



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

February 18,2025 | Day 049

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
COCHINSHIP	1235.0	1216.35	+1.53%
SIKA	2229.9	2197.85	+1.46%
PTC	143.57	142.04	+1.08%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
ZENTEC	972.0	1080.0	-10.0%
KRISHNADEF	547.3	608.1	-10.0%
TANEJAERO	286.9	317.4	-9.61%
AVANTEL	101.44	108.69	-6.67%
APOLLO	106.05	113.3	-6.4%

Defense Business and Industry

Indian Army Unveils Indigenous Kamikaze Drone to Boost Offense



18-Feb-25

The Indian Army showcased an advanced indigenous kamikaze drone at IIT Jammu, capable of carrying payloads of 150 to 300 grams and operating in various conditions. This development emphasizes India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities and reducing reliance on foreign technology, amidst criticism of drone policies highlighted by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi using a Chinese drone. The Drone Federation of India pointed out the industry's growth, with over 400 companies contributing to the ecosystem, affirming the government's supportive stance since 2021 on regulations and technology. This reinforces India's ambition to emerge as a global drone hub, showcasing domestic innovation and resilience against external criticisms.

KSSL Set to Secure Major ATAGS Order from Indian Army Soon



18-Feb-25

Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (KSSL) is set to receive a significant order for 185 Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS) from the Indian Army, following its successful bid as the lowest bidder. The ATAGS, developed with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Tata Group, is crucial for modernizing India's artillery capabilities, featuring enhanced range and mobility. Furthermore, Bharat Forge has introduced a new towed gun system, independent of Israeli designs, highlighting India's push

for self-reliance in defense manufacturing. The ATAGS has already attracted international interest, showcasing India's potential as a credible player in the global defense market and reinforcing the strategic partnership between the government and domestic defense industry to boost indigenous production capabilities.

India's AMCA Aircraft Undergoes Design Overhaul After Stress Tests



18-Feb-25

India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is set for a critical design overhaul following stress tests that revealed the need for modifications to support 100% of projected loads. Displayed at Aero India 2025, the AMCA's design changes, necessitated by insights from finite element method testing, will lead to an updated Critical Design Review, concluding in April 2025. Consequently, the start of metal-cutting activities has been postponed to late 2025, after previous expectations for 2024. This commitment to rigorous testing and design integrity highlights India's dedication to developing a reliable and advanced air combat capability, crucial for its future defense strategy.

ePlane Secures \$1B Deal for 788 Electric Air Ambulances



18-Feb-25

The ePlane Company, an Indian electric aircraft startup, has secured a deal worth over \$1 billion to supply 788 electric air ambulances to ICATT, aiming to enhance urban transport amid increasing traffic congestion. This innovative electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) project plans to initiate commercial operations by late 2026, starting with 100 units annually and featuring a range of 110 to 200 kilometers. The initiative demonstrates India's growing eVTOL sector and

commitment to leveraging technology for improved healthcare access. By focusing on air ambulances, ePlane's strategy allows a gradual ramp-up of operations, showcasing a pragmatic approach to urban mobility challenges in the country.

HAL and Saab Join Forces to Manufacture LWS-310 in India



18-Feb-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Sweden's Saab have partnered to manufacture the Electronic Warfare Laser Warning System-310 (LWS-310) in India, marking a significant step in India's indigenous defense manufacturing. This collaboration, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding during Aero India 2025, will enable HAL to produce the LWS-310 with technology transfer from Saab, supporting the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives. The system enhances threat detection and situational awareness for Indian combat vehicles, integrating with various military platforms. Saab's continued investment in local production underlines its commitment to strengthening India's defense capabilities and ensuring long-term supply security for the Armed Forces.

India's Defense Industry Set for Major Growth, Says Defense Secretary



18-Feb-25

The Indian defense industry is poised for significant expansion, as highlighted by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, who emphasized the government's commitment to developing a technologically advanced and combat-ready force. The focus is on enhancing public-private partnerships, streamlining acquisition processes, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders to boost indigenous production under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. With defense exports skyrocketing and budget allocations set to increase, the aim is to create a dynamic and responsive industrial ecosystem that accommodates new technologies and players, thereby strengthening India's strategic capabilities in a complex geopolitical landscape. The defense ministry is actively seeking to integrate civilian and military sectors to enhance cutting-edge defense technology development.

