



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

July 18, 2025 | Day 199

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
MACPOWER	1071.9	939.65	+14.07%
SWANDEF	291.67	277.79	+5.0%
TECHERA	218.55	208.95	+4.59%
SUNITATOOL	800.0	782.0	+2.3%
AZAD	1634.7	1601.4	+2.08%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
TEMBO	510.0	542.8	-6.04%
DATAPATNS	2757.5	2895.6	-4.77%
BDL	1671.6	1742.9	-4.09%
BEML	4401.5	4547.2	-3.2%
ASTRAMICRO	969.1	1000.4	-3.13%

Defense Business and Industry

Indian Army to receive AK-203 rifles under Rs 5,200 crore deal



18-Jul-25

The Indian Army's ambitious overhaul of its infantry arsenal has taken a major step forward, with Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) accelerating production of the AK-203 assault rifle—branded “Sher” in India—at its Amethi facility under a Rs 5,200 crore contract. As of mid-July 2025, approximately 48,000 rifles have already been supplied, while another 7,000 are set for delivery within weeks and a further 15,000 by December, keeping the project ahead of schedule. The AK-203, a state-of-the-art update to the iconic Kalashnikov family, is expected to fully replace the aging INSAS rifles for frontline troops, especially along the strategically sensitive northern and western borders. The rifles, with a firing rate of 700 rounds per minute and an effective range reaching 800 metres, have been praised for their lighter weight and increased reliability, critical for counter-insurgency and high-altitude operations. IRRPL, a joint venture launched in 2019 between leading Russian and Indian defense entities, has leveraged a 100% transfer of technology, allowing production to become 50% indigenous in 2025 and targeting complete indigenisation by December. Production will soon ramp up to 12,000 rifles monthly, aiming to meet the final target of 601,427 units nearly two years before the original deadline. This achievement highlights India's push for strategic autonomy, domestic manufacturing capability, and the sharpening of its military edge.

India to partner with France on ₹61,000 crore fighter jet engine project.



18-Jul-25

India is set to collaborate with France on a ₹61,000 crore project to develop next-generation fighter jet engines, crucial for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and aimed at achieving self-reliance in defense technologies. The initiative, supported by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, seeks to produce a 120kN thrust engine, a significant leap from current reliance on foreign engines, which has substantial cost implications. The French proposal from Safran stands out due to its commitment to 100% technology transfer, covering all phases of engine development, and is aligned with India's aircraft development timelines. As India navigates defense partnerships post delays in US engine supplies, this collaboration is positioned as a strategic milestone enhancing India's manufacturing ecosystem and potential as a global player in jet engine technology. The project addresses critical gaps in India's defense capabilities, with a long-term vision to develop modular and upgradeable engines, ensuring India's air-power strategy remains robust and autonomous, potentially leading to significant export opportunities once indigenous capabilities are established. Overall, this Indo-French partnership reflects a significant step forward in India's defense modernization efforts, balancing immediate needs with long-term technological sovereignty.

BEML secures Rs 186 crore contract from Defence Ministry for bulldozers



18-Jul-25

BEML secured a contract valued at around Rs 186 crore from the Ministry of Defence for supplying bulldozers, with the announcement made on July 18, 2025. This

move reinforces BEML's role as a key multi-technology public sector company supporting India's defence modernization drive. The Defence Ministry's increased procurement budget for domestic firms in the 2025–26 fiscal year has contributed to growth opportunities for companies like BEML, which also reported its highest-ever profit before tax of Rs 405.43 crore and a net profit of Rs 287.55 crore for Q4 FY2025—nearly a 12% year-on-year increase. Despite temporary volatility in share prices, BEML's robust order book and ongoing partnerships in defence, railways, and construction bolster its growth prospects

India Denies Reports of Developing 12,000 km Bomber Program



18-Jul-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence has firmly denied recent reports (including in this newsletter) claiming the country is developing an ultra-long-range strategic bomber capable of covering 12,000 kilometers. On July 18, senior officials reiterated that there is no sanctioned or ongoing program for such an aircraft and dismissed the stories as baseless and speculative. These reports, widely circulated earlier this week, ignited public debate by comparing India's capabilities to those of the United States and Russia. However, defense analysts and officials stressed that India's priority remains strengthening its fleet of modern fighter jets, drones, and missile systems to address regional security needs. The government emphasized that investment in a costly bomber fleet is neither justified nor aligned with India's current strategic requirements.

DRDO Completes 30kW Laser Weapon Tests, Technology Transfer Ahead



18-Jul-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved a breakthrough with its 30kW Integrated Drone Detection & Interdiction System (IDD&IS Mk-IIA), successfully completing field trials on April 13, 2025, at Kurnool. The laser weapon system, developed by the Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS) in Hyderabad along with multiple DRDO labs and Indian industry, demonstrated precise neutralization of fixed-wing UAVs and drone swarms, disabling surveillance sensors out to 3.5–5km. Following tests, DRDO has initiated technology transfer to private sector firms under its 2025 policy to enable mass production, aligning with the Indian Army's growing demand for advanced counter-drone systems. This effort marks a significant shift toward Atmanirbhar Bharat in defense

manufacturing, reducing reliance on imported systems. The 30kW Mk-IIA builds on previous successes—such as deployment of 2kW Mk-I systems that disabled a Chinese-origin drone near the Line of Control—and places India among a select group of countries including the US and Russia with high-powered directed-energy weapons. DRDO's roadmap includes even more powerful systems, like 50–100kW and 300kW "Surya" lasers for airborne and missile-defense roles, and development of EM pulse and microwave DEWs. These advancements bolster national security, deepen industry partnerships, and enhance India's global defense technology standing.

