit Shah Pledges to Eradicate Naxalism by 2026, Praises CRPF

18-Apr-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that Naxalism will be eradicated by March 31, 2026, crediting the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) as the backbone of this mission. He highlighted the significant reduction of violence in Naxal-affected areas by over 70% due to the CRPF's operations, especially by the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA). Shah praised the sacrifices made by CRPF personnel and emphasized their crucial role in ensuring national security across various regions. The CRPF, established in 1950, continues to be instrumental in counter-insurgency efforts and maintaining India's unity and integrity, reinforcing the commitment to a violence-free future.

FBI Arrests Khalistani Terrorist Happy Passia Linked to Punjab Attacks

18-Apr-25

Happy Passia, a Khalistani terrorist linked to 14 grenade attacks in Punjab, was arrested by the FBI in the US. He is associated with the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and Pakistan's ISI, having orchestrated a wave of violence aimed at destabilizing Punjab through incidents involving IEDs and grenade blasts since late 2024. His activities included direct communications with ISI handlers and the use of burner phones to evade capture. The arrests highlight the effective collaboration between Indian and international security agencies in combating cross-border terrorism. Indian authorities are expected to seek his extradition, which would aid in dismantling the BKI's network and addressing the ongoing threat posed by Khalistani operatives, showcasing the resilience of India's security forces in countering terrorism.

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

18-Apr-25

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is establishing a new CoBRA battalion for counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir, as confirmed by CRPF DG Gyanendra Pratap Singh during the force's 86th Raising Day. This will be the 11th CoBRA unit, specifically designed for jungle warfare and guerilla tactics, enhancing operational capabilities in areas prone to terrorist activities. The initiative aligns with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's directive and aims to improve security in the region. The CoBRA battalion's modern training, advanced equipment, and strategic focus on intelligence-driven operations underscore India's commitment to counter-terrorism and national security in a challenging environment.

US Accuses Chinese Firm of Supporting Huthi Attacks in Yemen

18-Apr-25

The US State Department has accused a Chinese satellite company, Chang Guang Satellite Technology, of aiding Yemen's Huthi rebels in attacks on American interests. These allegations come amid ongoing US military strikes targeting Huthi positions, particularly a fuel port used to finance their operations. The Huthis have escalated attacks in the Red Sea, affecting vital shipping routes. The situation highlights China's contentious role in global geopolitics, with implications for regional stability and US foreign policy. As the US intensifies military action against the Huthis, it

underscores the complex dynamics of alliances and security in the region, emphasizing the need for India to remain vigilant in its defense strategy.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Army and DECC Join Forces to Empower Youth Employment in Kashmir SHARE

18-Apr-25

In a significant initiative to empower the youth of Kashmir, the District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC) Baramulla collaborated with the Indian Army's Chinara Corps to host a Mega Job Fair at the Chinara YUVA Centre. The event attracted numerous job seekers and featured representatives from 28 prominent companies, offering diverse employment opportunities across various sectors. The General Officer Commanding commended the event's success in connecting local youth with employers and emphasized the Army's commitment to fostering peace and development in the region through skill-building and entrepreneurship. This initiative underscores the Army's crucial role in integrating Kashmir's youth into the mainstream economy, thus contributing to national development.

IAF Corporal's Body Recovered After Drowning in Assam River SHARE

18-Apr-25

The body of Indian Air Force corporal Sachin Rohil, who went missing after drowning in the Bharali River in Assam's Sonitpur district, was recovered by the 59 Bn ITBP during a search operation. The incident occurred on Monday morning, prompting a swift response led by Assistant Commandant Gambhir Singh Chauhan. This unfortunate event underscores the risks faced by IAF personnel during their service, highlighting the need for robust safety measures in diverse operational environments. The recovery operation reflects the commitment and efficiency of India's defense forces in ensuring accountability and support for their members, even in tragic circumstances.

