



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

August 19,2025 | Day 231

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
SUNITATOOL	758.1	722.0	+5.0%
SWANDEF	372.2	354.5	+4.99%
RELINFRA	274.9	261.85	+4.98%
CENTUM	2674.5	2564.7	+4.28%
RTNINDIA	53.87	51.67	+4.26%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
BDL	1549.1	1605.6	-3.52%
MACPOWER	799.9	827.3	-3.31%
GRSE	2602.4	2672.5	-2.62%
PREMEXPLN	500.05	512.7	-2.47%
SIKA	1272.0	1300.45	-2.19%

Defense Business and Industry

Government to Simplify Defense Tender Rules to Boost Private Sector

📱 SHARE

19-Aug-25

The Indian government is considering easing defense tender norms to boost private sector involvement and competition in procurement, moving towards greater use of open tendering even as very few large projects remain nomination-based, where contracts are directly awarded to public sector undertakings like Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd and Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders, as reported on August 18, 2025. This reform aims to draw in more private players, including micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), fostering innovation and indigenization in the defense industry. Concurrently, the offset policy, which requires foreign suppliers to reinvest 30 percent of contract values exceeding Rs 2,000 crore in India through local sourcing, manufacturing, or technology transfers, is under review to become more flexible and industry-friendly, aligning with the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 updates. These initiatives are part of broader efforts declared in January 2025, designating the year as the "Year of Reforms" by the Ministry of Defence to enhance efficiency, transparency, and self-reliance, with domestic defense production reaching Rs 74,739 crore in FY24, of which the private sector contributed Rs 16,411 crore or 22 percent. The moves support India's defense modernization, reducing import dependency, and strengthening the domestic industrial base via corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, while promoting exports that grew 31-fold over the last decade.

Tejas to Integrate SCALP-EG Missile, Enhancing Strike Power

📱 SHARE

19-Aug-25

India's air power is set to receive a significant upgrade with the integration of the SCALP-EG missile into the Tejas Mk1A and Mk2 variants, enhancing their strike capabilities against threats from Pakistan and China. This long-range stealth cruise missile, with a 560 km range and 450-kg warhead, has already demonstrated its effectiveness during Operation Sindoor. Integrating the SCALP-EG poses technical challenges, but the move will bolster the Indian Air Force's operational flexibility and compensate for the limited number of Rafales. This strategy aims to ensure that indigenous platforms can undertake high-stakes missions traditionally reserved for heavier fighters, thereby increasing India's combat readiness.

Tejas Mk2 simulator reveals advanced cockpit features for India's fighter jet.

📱 SHARE

19-Aug-25

The Tejas Mk2 simulator has unveiled significant advancements in India's upcoming 4.5-generation fighter jet, showcasing an advanced cockpit designed for ease of use and automation. With a large touch-enabled display, reduced switches, and integrated HOTAS controls, the cockpit enhances pilot efficiency and situational awareness. The aircraft supports sensor fusion technology, improving threat identification, and can carry a diverse arsenal of precision and BVR missiles. Enhanced fuel storage allows for extended missions, and the incorporated autopilot system aids in critical tactical tasks, emphasizing the Tejas Mk2's readiness for modern combat scenarios. This

development reflects India's commitment to advancing its indigenous defense capabilities.

DRDO Enhances Air Defense with Akash-NG Trials and Longer Range SHARE

19-Aug-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), under Dr. Samir V. Kamat, is enhancing air defense capabilities with user trials of the Akash Next Generation (Akash-NG) surface-to-air missile system and developing a longer-range variant. The Akash-NG is capable of engaging targets up to 80 km, surpassing the officially reported range of 30 km. Its advanced dual-pulse solid rocket motor significantly boosts performance against agile threats. The anticipated longer-range variant could exceed 100 km, aligning with India's comprehensive air defense strategy, including the S-400 and Project Kusha, showcasing India's commitment to a robust, indigenous defense ecosystem capable of countering diverse aerial threats.

AMCA Enhances A2A and A2G Capabilities with Advanced Sensors SHARE

19-Aug-25

India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) has revealed advanced sensor upgrades, including an Electro-Optical Targeting System (EOTS) for enhanced air-to-ground capabilities and an Infrared Search and Track (IRST) system for air-to-air roles. These enhancements position the AMCA as a versatile fifth-generation fighter, crucial for countering threats from China's J-20 and Pakistan's growing air capabilities. The integration of a Distributed Aperture System (DAS) further improves situational awareness, ensuring the IAF can dominate in complex security environments. With prototype construction approved and a first flight expected by 2027-28, the AMCA reflects India's commitment to developing cutting-edge defense technologies essential for national security.