Indian Navy Develops AI-Driven MUM-T Combat Vessel for Warfare



18-Jul-25

The Indian Navy is advancing its capabilities by developing an AI-based Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T) Combat Command Vessel, designed to function as a mothership coordinating swarms of unmanned vessels for reconnaissance and strike missions. This innovative vessel, with a 1,500-ton displacement, aims to enhance operational effectiveness against larger adversaries, particularly in response to the growing Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean Region. Key features include AI-driven command and control, modular payloads, and swarm attack capabilities. This initiative aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision, underscoring a strategic pivot towards indigenous defense innovation and enhancing maritime domain awareness amid regional threats.

BrahMos missile gains global buyers post Operation Sindoor success.



18-Jul-25

India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile has experienced a surge in global demand following its pivotal use during Operation Sindoor, carried out on the night of May 7–8, 2025. This operation targeted terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir after the deadly attack in Pahalgam on April 22. The missile's precision and strategic impact have attracted a wave of international buyers, cementing its reputation as a premier defense export. In recent days, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh confirmed that over 14 nations are in advanced talks with India for BrahMos acquisitions. The Philippines has already received two missile batteries under a 2022 contract, with further deliveries scheduled this year. Vietnam is finalizing a \$700 million package, while Indonesia is negotiating an

upgraded variant. Other interested countries include Brazil, UAE, Malaysia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and several in Southeast Asia and Latin America. A new BrahMos airspace integration and testing facility was inaugurated in Lucknow earlier this week to accelerate production and export capabilities, underlining India's emergence as a global missile supplier amidst evolving regional security dynamics.

Indian Army Upgrades Smerch MBRL with Cope Cages for Drone Defense



18-Jul-25

The Indian Army is enhancing its BM-30 Smerch Multiple Rocket Launch System (MBRL) with upgraded cope cages to counter the rising threat of kamikaze drones, particularly following experiences in recent conflicts, including Operation Sindoor against Pakistan. These cope cages, designed to neutralize drone threats by triggering warheads prematurely, reflect a proactive response to lessons learned from global conflicts like those in Ukraine. This development is part of a broader modernization strategy, emphasizing indigenous solutions and collaborations with private firms to improve resilience against evolving aerial threats. Overall, this initiative underscores India's commitment to adapting its military capabilities in line with modern warfare dynamics.

Indian Army's Sudarshan Corps Tests Indigenous Counter-Drone Systems



18-Jul-25

The Indian Army's XXI Corps, known as the Sudarshan Chakra Corps, recently tested its indigenous counter-drone systems—Agni, Amber, and Ajeet—at Bhopal Military Station, reflecting a proactive approach to modern aerial threats. These systems, designed for hard-kill and soft-kill capabilities, enhance the Army's air defense on a tactical level, addressing the growing challenge of UAVs in warfare. Lt Gen Prit Pal Singh emphasized the necessity of embracing technology as a critical component of warfare, aligning with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative for self-reliance in defense. This development signals a significant doctrinal shift in India's military strategy, prioritizing homegrown solutions for effective combat readiness.

India Enhances Arjun MK-3 MBT with Advanced AI Technologies



18-Jul-25

India is advancing the Arjun MK-3 main battle tank (MBT), integrating cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence

(AI) to enhance combat capabilities significantly. The tank features an AI-driven fire control system for automatic target recognition and decision-making, along with drone coordination capabilities and advanced electronic warfare suites, making it a formidable asset against adversaries like China and Pakistan. With a powerful 1500 horsepower engine and a digital cockpit that enhances crew efficiency and situational awareness, the Arjun MK-3 is designed to rival Western and Chinese tanks, ensuring India maintains a strategic edge in modern warfare. This development underscores India's commitment to bolstering its defense capabilities through technological innovation.

Russia Enhances Su-57E Offer to India with Drone Integration for IAF



18-Jul-25

Russia has offered India the Su-57E stealth fighter jet integrated with the S-70 Okhotnik-B heavy combat drone, enhancing the Indian Air Force's (IAF) deep-strike capabilities through Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUMT). This combination allows for advanced operations, including intelligence, surveillance, and precision strikes, while mitigating risks to manned aircraft. The proposed systems could bolster India's strategic deterrent against regional threats, particularly from advanced air defense systems used by China and Pakistan. As India continues to evolve its defense strategies, this partnership underscores the importance of technological advancements in maintaining air superiority and addressing contemporary geopolitical challenges.

Portugal Receives Third KC-390; A-29N Begins Flight Tests



18-Jul-25

The Portuguese Air Force has received its third KC-390 Millennium aircraft from Embraer, enhancing its operational capabilities and moving towards Full Operational Capability. The A-29N Super Tucano, designed for NATO requirements, has also commenced its flight test campaign, with Portugal as its launch customer. These advancements underscore the commitment of NATO allies to modernize their air forces, with the KC-390 being selected by multiple countries for its superior capabilities. The A-29N's versatility in various missions further solidifies NATO's operational readiness, reflecting a strategic push towards enhanced interoperability among member nations.