Retired colonel and wife scammed of ₹49 lakh in digital fraud SHARE

18-Apr-25

A retired Indian Army colonel and his wife were duped of ₹49 lakh in a sophisticated "digital arrest" scam in Himachal Pradesh, where cybercriminals impersonated a Mumbai Crime Branch officer. The couple, under

continuous video supervision from the fraudster, transferred funds under threats related to alleged misuse of their Aadhaar for illegal activities. The incident highlights the growing danger of cyber fraud, particularly targeting vulnerable individuals such as retired military personnel. Authorities emphasize the need for vigilance and awareness, urging victims to immediately contact law enforcement if faced with such scams, as illustrated by the colonel's unfortunate experience.

Miscellaneous

IAF Declares No-Fly Zone for Spectacular Ranchi Air Show SHARE

18-Apr-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to showcase its remarkable aerial prowess in Ranchi with an air show featuring the prestigious Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team on April 19 and 20. This event marks a historic moment for Ranchi, as it will include thrilling maneuvers performed by 10 Hawk jets, with the show scheduled to run from 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM each day. To ensure public safety, the Ranchi district administration has declared a 200-meter no-fly zone around the venue, restricting the use of drones, paragliders, and hot air balloons during this period. The local authorities have also implemented additional safety measures, including adjusting flight schedules at the Ranchi Airport, which will be completely closed for the air show duration. The event is part of the IAF's outreach program aimed at inspiring youth and fostering a spirit of appreciation for the armed forces. It is expected to attract significant attendance, including students, with the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal A.P. Singh, in attendance, emphasizing the importance of showcasing the IAF's capabilities and discipline to the public. This air show not only highlights the technical excellence of the IAF but also serves as a celebration of its commitment to national security and community engagement.

India and China to Restart Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and Flights SHARE

18-Apr-25

India and China are poised to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and flight services, reflecting efforts to mend bilateral ties following the disengagement of troops at key friction points along the Line of Actual Control. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed that preparations are underway for the Yatra after a hiatus since 2020, with both nations'

civil aviation authorities coordinating on technical arrangements. This development comes after a series of diplomatic meetings aimed at stabilizing relations post-Galwan clashes, highlighting a renewed commitment to dialogue and people-to-people exchanges, vital for fostering long-term peace and cooperation in the region.

All-women crew of INSV Tarini triumphantly returns after Cape of Good Hope crossing



18-Apr-25

The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini, crewed by two women officers, is returning to Goa after successfully crossing the Cape of Good Hope amidst challenging conditions, including high winds and large waves. This journey, part of Navika Sagar Parikrama II, highlights India's commitment to promoting women's roles in maritime exploration. The vessel's port call at Cape Town not only served as a logistical stop but also facilitated diplomatic outreach, underscoring India's growing influence in global maritime affairs. The crew's remarkable achievement demonstrates exceptional seamanship and resilience, setting a new benchmark for Indian sailing and inspiring national pride.

Indian Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla Set for May Space Mission



18-Apr-25

Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is poised to travel to the International Space Station in May as part of the Axiom-4 mission, marking a significant step in India's human spaceflight ambitions. This mission, highlighted by Union Minister Jitendra Singh, emphasizes operational readiness and global integration, contrasting with past symbolic flights. Shukla's experience is expected to enhance India's capabilities in space operations, contributing to the Gaganyaan mission. With ISRO's upcoming satellite launches and the Test Vehicle-D2 mission to simulate escape scenarios, India's commitment to becoming a leader in space technology and fostering international partnerships is firmly established, showcasing its vision of a developed and self-reliant nation.

Army Chief Gen Dwivedi Honors Veterans and Meets CM Yadav



18-Apr-25

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi met Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav at Samatva Bhavan, where he presented a Radha Krishna statue. The visit also included the 'Veteran Achievers Award'

ceremony, honoring five distinguished veterans for their significant contributions to society, including efforts in veterans' welfare and education. The awards highlighted the Indian Army's commitment to its veterans, recognizing their ongoing societal impact and advocating for ex-servicemen's rights and welfare initiatives. This engagement reflects the Army's dedication to fostering ties with local governance and supporting veterans' roles in nation-building.