Check Point Software opens R&D center in Bengaluru, hires 100 engineers



18-Feb-25

Check Point Software Technologies, an Israel-based cybersecurity firm, has established its first R&D centre in the APAC region in Bengaluru, aiming to hire 100

engineers and focusing on AI-driven threat prevention and next-gen cyber defense. This strategic expansion highlights India's growing reputation as a global technology powerhouse and a key player in cybersecurity innovation. The centre is expected to enhance Check Point's core product lines and contribute to secure connectivity for enterprises worldwide, reflecting the company's commitment to leveraging India's tech talent and reinforcing its investment in global cybersecurity advancements. This development further solidifies India's role in the rapidly evolving cybersecurity landscape.

Indian Firms Quietly Emerging as Key Players in Aerospace Industry



18-Feb-25

Indian aerospace firms are rapidly gaining prominence as global manufacturers grapple with supply chain issues exacerbated by the pandemic. Companies like Hical Technologies and JJG Aero are expanding significantly, while Airbus and Rolls-Royce recognize India as a crucial player, with substantial contracts awarded to Indian suppliers. The Indian government's initiatives like Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat aim to enhance self-reliance in defense manufacturing, and the civil aviation sector is projected to capture 10% of the global supply chain market by 2033. With growing domestic demand fueled by major airlines, India is set to become a strategic partner in the aerospace industry, potentially revolutionizing its role in global supply chains.

MKU Unveils Advanced Kavro Doma 360 Ballistic Helmets for Army



18-Feb-25

MKU Limited has officially inducted the Kavro Doma 360 ballistic helmet into service, specifically designed to protect against high-caliber threats, including AK-47 rounds, while minimizing blunt impact trauma with a back face signature of less than 20 mm. Weighing between 1.45 kg and 1.8 kg, the helmet features advanced specifications such as a lightweight design, all-weather resistance, and a modular accessory connector system for enhanced versatility. By fulfilling the Indian Army's requirement for 80,000 helmets and aiming to penetrate European and American markets, this development underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing and highlights significant advancements in soldier safety technologies.

HAL Chief: Focus on Delivering TEJAS MK-1A, Not Criticism

📱 SHARE

18-Feb-25

Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Singh expressed dissatisfaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) over delays in delivering the TEJAS MK-1A fighter jets, which are crucial for the Indian Air Force (IAF) amid a shrinking squadron strength. HAL Chairman DK Sunil acknowledged these delays, attributing them to supply chain issues, particularly with engine manufacturing, while emphasizing HAL's commitment to the IAF's needs. Despite progress in hardware integration, ACM Singh called for a "drastic change" in HAL's operational approach to meet urgent defense requirements. The urgency for these aircraft highlights the challenges of India's defense indigenization efforts, underscoring the need for improved production timelines and operational efficiency.

Rolls-Royce Proposes Full IP Ownership for India's Jet Engine Development

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18-Feb-25

Rolls-Royce is pursuing a strategic partnership with India for co-developing a fighter jet engine, proposing complete ownership of intellectual property (IP) rights for India, which contrasts with competitors offering partial IP transfers. This collaboration aims to enhance India's defense indigenization under initiatives like "Make in India" and entails establishing local production facilities and support for engine testing. Rolls-Royce plans to double its sourcing from India by 2030 and has a longstanding relationship with the Indian Armed Forces, which underscores its commitment to bolstering India's defense capabilities. This partnership represents a significant step toward self-reliance in defense technology, aligning with India's geopolitical aspirations amidst regional tensions.

Goyal and Lockheed Martin Explore Aircraft Manufacturing in India

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18-Feb-25

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met with Lockheed Martin's delegation, led by President Michael Williamson, to discuss opportunities for aircraft manufacturing in India. This initiative aims to bolster the Make in India program within the aerospace and defense sectors. Strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities aligns with India's strategic goal of enhancing self-reliance in defense production, while also fostering collaboration with leading global defense firms. Such partnerships not only boost India's

defense ecosystem but also create jobs and promote technological advancements, further solidifying India's position in the global defense market. This move underscores India's commitment to becoming a significant player in aerospace manufacturing.

AWEIL and L&T Join Forces to Advance India's Mounted Gun System

📱 SHARE

18-Feb-25

Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) has partnered with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for the Mounted Gun System (MGS) programme, addressing the Indian Army's need for 814 units to modernize its artillery. This collaboration emphasizes India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing under the Make in India initiative, with the MGS offering a blend of mobility and firepower. L&T's expertise in advanced systems enhances the Dhanush artillery platform, previously inducted into the Army, showcasing India's technological capabilities. The partnership builds on L&T's successful delivery of K9 Vajra-T guns, reinforcing confidence in its ability to execute large-scale defense projects efficiently.