Kalam Labs Proposes Indigenous Supersonic UAVs and Maritime Systems



18-Jul-25

Kalam Labs, based in Lucknow, has unveiled a major R&D push to develop indigenous supersonic UAVs and multi-day maritime surveillance platforms, signaling a leap forward for India's defense sector. Announced on July 18, 2025, the proposed UAVs are designed to cruise at Mach 2 speeds at altitudes up to 20 kilometers, employing stealth, advanced sensor fusion, and modular payloads for deep-strike and reconnaissance missions without risking pilots. These drones are intended to be air-launched and can exceed 800 kilometers per mission. Simultaneously, Kalam Labs is focusing on autonomous maritime surveillance systems for persistent monitoring of strategic zones like the Indian Ocean, utilizing long-endurance propulsion and satellite links to bolster India's maritime domain awareness and national security.

L&T Defence: Indigenous Project-76 Submarine Design Ready in a Year



18-Jul-25

India is poised to enhance its underwater warfare capabilities with the finalization of the indigenous Project-76 submarine design expected within a year, as confirmed by L&T Defence's J.D. Patil. This initiative aims to produce 12 advanced conventional submarines, emphasizing stealth and endurance while reducing reliance on foreign technology. The program reflects a strategic shift toward a self-reliant defense ecosystem, incorporating cutting-edge features like Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP) and advanced sonars. The first submarine is anticipated to launch by 2037, with potential for future exports, underscoring India's commitment to strengthening its naval power and addressing fleet modernization needs.

Rolls-Royce to Partner with HAL on CATS Warrior Engine Development



18-Jul-25

Rolls-Royce is set to deepen its 68-year partnership with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) by co-developing an advanced propulsion system for India's CATS Warrior unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) as the program pushes towards critical milestones. In response to the CATS Warrior's recent increase in maximum takeoff weight from 1.3 to 2.1 tons, HAL successfully conducted an engine ground test on January 11, 2025 at its Bangalore facility, validating current twin PTAE-W turbojet solutions but highlighting

the need for greater thrust and efficiency. As the prototype nears its first test flight—targeted for 2026—Rolls-Royce has emerged as HAL's preferred collaborator, with joint development talks focusing on technology transfer, indigenous capability, and intellectual property ownership. The partnership is expected to address operational requirements for the forthcoming 3-ton MkII variant, which will carry heavier payloads and advanced weapons. The CATS Warrior, designed for manned-unmanned teaming with fighters like Tejas and Su-30MKI, will play roles from reconnaissance to strike missions, marking a significant leap in India's autonomous aviation ambitions.

US Reveals LUCAS Drone to Compete with Iran's Shahed Drones



18-Jul-25

The U.S. has unveiled LUCAS, a low-cost combat drone designed to counter Iranian-designed Shahed drones used by Russia in Ukraine. Developed by SpektreWorks, LUCAS boasts a modular design for various missions and can be operated by non-specialized personnel, enhancing its logistical advantages in combat. With a potential price of around USD 100,000, it aims to be mass-produced, allowing for scalable drone warfare. This development reflects the increasing reliance on UAVs in modern conflicts, highlighting a shift in military strategies as nations adapt to emerging aerial threats.

ADE Confirms Four Successful Tests of Indigenous SLCM with Manik Engine



18-Jul-25

The Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) has confirmed the successful testing of India's indigenous Submarine-Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) with four developmental trials, marking significant progress in achieving a self-reliant defense capability. The SLCM, powered by the indigenous Manik Small Turbo Fan Engine, features two primary variants for anti-ship and land-attack roles, enhancing the Indian Navy's strike and sea-denial capabilities. With a range of 250 km for anti-ship and 500 km for land attack, the missile is designed for underwater launch, showcasing India's advancements in indigenous defense technology. Future tests are planned for October 2025, indicating a pathway towards operational induction and enhanced maritime security.

Indian Army uses blockchain for transparent vendor registration SHARE

18-Jul-25

The Indian Army has implemented a blockchain-powered Vendor Registration Application to enhance transparency and efficiency in its vendor onboarding process for dry rations, valued at approximately \$1.68 billion annually. This digital transformation replaces traditional, cumbersome procedures with a secure, online system that reduces human intervention and bureaucratic delays, promoting vendor inclusion, especially from startups. The initiative signifies India's commitment to integrating emerging technologies in defense logistics, potentially influencing other branches of the military and public sectors. By establishing blockchain as a reliable infrastructure, this move strengthens India's position in global discussions on blockchain governance and sets a precedent for broader adoption across various sectors.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

India Targets Arms Procurement Time Reduction to Under Two Years SHARE

18-Jul-25

India's Ministry of Defence is undertaking a comprehensive review of its arms procurement procedures to reduce the acquisition timeline from seven to eight years to under two years. A committee has identified key bottlenecks such as the Request for Proposal preparation, field trials, and contract negotiations. Innovative measures being considered include simulation-based trials, bypassing unnecessary trials for proven systems, and streamlining contract negotiations. This initiative aims to enhance the efficiency of the defense acquisition process, ensuring that the Indian armed forces receive modern weaponry swiftly, thereby bolstering national security and military preparedness.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

US Labels The Resistance Front as Terrorist Group, Boosts India-US Ties SHARE

18-Jul-25

The United States formally designated The Resistance Front (TRF) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) on

July 18, 2025, after confirming its claim of responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam massacre, which killed 26 civilians—the deadliest such attack in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The Trump-era State Department highlighted TRF's status as a rebranded proxy of Pakistan's Lashkar-e-Taiba, part of an effort to obscure its backing while continuing militant operations. Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar called the move a “strong affirmation” of zero-tolerance counter-terrorism cooperation between India and the US. Prime Minister Modi's administration applauded the legal and financial sanctions that will freeze TRF's assets and bar American engagement. China responded cautiously, urging broader regional counter-terror efforts while formally condemning the Pahalgam strike. The designation is expected to resonate at the UN Security Council's 1267 Committee, reinforcing pressure on state sponsors of terrorism. It follows India's May proposal at the UN to list TRF, and complements India's Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure. Islamabad, however, denies links and portrays TRF as an indigenous group. Overall, Washington's declaration marks a milestone in India-US strategic alignment, reinforces global norms against state-backed militancy, and further isolates Pakistan diplomatically.