Rajnath Singh Unveils Maharana Pratap Statue, Advocates Defense Self-Reliance



18-Apr-25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar to unveil a statue of Maharana Pratap, celebrating India's historical valor. He emphasized the need for India to reduce reliance on global supply chains in defense manufacturing, advocating for a shift from the 'Just-in-Time' model to a 'Just-in-Case' approach, which includes maintaining essential inventories and local production. Singh highlighted the government's commitment to fostering self-reliance in the defense sector, contrasting it with previous administrations' skepticism about India's potential. This proactive strategy aims to enhance India's defense capabilities and independence in manufacturing critical components, reflecting a significant shift in defense policy.

Polo Returns to Hyderabad with Army-Hosted Exhibition Match



18-Apr-25

An exhibition polo match between the Hyderabad Polo & Riding Club and the 61st Cavalry Regiment of the Indian Army recently took place at the Bison Polo Ground in Secunderabad, marking a significant return of polo to Hyderabad. Organized by the Telangana & Andhra Sub Area and the Secunderabad Cantonment Board, the event highlighted the Indian Army's commitment to promoting equestrian sports and fostering community engagement. Lieutenant General Karandeep Singh Brar inaugurated the match, reinforcing the city's stature as a premier polo destination in India. This event not only celebrates tradition but also strengthens ties between the armed forces and the local community, showcasing the Indian Army's multifaceted role beyond defense.

US-Iran Nuclear Talks: Billionaire Diplomat at the Center



18-Apr-25

Billionaire Steve Witkoff, founder of Witkoff Group and longtime Trump ally and golf partner, former chairman of Trump's Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups, was appointed US Special Envoy to the Middle East in November 2024 despite lacking diplomatic experience, and has leveraged his business acumen and rapport with Trump and senior advisers like Susie Wiles to push for tougher nuclear restrictions on Iran, warning that failure could lead to military strikes; his background includes high-stakes Gaza ceasefire negotiations and informal Ukraine talks with Russian officials. In contrast, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, a veteran diplomat and former ambassador to Finland and Japan, served as chief negotiator in the 2013–2015 P5+1 talks under Rouhani and is trusted by hard-liners and reformists to negotiate pragmatically, recently urging Washington to adopt realistic demands ahead of talks in Rome and securing Russia's mediating support after meetings with Lavrov and Putin at Khamenei's behest. The outcome of their first round in Oman and upcoming second round in Rome carries high stakes for regional security and Israel's concerns over Iran's enrichment ambitions, with US leaders like Marco Rubio stressing that while a peaceful resolution is preferred, military options remain if Iran does not comply.

JD Vance's India Visit: Strengthening Ties with PM Modi and Cultural Diplomacy



18-Apr-25

JD Vance's visit to India, including a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to enhance economic and geopolitical ties between the two nations amid global trade tensions. The discussions will focus on advancing a trade pact anticipated to yield positive outcomes in the near term. Additionally, the trip underscores cultural diplomacy, with the Vance family visiting iconic sites like the Taj Mahal and Jaipur, reinforcing personal connections and people-to-people ties. This visit not only highlights the strategic partnership between the U.S. and India but also emphasizes the shared values of democracy and cultural heritage that bind the two nations.

Shift Indian Startups from Convenience to Deep Tech Innovation



18-Apr-25

At the Startup Mahakumbh event in Mumbai, Union Minister Piyush Goyal emphasized the need for the Indian startup ecosystem to shift focus from convenience-based services to deep tech innovation, contrasting it with China's tech landscape. Akhil Sharma, founder of Armur AI, supported this view, arguing that Indian startups often prioritize quick exits over deep, defensible innovations. He highlighted the necessity for a cultural shift towards problem-solving, the importance of patient capital for deep tech ventures, and the role of engineers in addressing complex challenges. Sharma advocates for a commitment to tackling hard problems to transform India into a true innovation powerhouse.

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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
ADANIENIT	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