Data Patterns Launches Talon Shield: Advanced EW Kit for Su-30 MKI

📱 SHARE

18-Feb-25

Data Patterns has unveiled the Talon Shield, an indigenous electronic warfare kit for India's Su-30 MKI fighter jets, enhancing their survivability and combat effectiveness amid rising security challenges from China and Pakistan. This high-band jammer is designed to counter advanced enemy radar and communication systems, making it a critical asset for the Indian Air Force (IAF). The Talon Shield complements ongoing upgrades to the Su-30 MKI fleet, including advanced avionics and weaponry, and reflects India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology. Moreover, the healthy competition among domestic entities developing EW solutions fosters innovation, ensuring the IAF remains equipped with cutting-edge capabilities to maintain air superiority.

Russia Proposes Local Su-57E Manufacturing with Tech Transfer

📱 SHARE

18-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, Russia has proposed a significant offer to India for local manufacturing of the Su-57E fighter jet, including a comprehensive Transfer of Technology (ToT) that allows for customization with indigenous systems. This initiative aligns with India's

defense modernization and Make in India objectives, serving as an interim solution while the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is developed. The offer emphasizes flexibility, enabling India to integrate its own avionics and weaponry, while the engine options, including the advanced AL-51, could enhance performance. This strategic collaboration could bolster India's self-reliance goals and strengthen defense capabilities amid evolving regional dynamics.

DRDO's APS Radar for Arjun Mk1A and FMBT Set for Trials [SHARE](#)

18-Feb-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has reached a significant milestone with the development of an indigenous Active Protection System (APS) Radar for the Arjun Mk1A Main Battle Tank and the Future Main Battle Tank (FMBT), enhancing India's armored warfare capabilities. This advanced radar system, ready for trials, can detect and track threats like anti-tank guided missiles, ensuring crew safety and vehicle effectiveness in high-threat environments. The APS Radar features a state-of-the-art X-Band AESA design, integrated communication, and extended detection range, reinforcing India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, and positioning the FMBT as a next-generation platform.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

India Open to F-35 Purchase from US with Formal Proposal [SHARE](#)

18-Feb-25

India is considering the acquisition of F-35 Lightning II stealth fighter jets from the United States, contingent on a formal proposal being submitted, as announced by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. This potential procurement aligns with India's defense modernization efforts and budgetary provisions of Rs 1,80,000 crore for the upcoming financial year. The deal may follow a government-to-government framework akin to the Rafale jets procurement and include 2-3 squadrons (36-54 jets), but delivery may not start until 2029, posing a concern for immediate operational capability. The F-35 acquisition is seen as a stop-gap measure until India's indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program reaches full operational readiness, expected around 2034-35. Overall, while the F-35 deal could significantly enhance India's air power, the timeline and stringent technology safeguards from

the U.S. present challenges that need to be navigated carefully.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

PM Modi Welcomes Qatar's Amir, Strengthening Strategic Ties [SHARE](#)

18-Feb-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi warmly welcomed Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar, at Delhi's airport, highlighting the close diplomatic ties between the two nations. This two-day state visit, marking the Amir's second since 2015, includes high-level discussions on trade, investment, energy, technology, and cultural exchanges. A significant Qatari delegation, comprising ministers and business leaders, underscores Qatar's commitment to enhancing economic cooperation with India. The visit is expected to lead to the signing of multiple memoranda of understanding, further solidifying the historically strong partnership built on mutual respect and collaboration. Overall, this engagement not only reflects the deepening bilateral relations but also positions both countries to explore new opportunities in various sectors, enhancing regional stability and economic growth.

Can Europe Transform Defense Commitments into Action? [SHARE](#)

18-Feb-25

European leaders are grappling with the implications of a shifting geopolitical landscape, particularly in light of the U.S. administration's readiness to negotiate with Russia regarding Ukraine, which has prompted discussions on increasing European defense capabilities. Britain signaled its willingness to send peacekeeping troops to Ukraine, highlighting a collective realization among European nations of the need to enhance their security roles, while Germany and Sweden expressed conditional support for troop deployment. The emergency summit in Paris aimed to unify European strategy amidst concerns over resource limitations and potential confrontations with Russia. Amidst this backdrop, the urgency for Europe to redefine its defense posture and invest in military capabilities has become clear, as indecision could lead to further instability in the region.