India criticizes NATO's double standards on sanctions and energy security. SHARE

18-Jul-2025

India has sharply rebuked NATO's recent warnings about possible secondary sanctions over its ongoing trade with Russia, condemning what it called “double standards” in global energy policy. The diplomatic standoff intensified after NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte directly named India, China, and Brazil as countries at risk of facing severe US and NATO penalties unless they reduce commercial ties with Moscow. Rutte's statements, made in Washington on July 17, coincided with US President Donald Trump's threat to impose 100% tariffs on Russian exports if a peace deal over Ukraine is not reached within 50 days. Responding on July 17 and 18, Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reaffirmed that securing affordable energy for India's population remains an overriding priority, driven by market realities and prevailing global circumstances. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri further asserted that India could adapt to any disruptions in Russian imports by tapping alternative suppliers such as Guyana, Brazil, and Canada, underscoring India's diversification strategy. Amidst these tensions, Indian officials have called attention to continued Russian

energy purchases by some Western and NATO members, while declaring India's energy security needs non-negotiable.

India cautious on reviving Russia-India-China framework SHARE

18-Jul-25

India has taken a measured stance on reviving the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral framework, following renewed pushes from Moscow and Beijing for its resumption amid shifting regional dynamics. On July 17 and 18, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko highlighted ongoing discussions with India and China about restoring the dormant RIC format, a move publicly supported by China's foreign ministry, which described the framework as crucial for regional stability and global progress. However, India's Ministry of External Affairs reiterated that no meeting or schedule has been agreed upon, stressing that any revival will require consensus and must be mutually convenient for all three nations. The RIC mechanism, which has held over 20 meetings at various levels since its inception under former Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, was disrupted first by the COVID-19 pandemic and later by the military standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh starting in 2020. Diplomatic engagement between India and China has shown tentative signs of normalization since the Modi-Xi meeting at the BRICS summit in Kazan last year, but deep-seated bilateral issues remain unresolved.

India's Oil Minister Dismisses US Sanctions Concerns on Russia SHARE

18-Jul-25

India's Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has downplayed concerns regarding potential US sanctions over Russian oil imports, emphasizing that India has diversified its oil supply sources from 27 to 40 countries. With Russia now supplying 40% of India's crude, the country is looking to new markets and domestic exploration to meet its energy needs. Puri highlighted transformative reforms in the oil sector that have boosted investment and exploration potential, projecting that India will account for a significant share of global energy demand growth. He reassured that despite geopolitical tensions, India is well-prepared to navigate any disruptions in oil supply.

UK and Germany sign defense treaty to counter Russia threats SHARE

18-Jul-25

The UK and Germany have signed the Kensington Treaty, marking their first bilateral defense treaty since World War II, as a response to heightened security concerns from Russia's actions in Ukraine. This treaty emphasizes mutual military assistance, collaboration on defense production, and a commitment to joint export campaigns for weapons systems. Notably, it seeks to establish a new long-range precision missile and a drone factory in the UK. Amidst shifting geopolitical dynamics, the agreement signifies a renewed commitment to European-led defense initiatives while addressing issues like illegal migration, highlighting the evolving nature of international alliances post-Brexit.

India's Foreign Policy Should Adapt While Maintaining Autonomy SHARE

18-Jul-25

India's foreign policy is undergoing significant recalibration as global power becomes increasingly multipolar. Former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, in remarks on July 18, 2025, reiterated that India must remain nimble and maintain its strategic autonomy, refusing to yield to external pressures from the United States, China, or other major powers. He underscored the nation's economic momentum, stable governance, and demographic advantages as critical assets in global negotiations, stressing that delays in trade talks or pressure on critical issues like agriculture and strategic partnerships reflect strategic calculations rather than diplomatic weakness. Recent armed clashes and military maneuvers in South Asia have further highlighted India's delicate balancing act—strengthening defense self-reliance while navigating complex relations with the US, Russia, and China. India's continued participation in multilateral forums such as BRICS, the G20, and the Quad, along with its advocacy for the Global South, signals its intent to shape evolving world order without compromising on sovereign interests. As power balances shift, India remains committed to a policy of multi-alignment, engaging with all major players while charting an independent course.

Israel permits limited Syrian troop access to Sweida amid clashes SHARE

18-Jul-25

Israel has agreed to allow limited access for Syrian internal security forces into the Sweida area for 48

hours amid ongoing clashes between Bedouin tribes and the Druze community. This decision follows intense fighting that resulted in over 250 fatalities, highlighting the instability in southern Syria. While Israel targets militant threats to its Druze minority, the U.S. has expressed discontent with Israel's military actions in the region, contrasting its focus on maintaining a truce. The situation underscores a complex dynamic where Israel seeks to protect its interests while navigating international relations, particularly with the U.S., amid Syria's internal turmoil.

trials highlight India's indigenous technological capabilities and reinforce its strategic defense posture.

Army conducts joint disaster management exercise in Rajouri

🕒 SHARE

18-Jul-25

The Indian Army's Ace of Spades Division conducted a joint disaster management exercise in Rajouri, led by Major General Kaushik Mukherjee. This initiative aimed to enhance inter-agency coordination among various stakeholders, including district administration, medical officers, Central Armed Paramilitary Forces, and the State Disaster Response Force, to effectively tackle potential disasters in the disaster-prone Pir Panjal region. Simulated scenarios included earthquakes, chemical spills, and terror attacks, highlighting the need for regular rehearsals and strategic planning. This exercise underscores the Army's commitment to disaster preparedness and community safety in an area frequently affected by flash floods and other calamities.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

CISF Enhances Combat Readiness with Army Training After Op Sindoor

🕒 SHARE

18-Jul-25

The Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) are undergoing combat training with the Indian Army in Jammu and Kashmir following Operation Sindoor, initiated in response to a Pakistan-sponsored terror attack. This collaboration aims to enhance the CISF's readiness against terror threats, including drone attacks and internal sabotage, as they secure critical sites such as airports and nuclear facilities. Currently, 120 CISF commandos have received training, with plans for more personnel to follow. Additionally, discussions are underway for the CISF to acquire the AK-203 rifle after the Indian Army and CRPF, reflecting a commitment to bolster their operational capabilities in high-risk environments.

UK Sanctions 18 Russian Officers Over Mariupol Theater Attack

🕒 SHARE

18-Jul-25

The U.K. has sanctioned 18 Russian military intelligence officers and three units responsible for a 2022 bomb attack on a theater in Mariupol, Ukraine, killing hundreds. These sanctions are part of a broader effort to counter Russia's campaign of destabilization across Europe, which includes cyberattacks and

Military Operations

Indian Navy to join 32nd SIMBEX exercise in Singapore

🕒 SHARE

18-Jul-25

The Indian Navy is set to participate in the 32nd edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX), reinforcing its long-standing maritime collaboration with the Republic of Singapore Navy. This annual exercise, one of the longest uninterrupted exercises for India, underscores India's commitment to enhancing naval capabilities and fostering regional security partnerships. High Commissioner Shilpak Ambule highlighted the significance of this exercise, which was previously known as Exercise Lion King. Such engagements not only strengthen bilateral ties but also demonstrate India's proactive approach in addressing maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, ensuring its strategic interests are safeguarded.

India Test-Fires Nuke-Capable Agni-1 and Prithvi-II Missiles

🕒 SHARE

18-Jul-25

On July 17, 2025, India successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable Agni-1 and Prithvi-II ballistic missiles from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha. The Agni-1, with a range of 700–900 kilometers and a payload of up to 1,000 kilograms, fills the capability gap between shorter- and longer-range missiles in India's arsenal. The Prithvi-II, boasting a range of about 350 kilometers and a payload capacity of 500 kilograms, enhances India's tactical strike options. Conducted by the Strategic Forces Command, these tests validated operational readiness and underscored India's commitment to credible minimum deterrence, especially amid ongoing regional tensions with Pakistan and the rise of China's nuclear arsenal. The

propaganda. The Foreign Secretary highlighted the sophisticated operations of the GRU units targeting various countries, including attempts to disrupt investigations into the poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal. While the effectiveness of these sanctions may be limited, they aim to raise awareness of Russia's aggressive actions and impose travel constraints on Russian operatives.

Five Maoists, Including Minor, Arrested in Sukma, Chhattisgarh

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18-Jul-25

In a significant achievement for anti-Maoist operations, security forces in Chhattisgarh arrested five Maoists, including a minor, near Sukma, recovering a substantial cache of explosives. This operation underscores the effectiveness of coordinated intelligence and ground action amid a broader strategy to eradicate Naxalism by March 2026, as highlighted by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The dual approach of aggressive operations and rehabilitation has resulted in over 1,400 Maoist surrenders since December 2023, revealing an ideological shift among former militants. The government's sustained pressure and development initiatives are essential in dismantling insurgency and facilitating the reintegration of former combatants into society.

Drones Transform Terror Tactics in Jammu and Kashmir

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18-Jul-25

In Jammu and Kashmir, the use of drones by terrorist groups has rapidly escalated, fundamentally altering security dynamics in the region. Over the past week, officials confirmed that drones have become key "over ground workers" for militants, replacing traditional human networks that have weakened under intensified security crackdowns. These unmanned vehicles are now routinely deployed for surveillance, reconnaissance of security force movements, supply drops—including food and weapons—to militants hiding in remote mountainous areas, and even cross-border infiltration. Intelligence points to Pakistani agencies like the ISI orchestrating and refining drone strategies, with a significant focus on exploiting vulnerabilities along the Line of Control. The first major drone attack in the region was recorded on June 27, 2021, at Jammu airport, signaling a new era of asymmetric warfare. In recent days, security agencies reported renewed attempts at drone-delivered arms and explosive materials, and officials highlighted a strategic shift following a high-level meeting in May 2025 between ISI

operatives and banned terror outfits to intensify UAV usage for both infiltration and attacks amidst continued security pressures.