U.S. and Russia Hold Talks on Ukraine War Without Ukraine



18-Feb-25

Senior officials from Russia and the U.S. met in Saudi Arabia to discuss improving relations and negotiating an end to the Ukraine war, with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio leading the U.S. delegation alongside national security adviser Mike Waltz. The talks, which excluded Ukrainian officials, are described as a significant move in U.S.-Russian relations, with both sides aiming to restore bilateral ties and address global conflicts. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy expressed that Ukraine would not recognize any agreements made without its participation. The meeting underscores Saudi Arabia's emerging role as a diplomatic mediator, enhancing its international stature while navigating complex geopolitical tensions. This development highlights the delicate balance in international diplomacy and the necessity for inclusive negotiations to ensure a lasting resolution to the conflict in Ukraine.

Bangladesh Border Guard Delegation Arrives for Talks with BSF



18-Feb-25

A high-level delegation from the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has arrived in Delhi for bi-lateral talks with the Border Security Force (BSF), focusing on issues such as border fencing and attacks on Indian personnel. This meeting is significant as it marks the first top-level interaction following the change in Bangladesh's government. The discussions will address trans-border crimes, the construction of border fences, and enhanced coordination between the two forces to combat security challenges. Despite previous tensions over border issues, India emphasizes a cooperative approach to improve security and manage the lengthy India-Bangladesh border effectively, demonstrating a commitment to regional stability and security collaboration.

Pak General Warns: India's F-35 Bid May Escalate Tensions



18-Feb-25

Recent discussions around India's potential acquisition of F-35 fighter jets have prompted strong reactions from Pakistan and China. Major General Zahid Mahmood (R) of the Pakistani Army warned that such a move would significantly shift the strategic balance and could lead to escalated military operations in contentious regions like Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Foreign Office and foreign minister voiced concerns over the transfer of advanced

military technology to India, fearing it would exacerbate military imbalances. India's Foreign Secretary clarified that while discussions about the F-35 are ongoing, no formal process has begun, indicating a cautious approach amid rising military capabilities in both Pakistan and China. The geopolitical implications are profound, as India's pursuit of advanced air capabilities aims to counterbalance China's military advancements, underscoring the contentious dynamics in South Asia.

US F-35 Offer to India vs. Turkey's Sanctions: A Double Standard?



18-Feb-25

Turkish analysts criticize the U.S. for hypocrisy in offering India the F-35 fighter jet despite India's S-400 acquisition, contrasting it with Turkey's sanctions for the same. They argue this inconsistency reflects a double standard in U.S. foreign policy. However, key differences exist: India's non-NATO status and its strategic role in the Indo-Pacific, particularly countering China, afford it more leverage. The U.S. seeks to strengthen ties with India, recognizing its military and economic significance, while Turkey's NATO commitments create security concerns. Ultimately, U.S. actions are shaped by pragmatic national interests rather than mere hypocrisy.

U.S. Urges Concessions from All Sides in Ukraine Peace Talks



18-Feb-25

U.S. officials, following talks with a Russian delegation in Saudi Arabia, emphasized the necessity for all parties to make concessions to resolve the ongoing Ukraine war. Secretary of State Marco Rubio indicated that this dialogue marks the beginning of a challenging journey toward a fair and sustainable peace agreement that considers the concerns of Ukraine, European allies, and Russia. The U.S. aims to swiftly conclude the conflict, although uncertainties remain about future summits and the specifics of territorial and security discussions. This approach reflects the complex dynamics of international diplomacy, where balancing diverse interests is crucial for long-term stability in the region.

Chinese Helicopter Violates Philippine Patrol Plane's Airspace



18-Feb-25

A Chinese navy helicopter recently flew dangerously close to a Philippine patrol plane over the disputed Scarborough Shoal, escalating tensions in the South China Sea. The Philippine pilot warned the helicopter of safety violations, reaffirming the Philippines'

commitment to asserting its sovereignty in the area. This incident highlights the ongoing territorial standoff involving multiple nations, including Vietnam and Malaysia, as China continues to assert its expansive claims despite a 2016 UN arbitration ruling that invalidated such claims. The Philippine government is expected to formally protest this aggressive maneuver by China, which underscores the volatile dynamics in one of the world's busiest maritime routes.