Pakistan and EU Strengthen Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

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18-Jul-25

Pakistan and the European Union held their 10th Political Dialogue in Brussels on July 17, 2025, reaffirming an ambitious agenda to deepen cooperation in security, particularly counter-terrorism. Both sides committed to strengthening dialogue under the Strategic Engagement Plan and expanding joint efforts to combat terrorism and organized crime. Ironically, this renewed cooperation comes amid widespread criticism of Pakistan's double game: while it presents itself as a partner against terrorism, Pakistan's complicity in supporting or sheltering various extremist groups has been widely documented. Several European counter-terrorism operations have uncovered strong links between terror incidents in Europe and groups operating from or controlled within Pakistan. Even top Pakistani officials have admitted complicity in supporting terrorist organizations for decades, often intertwining their policies with Western interests during the Cold War and post-9/11 era. The West's continued engagement with Pakistan on counter-terrorism is viewed by many as dangerously naïve, given Pakistan's history of duplicity and the real repercussions such duplicity has had for European and regional security, frequently making Europe itself a target of extremist networks with roots tracing back to the same state it now calls a partner.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Salt Typhoon breach raises concerns over US military cybersecurity

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18-Jul-25

A significant cyber espionage breach by the Chinese group Salt Typhoon has compromised the US National Guard network, allowing access to sensitive military and law enforcement data for nearly a year. This breach, which involved stealing 1,462 configuration files linked to critical national infrastructure, poses severe risks to US national security and military readiness. Experts urge the adoption of advanced cybersecurity measures, particularly a Zero Trust model, to prevent future attacks. The incident highlights vulnerabilities in US military networks and underscores the pressing

need for enhanced cybersecurity strategies to safeguard against such sophisticated intrusions.

Warning: New Gmail threat exploits AI to steal user passwords SHARE

18-Jul-25

A new security threat is affecting 1.8 billion Gmail users, as hackers exploit Google's AI tool, Gemini, to trick users into revealing their passwords. These attacks use concealed instructions in emails, prompting the AI to generate fake security alerts that mislead users into contacting fraudulent support numbers. Cybersecurity experts suggest implementing email client configurations to detect hidden content and using filters to scan for suspicious messages. Despite the discovery of this method, Google has yet to address the vulnerability, leaving users at risk until proper protections are established. This incident underscores the need for enhanced cybersecurity measures in light of evolving threats.

NATO condemns Russian cyber threats amid Ukraine conflict. SHARE

18-Jul-25

The North Atlantic Council has condemned Russia for its malicious cyber activities, which threaten Allied security and have been linked to Russia's military intelligence, specifically the GRU. Recent attributions by several NATO members highlight the targeting of governmental and critical infrastructure entities, emphasizing the significant cyber threats posed by Russia amid its aggression in Ukraine. NATO insists on a free and secure cyberspace and urges Russia to adhere to international obligations. The alliance reaffirms its commitment to counter Russian cyber threats robustly, leveraging lessons learned from the ongoing conflict in Ukraine while investing in enhanced cyber defenses.

FCC to Ban Chinese Tech in Undersea Cables for Security Reasons SHARE

18-Jul-25

The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) plans to ban undersea communication cables that involve Chinese technology, particularly targeting companies like Huawei and ZTE due to national security concerns. FCC Chair Brendan Carr highlighted the urgency of safeguarding submarine cables from foreign adversaries amid increasing cyber and physical threats, especially after incidents of sabotage and damage to undersea internet infrastructure. This move reflects the broader US strategy to limit Chinese

influence over global network infrastructure, ensuring the integrity of critical communication channels. Such actions reinforce India's own emphasis on securing its telecommunications and defense sectors against potential vulnerabilities posed by foreign entities.

US senator demands clarity on Microsoft's Chinese engineers in defense systems SHARE

18-Jul-25

A U.S. senator is pressing the Pentagon for clarity on Microsoft's employment of Chinese engineers in U.S. military cloud systems, following a report highlighting potential cybersecurity risks. Senator Tom Cotton raised concerns about the adequacy of "digital escorts" tasked with overseeing foreign personnel, emphasizing the need for stringent security measures against China's cyber threats. Although Microsoft maintains compliance with U.S. regulatory standards, the senator's call for transparency reflects growing apprehension regarding supply chain vulnerabilities in defense contracting. This situation underscores the critical importance of safeguarding national security against foreign infiltration in sensitive technological sectors, a perspective that resonates with India's own defense strategies against external threats.

Kaspersky uncovers GhostContainer backdoor targeting Exchange servers SHARE

18-Jul-25

Kaspersky's Global Research and Analysis Team has identified a new malware backdoor, GhostContainer, targeting Microsoft Exchange servers, particularly within government environments in Asia. This sophisticated malware allows attackers to gain full control over the servers and possibly engage in cyber espionage. Notably, GhostContainer employs various evasion techniques and leverages open-source tools, making it difficult to attribute to specific threat actors, while the overall rise in malicious packages in open-source projects underscores the growing cybersecurity threat. This situation highlights the need for enhanced security protocols within critical infrastructure to guard against emerging cyber threats that could impact national security.

Geopolitical turmoil fuels cybercrime and vulnerabilities in security. SHARE

18-Jul-25

Cyber criminals are exploiting geopolitical turmoil to conduct advanced attacks, revealing vulnerabilities in

organizational defenses, as discussed at the ITWeb Security Summit 2025. Experts highlighted the rise of ransomware as a tool in geopolitical warfare, with cyber crime syndicates often acting as proxies for nation-states. The privatization of national security risks was emphasized, showcasing how state-owned enterprises are prime targets for cyber threats impacting societal stability. The discussion underscored the need for investment in local technology infrastructure to bolster sovereign capabilities and safeguard national security, particularly in critical sectors like communications and space assets, which are vital for modern society.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Indian Army opens SSC applications for engineering graduates, deadline August 14, 2025.



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The Indian Army has begun accepting applications for the 66th Short Service Commission (SSC) Technical Entry Course for unmarried male and female engineering graduates, with the application window open from July 16 to August 14, 2025. This drive seeks to fill 379 vacancies, offering direct recruitment based on academic merit instead of a written exam, followed by a five-day Services Selection Board (SSB) interview and a thorough medical examination. Applicants must be Indian citizens, degree holders from recognized universities, and aged between 20 and 27 years as of April 1, 2026. Selected candidates will undergo 49 weeks of rigorous training at the Officers Training Academy in Chennai before being commissioned as Lieutenants, enhancing the Army's technical prowess and national defense capabilities.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh honors Piru Singh's bravery in Tithwal Battle



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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh paid homage to Company Havildar Major Piru Singh on Balidan Diwas, commemorating his gallantry during the 1948 Battle of Tithwal. Singh displayed extraordinary bravery, leading his platoon against heavy enemy fire and ultimately sacrificing his life to neutralize enemy positions, earning him the Param Vir Chakra posthumously. His legacy epitomizes the courage and dedication of the Indian Army, and as the Minister stated, the nation remains indebted to such valiant soldiers. This

remembrance underscores India's commitment to honoring its military heritage and fostering a spirit of patriotism among future generations.

Army Honors PVC Sekhon by Converting His Room into Museum



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18-Jul-25

The Indian Army has transformed the room of PVC Flying Officer Sekhon at the Srinagar cantonment into a museum, honoring his legacy. Sekhon, originally from Ludhiana, is remembered for his bravery during the Indo-Pak War of 1971, where he valiantly fought against six Pakistani Sabre jets attacking the Srinagar airfield. This initiative not only pays tribute to his sacrifice but also serves to inspire future generations about the valor and dedication of the Indian armed forces. By preserving such historical sites, the Army emphasizes the importance of remembering and celebrating the contributions of its heroes to national security and pride.

Miscellaneous

Raksha Rajya Mantri reviews missile projects at DRDO's Hyderabad complex.



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Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth visited the DRDO's Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex in Hyderabad on July 16-17, 2025, to review various missile and weapon system projects, including the Astra Mk I & II and Vertically-Launched Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile. He commended the scientists for contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat through advanced indigenous weapon systems. The visit emphasized the importance of continuous innovation and strengthening of the Armed Forces to address current challenges, reflecting India's commitment to bolstering its defense capabilities through self-reliance and technological advancement in defense research and development.

NASA to Preview US-India NISAR Satellite Mission Launch



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18-Jul-25

NASA is set to preview the NISAR satellite mission, a collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), aimed at providing an unprecedented three-dimensional view of Earth. The mission, which will launch from ISRO's Satish Dhawan

Space Centre, employs advanced radar technology to monitor land and ice movements with centimeter-level precision, enhancing disaster response capabilities. This partnership underscores India's growing role in global space initiatives and showcases its technological advancements, reinforcing a strong bilateral relationship with the United States in space exploration efforts. The live news conference will further elaborate on the mission's significance, set for launch later in July.

Geopolitical tensions and low inventory drive crude oil prices up. [SHARE](#)

18-Jul-25

Recent reports highlight a rise in global oil prices, attributed to declining inventory levels and escalating geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Middle East and Europe. Brent crude surpassed \$70 per barrel, driven by strong summer demand for fuels like diesel, which is experiencing tight supply amidst new sanctions on Russia's oil exports. These sanctions, particularly affecting an Indian refinery partly owned by Russia's Rosneft, have raised concerns about diesel availability in Europe, lending additional support to crude prices. Analysts warn of potential volatility ahead, suggesting that while current market conditions are favorable, uncertainties surrounding global trade tensions and upcoming US tariff policies could influence demand growth negatively. Moreover, with major economies like the US showing strong economic data, a risk-on sentiment is evident in global markets, bolstering stock rallies in Asia and beyond. The oil market dynamics reflect a complex interplay of supply concerns, geopolitical developments, and economic performance, underscoring the need for vigilance as these factors could considerably impact pricing and availability in the near future.

ISRO confirms astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is in stable health. [SHARE](#)

18-Jul-25

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) reported that astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, who recently returned from a 20-day Axiom-4 space mission,

is in stable health with no immediate concerns. Following his splashdown off the San Diego coast, preliminary health checks indicated his well-being, and he has been flown to Houston for a week-long rehabilitation program focusing on cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, and psychological assessments. This program aims to address any effects of microgravity and prepare Shukla for a return to normal activities, showcasing ISRO's commitment to astronaut health and safety in its expanding space exploration efforts.

Indian Navy Aims for Victory in MCC-Murugappa Semifinals [SHARE](#)

18-Jul-25

In the MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup semifinals, the Indian Navy will face the Indian Army, while Indian Railways and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) compete in the other semifinal. The Navy has shown remarkable improvement under coach Ajay Kumar, having secured impressive victories against strong teams, including a decisive win over IOC. This turnaround follows a disappointing previous year where they were not invited due to poor performance. With seasoned teams like Railways and IOC faltering in recent matches, the Navy's resurgence positions them as a formidable contender for the coveted trophy, drawing significant attention as they aim for a championship victory.