Jaishankar Engages with Rishi Sunak to Strengthen India-UK Ties

18-Feb-25

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently met with former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Italy's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Maria Tripodi in Delhi, reaffirming India's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations. The discussions emphasized the strategic partnership between India and Italy, celebrating 75 years of diplomatic ties. Jaishankar's engagements reflect India's proactive approach to international diplomacy, leveraging its historical and cultural connections to enhance cooperation with key partners like the UK and Italy. This diplomatic outreach not only bolsters India's global standing but also aligns with its broader defense and strategic objectives in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

NIA nabs two in Karnataka for leaking Karwar naval base secrets to Pakistan

18-Feb-25

The NIA has arrested two individuals in Karnataka for leaking sensitive information about the Karwar Naval Base to Pakistani agencies, allegedly through honey trapping. The accused, Vetana Tandel and Akshay Naik, were found to have sent photographs and details of naval movements in exchange for money, following a probe that began with a previous arrest. This incident raises concerns about internal security and the vulnerability of strategic defense installations. As the Karwar Naval Base, which houses India's aircraft carriers and is set to be the largest in the eastern hemisphere, continues to expand, such espionage attempts highlight the need for stringent security measures within India's defense infrastructure.

Sheikh Hasina accuses Yunus of turning Bangladesh into a terrorism hub.

18-Feb-25

Sheikh Hasina, the ousted Prime Minister of Bangladesh, has accused the interim government led by Mohammed Yunus of transforming the country into a terrorism hub, promising to return and seek justice for families affected by violence. She criticized Yunus for his lack of governance experience and for allowing lawlessness, while Yunus vowed to bring Hasina to justice for her regime's actions. The political turmoil has escalated with the interim government seeking Hasina's extradition from India, amidst student-led protests against the current administration. This situation highlights Bangladesh's internal strife, impacting regional stability and India's interests in a stable neighbor.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

US Tech Giants Boost Israel's Military AI, Raising Ethical Concerns

18-Feb-25

US tech giants, notably Microsoft and OpenAI, have significantly enhanced Israel's military capabilities through AI technologies, enabling rapid target identification following the October 7 Hamas attack. This has raised ethical concerns as civilian casualties have reportedly surged, with the Israeli military asserting that AI tools improve operational accuracy while minimizing collateral damage. Despite claims of enhancing intelligence processes, the potential for erroneous targeting due to flawed AI models highlights the risks involved. The collaboration between tech firms and militaries underscores a complex intersection of technology and warfare, suggesting that robust oversight is essential to mitigate the implications of such advancements on human rights and civilian safety.

Microsoft Invests \$700M to Strengthen Poland's Cybersecurity

18-Feb-25

Microsoft has announced plans to invest an additional \$700 million in Poland to enhance the country's cybersecurity capabilities in collaboration with its armed forces. This investment follows the completion of a \$1 billion data centre project initiated in 2020, which was opened in 2023 and provides cloud services to both businesses and government institutions. The

move underscores the growing importance of cyber defense in the region, reflecting a strategic partnership between private tech firms and national security interests. This collaboration potentially strengthens Poland's defense infrastructure and serves as a model for similar initiatives in allied nations, including India, where tech partnerships are increasingly vital for national security.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Tragic Water Tank Accident Claims Lives of Two JCOs in Ladakh

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18-Feb-25

Two Junior Commissioned Officers, Subedar Santosh Kumar and Naib-Subedar Sunil Kumar, tragically lost their lives in a water tank accident at a camp in Nyoma, Ladakh. The Northern Army commander, Lt Gen Suchindra Kumar, and the Fire and Fury Corps paid heartfelt tributes to the fallen soldiers, acknowledging their supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. As an investigation is underway, the army's response highlights its commitment to honoring the contributions of its personnel, reinforcing the supportive culture within the Indian Armed Forces. This incident underscores the inherent risks faced by soldiers even in peacetime, emphasizing the valor and dedication of those serving in challenging environments like Ladakh.

Inaugural Army Conference on Musculoskeletal Rehab & Sports Injuries Held in Delhi

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18-Feb-25

The first-ever Inter-Command Conference on Musculoskeletal Rehab & Sports Injury was held at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral) in Delhi, attended by over 200 delegates and 39 speakers from prominent institutions. The conference emphasized global best practices in rehabilitation and sports medicine, highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary approaches for patient satisfaction. Vice Admiral Arti Sarin underscored the need for evidence-based practices and advanced technology in rehabilitation, while Lt Gen Shankar Narayan called for a unified effort to enhance skills in this critical field. This initiative reflects the Indian Armed Forces' commitment to holistic healthcare and the improvement of service members' physical well-being.