White House Rejects Claims of Trump's Planned Visit to Pakistan [SHARE](#)

18-Jul-25

The White House has dismissed rumors from Pakistani media about a potential visit by President Trump to Pakistan, emphasizing that no such plans are in place. The Pakistani Foreign Office also stated it had no information regarding the alleged visit, which would have been the first by a sitting US president in nearly two decades. Instead, President Trump's confirmed travel agenda includes a trip to Scotland and an official state visit to the UK in September, reinforcing diplomatic ties. This incident highlights the need for reliable sources in international diplomacy and serves as a reminder of the challenges posed by misinformation in the region.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
MACPOWER	0.0	1078.8	1069.0	1071.9	13870	14.07	74.75	870.74	1184.4
SWANDEF	291.67	291.67	291.67	291.67	395	5.0	99.98	190.88	28.76
TECHERA	218.8	219.35	213.2	218.55	104000	4.59	59.23	205.26	-
SUNITATool	819.0	820.0	790.0	800.0	2875	2.3	50.06	810.52	740.43
AZAD	1607.6	1642.7	1580.0	1634.7	354368	2.08	51.96	1612.39	1566.43
TANEJAERO	468.0	477.35	468.0	477.35	8872	2.0	63.13	459.81	385.03
ROSSELLIND	67.82	69.19	67.25	68.82	21756	1.47	42.66	70.78	75.09
MTARTECH	1534.9	1564.9	1533.5	1556.9	95793	1.26	42.18	1578.1	1566.48
KRISHNADEF	844.05	862.5	844.0	850.65	29750	1.06	42.24	890.82	738.59
ZENTEC	1860.1	1885.0	1842.0	1880.1	250153	1.02	47.28	1912.73	1777.84
CFF	658.0	665.0	644.0	653.95	118000	0.15	54.14	646.55	582.57
AXISCADES	1346.4	1378.0	1330.0	1345.4	38634	-0.07	50.82	1407.3	808.02
DYNAMATECH	7285.0	7329.0	7182.0	7266.0	6754	-0.26	56.48	7175.18	7118.79
LT	3489.0	3499.0	3450.0	3464.8	1818696	-0.26	33.18	3578.66	3503.87
RTNINDIA	61.56	62.37	60.8	61.18	3496002	-0.31	52.97	62.28	56.26
DCXINDIA	273.1	276.2	270.25	272.1	471150	-0.37	38.47	280.76	301.55
URAVIDEF	549.55	549.55	529.0	533.7	734	-0.46	66.97	498.71	444.05
GOODLUCK	1153.0	1159.0	1131.0	1139.4	103137	-0.49	57.84	1131.1	900.05
CENTUM	2380.0	2401.0	2314.1	2325.8	12599	-0.52	50.94	2335.64	1851.67
BHARATFORG	1225.1	1238.1	1215.1	1216.6	517976	-0.67	39.0	1269.84	1246.71
LOKESHMACH	217.7	220.0	211.6	213.57	53830	-0.76	55.96	203.77	253.09
ADANIENT	2612.0	2626.7	2584.2	2596.1	479942	-0.78	54.97	2585.49	2504.04
PTC	191.79	191.79	188.3	189.09	1126919	-0.92	63.05	181.81	167.34
WALCHANNAG	215.1	218.0	212.05	214.6	72540	-0.95	45.32	221.09	231.58
SIKA	1216.0	1234.9	1190.05	1213.2	24289	-1.03	43.22	1350.52	689.73
GRSE	2658.0	2712.0	2588.1	2618.2	1101399	-1.07	37.77	2910.94	1905.25
HBLPOWER	611.0	614.7	599.3	602.35	547552	-1.3	49.65	608.65	559.12
JYOTICNC	1045.0	1045.0	1018.1	1020.7	191676	-1.35	35.78	1056.75	1131.12
AVANTEL	153.49	154.2	150.22	151.12	731245	-1.37	44.44	157.93	143.76
MIDHANI	425.15	428.3	417.4	419.25	453722	-1.39	48.53	428.98	343.58
APOLLO	180.69	181.2	176.5	177.1	1345708	-1.42	42.57	189.46	128.94
NIBE	1739.95	1739.95	1651.0	1668.0	3322	-1.46	51.2	1659.2	1522.86
LMW	16250.0	16468.0	15952.0	16175.0	12847	-1.49	42.82	16460.5	16214.24
PARAS	807.7	814.2	792.5	795.4	254325	-1.52	45.34	830.54	590.03
RELINFRA	396.35	400.0	385.0	390.3	1167972	-1.53	55.7	389.33	290.12
SOLARINDS	15147.0	15221.0	14876.0	14906.0	154952	-1.59	28.7	16409.5	11830.3
MARINE	193.4	195.7	188.0	189.96	294607	-1.7	30.44	205.73	214.39
PREMEXPLN	534.0	538.65	523.5	525.3	187364	-1.74	37.42	563.21	468.91
HIGHENE	745.0	745.0	734.05	735.55	5115	-1.8	46.72	774.35	603.44
DRONACHRYA	83.0	83.99	80.2	82.7	62000	-1.97	42.75	86.17	97.39
MAZDOCK	3056.9	3090.0	2972.1	2982.0	1209686	-2.17	32.25	3209.68	2566.1
BEL	404.25	406.95	394.15	394.75	21172393	-2.34	41.21	415.27	313.35
COCHINSHIP	1919.9	1934.0	1856.7	1867.2	1285301	-2.37	35.17	2027.78	1601.55
IDEAFORGE	558.0	565.0	540.0	542.75	263695	-2.85	41.08	581.96	521.33
HAL	4804.8	4808.9	4643.3	4651.7	1677004	-2.87	33.46	4896.35	4303.48
ASTRAMICRO	1000.0	1011.0	965.7	969.1	374991	-3.13	35.09	1038.14	828.63
BEML	4558.0	4588.0	4381.0	4401.5	461680	-3.2	48.55	4518.52	3684.33
BDL	1740.0	1762.8	1668.0	1671.6	2491406	-4.09	29.5	1883.22	1364.06
DATAPATTNS	2881.9	2934.7	2735.8	2757.5	380903	-4.77	40.43	2911.06	2315.88
TEMBO	0.0	514.15	510.0	510.0	20727	-6.04	54.94	492.58	578.86