Miscellaneous

NTPC to Invest \$62 Billion in 30 GW Nuclear Power Expansion

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18-Feb-25

NTPC, India's leading state power company, plans to significantly expand its nuclear power capacity to 30 GW over two decades, tripling its initial target, with an investment of \$62 billion. This ambitious initiative aligns with India's goal of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel generation by 2030 and 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047. In response to government plans to attract private and foreign investment in the nuclear sector, NTPC is exploring international partnerships for small modular reactors. Amendments to existing laws are anticipated to facilitate this expansion, addressing previous barriers to private investment and collaboration with foreign suppliers, enhancing India's energy security and diversification.

Ex-Navy officer Purnendu Tiwary's case ongoing in Qatar court

[SHARE](#)

18-Feb-25

Former Indian Navy officer Purnendu Tiwary remains in Qatar due to a sub-judice case, despite being freed from death-row charges alongside seven compatriots last year. While seven officials returned to India after their sentences were commuted, Tiwary's case involves unrelated legal matters, as clarified by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. The episode highlights the complexities of international diplomacy, with around 600 Indians currently imprisoned in Qatar and ongoing discussions on their welfare. Prime Minister Modi's meeting with the Qatari Amir did not address Tiwary's situation, indicating the intricate balance in addressing diplomatic issues while maintaining relations.

Hamas to release 6 Israeli hostages Saturday, 4 bodies Thursday

[SHARE](#)

18-Feb-25

Hamas announced it will release six living Israeli hostages on Saturday and four bodies, including those of the Bibas family, on Thursday, amidst the ongoing conflict that began with their attack on October 7, 2023. This release is part of a ceasefire agreement that has momentarily halted intense hostilities, enabling humanitarian aid to reach Gaza and facilitating the return of many Palestinians. The situation remains tense, with negotiations for a second phase involving additional hostages and potential ceasefire terms still

pending. The hostage exchanges reflect the complexities of the conflict and highlight Israel's ongoing concern for its citizens in captivity while dealing with a significant humanitarian situation.

ISRO Develops SOLVE Rocket to Test Gaganyaan Parachutes



18-Feb-25

ISRO is advancing its Gaganyaan mission by building the SOLVE rocket to test parachute systems essential for safe astronaut landings. The parachute system, critical for a safe water landing post-re-entry, includes drogue and main parachutes, with integrated tests successfully conducted. The Gaganyaan spacecraft will also feature a launch escape system, and upcoming tests aim to evaluate its performance under various conditions. ISRO's rigorous testing, including the recent static test of a human-rated solid rocket booster, highlights India's commitment to ensuring the success of its human spaceflight initiative, showcasing its capabilities in advanced aerospace technology and safety measures.

Tesla Starts Hiring in India After Modi-Musk Meeting



18-Feb-25

Tesla has initiated hiring in India following a meeting between PM Modi and Elon Musk, which focused on trade and investment opportunities, signaling a potential collaboration with the Indian government. The company is looking to fill several roles, including service technicians and customer support specialists, primarily in Mumbai and Delhi. This move comes after India reduced its customs duty on high-end electric cars, facilitating Tesla's entry into the growing Indian EV market, which is becoming increasingly significant as global sales decline. As Tesla aims to establish a foothold in one of the largest automotive markets, this hiring marks a crucial step forward for both the company and the Indian economy.

Low-Intensity Blast in Batala: No Casualties, Security Concerns Rise



18-Feb-25

A low-intensity explosion occurred in Raimal village, Batala, Punjab, causing panic but no casualties. The explosion, which damaged the exterior of a house linked to a police relative, reflects a troubling trend of recent attacks targeting police establishments in the region. With multiple incidents reported in Amritsar and Gurdaspur over the last three months, this raises concerns about security and potential threats to law

enforcement personnel. Ongoing investigations aim to uncover the cause and prevent future occurrences, highlighting the need for enhanced vigilance in maintaining public safety and countering any emerging threats in Punjab.

Congress Clarifies Pitroda's China Comments Don't Reflect Party Views



18-Feb-25

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh clarified that senior leader Sam Pitroda's recent remarks on China do not represent the party's views, emphasizing Congress's long-standing concern about Prime Minister Modi's approach to China, particularly referencing the Galwan clashes. BJP spokespersons criticized Pitroda's statements as disrespectful to Indian soldiers and questioned Congress's loyalty to the nation versus China, highlighting past ties between the two. The BJP accused Congress of undermining India's sovereignty, with Ramesh calling for parliamentary discussions on national security challenges. This controversy reflects ongoing tensions in Indian politics regarding national security and foreign policy, particularly concerning China.

Amit Shah reviews new criminal laws' implementation in J-K.



18-Feb-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently reviewed the implementation status of new criminal laws in Jammu and Kashmir, alongside Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Despite law and order being under Central government jurisdiction since the 2019 bifurcation of the erstwhile state into union territories, Abdullah's participation underscores the collaborative effort between local and central authorities in governance. This meeting reflects the Indian government's commitment to law reform and stability in the region, aiming to enhance security and judicial efficiency in Jammu and Kashmir. Overall, this initiative is vital for reinforcing rule of law and fostering a sense of normalcy in the union territory.

Sunny Deol and Varun Dhawan gear up for "Border 2" atop a tank



18-Feb-25

The upcoming film "Border 2," directed by Anurag Singh and featuring stars Sunny Deol and Varun Dhawan, focuses on the valorous events of the Kargil War in 1999. Set in Jhansi, the movie showcases a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the actors atop a tank, emphasizing

themes of action, legacy, and patriotism. The original "Border," released in 1997, was based on the Battle of Longewala and is well-regarded for its portrayal of Indian military valor. "Border 2" is anticipated to resonate similarly, celebrating India's military history and sacrifice, with a release date set for January 23, 2026.

Suspicious objects linked to IEDs found in J&K's Shopian, Tral



18-Feb-25

In Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian and Tral areas, security forces discovered two suspicious objects potentially linked to improvised explosive devices (IEDs), prompting immediate cordoning and bomb disposal efforts. This incident occurs amid intensified anti-terror operations by the Indian security forces, directed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, aimed at eradicating the terror ecosystem and preventing infiltration from across the Line of Control (LoC). Intelligence reports indicate that terrorists are poised to infiltrate, taking advantage of unseasonably open mountain routes. Recent skirmishes have seen casualties on both sides, but a ceasefire remains largely intact since the renewed agreement in February 2021.

Adani Explores Tarapur Nuclear Site: A Step Towards Energy Independence



18-Feb-25

Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, visited the Tarapur Nuclear Site to explore nuclear power technology and its operational aspects, indicating a significant interest in the energy sector. The visit included a detailed briefing on India's nuclear power program and safety measures, highlighting its strategic importance in the country's energy transition. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's proposal to open the nuclear sector to private players and the introduction of a Rs 20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission further emphasize the government's commitment to enhancing nuclear energy capabilities. This initiative could bolster India's energy independence and support its transition to cleaner energy sources.

NIOT's Matsya-6000 Submersible Boosts India's Deep-Sea Exploration



18-Feb-25

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is advancing India's deep-sea exploration capabilities with

the development of the Matsya-6000 submersible, which can dive to depths of 6,000 meters. Following successful dry tests, the project has entered its critical wet testing phase, including five manned and five unmanned dives at L&T Shipbuilding in Kattupalli. These tests have validated the submersible's power, control systems, flotation stability, and human support mechanisms. The success of Matsya-6000 not only enhances India's technological prowess in underwater exploration but also positions the country as a significant player in marine science and strategic maritime capabilities, fostering national security and scientific research.

CENJOWS Unveils Key Publications on Modern Security Challenges



18-Feb-25

The Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS) has recently released two significant publications aimed at enhancing strategic discourse in defense: the February 2025 issue of its journal "Synergy," focusing on Information Warfare in Joint Warfighting, and a monograph analyzing the Russia-Ukraine War's implications for Europe and India. These works discuss the integration of modern warfare technologies, the geopolitical impacts of the conflict, and India's strategic positioning amid evolving global dynamics. CENJOWS underscores the importance of these resources for policymakers and military professionals, affirming India's commitment to addressing contemporary security challenges through informed analysis and intellectual engagement.

INSV Tarini Completes Navika Sagar Parikrama II at Port Stanley



18-Feb-25

The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini successfully completed the third phase of its Navika Sagar Parikrama II expedition, reaching Port Stanley after navigating through challenging conditions, including three cyclones. This initiative highlights the Indian Navy's commitment to gender empowerment and maritime excellence, as it is crewed by women officers. The expedition not only promotes ocean sailing and self-reliance but also enhances India's global maritime presence and diplomatic efforts. Engaging with local communities during their journey, the expedition serves as an inspiration for greater female participation in maritime and defense sectors, reinforcing India's dedication to fostering worldwide maritime cooperation.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
COCHINSHIP	1216.35	1245.0	1180.2	1235.0	852286	1.53	31.63	1382.42	1785.98
SIKA	2219.6	2337.95	2152.3	2229.9	5662	1.46	43.2	2304.14	2631.96
PTC	141.71	143.9	139.19	143.57	1754579	1.08	52.7	140.1	189.14
LT	3227.0	3241.0	3183.0	3220.15	2428215	-0.05	35.61	3366.05	3583.97
SOLARINDS	8619.95	8664.75	8500.0	8609.2	44527	-0.12	36.03	9323.13	10247.01
ADANIENT	2240.0	2240.0	2166.05	2220.3	1138090	-0.15	41.97	2286.07	2850.29
BHARATFORG	1082.35	1082.75	1051.05	1076.95	976428	-0.53	29.5	1152.2	1455.32
LMW	14200.0	14404.45	14062.6	14206.15	4209	-0.8	26.26	15234.76	16149.88
BEL	249.0	249.75	240.55	244.6	21180375	-1.57	34.01	269.64	289.66
HIGHENE	475.0	478.5	459.5	459.5	12758	-2.09	21.66	517.21	687.64
MTARTECH	1273.0	1276.5	1206.75	1233.9	170497	-2.15	21.85	1501.15	1747.75
DCXINDIA	254.0	257.75	239.0	244.8	626971	-2.55	21.61	306.61	339.12
AZAD	1244.95	1252.0	1175.05	1196.35	283630	-3.15	28.28	1439.61	1594.38
ASTRAMICRO	628.0	632.95	597.0	605.15	313059	-3.32	28.45	693.15	819.87
MARINE	153.03	167.28	151.5	153.68	290777	-3.54	21.46	196.85	216.78
IDEAFORGE	383.5	386.25	366.6	369.35	218822	-3.69	16.0	450.64	655.38
HAL	3475.7	3499.9	3303.0	3344.6	2310841	-3.77	33.47	3696.22	4505.09
ROSSELLIND	62.82	62.82	58.21	58.92	17230	-3.85	21.76	67.41	301.29
BEML	2689.95	2692.9	2556.0	2587.4	322250	-3.87	23.26	3261.81	4002.45
TEMBO	0.0	652.25	652.25	652.25	1728	-3.95	45.54	661.29	466.92
HBLPOWER	479.0	485.0	450.55	457.3	1675762	-4.25	32.25	533.85	577.38
MIDHANI	260.1	266.95	247.0	251.2	573916	-4.32	25.96	298.75	390.92
PARAS	889.95	893.95	834.0	845.2	176891	-4.39	30.85	1004.86	1095.36
LOKESHMACH	189.1	189.35	179.5	183.2	88754	-4.81	18.17	265.32	370.61
NIBE	1122.25	1148.0	1095.35	1095.35	10287	-5.0	30.07	1363.27	1741.12
GRSE	1301.15	1315.0	1210.0	1222.3	815372	-5.59	26.65	1476.36	1702.55
BDL	1068.1	1083.7	1002.0	1009.85	1022536	-5.79	32.16	1191.26	1263.23
PREMEXPLN	361.35	371.2	348.1	353.35	191346	-5.82	32.05	417.27	539.45
MAZDOCK	2087.0	2103.0	1943.5	1961.75	3808456	-5.83	32.27	2240.8	2143.93
CFF	440.0	450.0	400.1	420.0	45000	-6.03	20.29	560.58	654.67
DATAPATNS	1525.0	1547.45	1412.2	1423.75	455016	-6.24	18.82	1920.18	2614.08
APOLLO	113.28	113.86	103.77	106.05	5834768	-6.4	36.05	124.58	108.58
AVANTEL	107.11	111.17	100.1	101.44	1506181	-6.67	21.2	126.18	-
TANEJAERO	317.4	323.9	281.25	286.9	70631	-9.61	26.52	346.24	482.29
KRISHNADEF	610.0	610.0	547.3	547.3	67750	-10.0	32.53	654.9	706.56
ZENTEC	1059.9	1059.9	972.0	972.0	6156201	-10.0	16.21	1583.59	1654.97