KDE Engine to be Flight Tested on Ghatak UCAV, Not Tejas SHARE

19-Aug-25

The KDE engine, a 49 kN thrust class turbofan, will undergo direct flight testing on the Ghatak UCAV instead of the previously considered Tejas platform, with final trials set to begin in Russia next month. This shift underscores the program's progress towards certification, supported by new funding. Successful trials could lead to the integration of an afterburner and testing on the Tejas, potentially replacing the GE F404

engine currently in use. This development signifies a vital step towards enhancing India's self-reliance in combat aviation propulsion and reducing dependency on foreign technologies, thereby strengthening national defense capabilities.

IAF to Acquire EAD Swarm System to Enhance Air Defense Capabilities SHARE

19-Aug-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is advancing its electronic warfare capabilities by procuring an Expendable Active Decoy (EAD) swarm system, following insights from Operation Sindoor. This high-speed drone swarm, capable of confusing enemy air defenses like China's HQ-9 and Russia's S-400, will enhance IAF survivability in contested airspace through advanced electronic warfare payloads and chaff dispensation. The system will integrate with the IAF's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS), promoting network-centric warfare. Key features include high-speed performance, GPS-independent navigation, and modular payloads for adaptability, reflecting India's commitment to countering evolving threats in regional geopolitics and enhancing defense preparedness.

Indian Army Considers Zorawar Chassis for Advanced AERV Development SHARE

19-Aug-25

The Indian Army is exploring the Zorawar light tank chassis to develop a next-generation Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle (AERV), replacing the aging BMP-II chassis. This modernization aims to enhance combat engineering capabilities, particularly in challenging terrains like the Line of Actual Control with China. The Zorawar, designed for high-altitude operations, offers improved mobility and advanced technology, crucial for responsive military operations following regional security dynamics highlighted by the 2020 Galwan Valley clash. Adapting this platform for engineering tasks will bolster India's strategic infrastructure development and ensure effective support against evolving threats from regional adversaries.

IndianOil to produce sustainable aviation fuel from used cooking oil SHARE

19-Aug-25

IndianOil's Panipat refinery has achieved certification to produce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from used cooking oil, supporting India's mandate for 1% SAF blending in jet fuel by 2027. This initiative not only facilitates a greener aviation sector but also addresses

waste reduction by sourcing used cooking oil from large establishments. Additionally, IndianOil is investing in a new plant for Butyl Acrylate, reducing import dependencies, and is developing the country's largest green hydrogen facility. These advancements highlight IndianOil's commitment to innovation and sustainability, positioning India as a leader in green energy and aligning with the government's net-zero emissions goals by 2070.

ISRO Developing 40-Storey Rocket for 75,000 Kg Satellite Launch SHARE

19-Aug-25

ISRO is developing a rocket as tall as a 40-storey building capable of launching satellites weighing 75,000 kg into low earth orbit, according to Chairman V Narayanan. This ambitious project is part of a broader plan that includes the launch of the Technology Demonstration Satellite (TDS) and the GSAT-7R military communication satellite for the Indian Navy. With the current fleet of 55 satellites expected to triple in the next few years, India's advancements in space technology highlight its growing capabilities in both commercial and defense sectors, solidifying its position as a key player in global space endeavors.

Politics

Tharoor supports Rijju's call for Parliament to honor astronaut Shukla. SHARE

19-Aug-25

Union Minister Kiren Rijju proposed a special Parliamentary discussion to honour astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla for his successful mission to the International Space Station, receiving support from Congress MP Shashi Tharoor. Tharoor emphasized Shukla's achievements, which bolster India's global space diplomacy and contribute to the nation's human spaceflight program, Gaganyaan. He urged the Opposition to participate, highlighting the mission's importance in inspiring future generations in STEM fields. Shukla's return signifies India's growing ambitions in space, reinforcing national pride and unity amid political differences. This celebration showcases India's commitment to advancing its position in the international space arena.

JP Nadda Blames Nehru for Compromising India's Water Security SHARE

19-Aug-25

BJP National President JP Nadda has criticized Jawaharlal Nehru for compromising India's water security through the Indus Water Treaty of 1960, claiming it favored Pakistan by ceding 80% of the Indus basin waters. He argues the treaty was hastily signed without proper parliamentary consultation and describes it as a national betrayal driven by idealism. Nadda points to historical opposition within Congress to highlight dissent against the treaty, while Prime Minister Modi has called for its reassessment, citing detrimental clauses. This renewed debate underscores the complexities of India's water diplomacy and the importance of reassessing historical decisions in light of contemporary needs.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India and China Must See Each Other as Partners, Says Wang Yi SHARE

19-Aug-25

Recent discussions between Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi signal a potential thaw in India-China relations, which have been strained since 2020 due to border clashes. Both parties emphasized the importance of maintaining peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as a foundation for advancing ties, with Jaishankar urging for mutual respect and cooperation to prevent differences from escalating into disputes. Wang highlighted the positive developments in bilateral relations, including the resumption of Indian pilgrimages to Tibetan sacred sites and discussions around reviving border trade, indicating a joint desire to overcome past tensions. The dialogue not only addressed unresolved boundary issues but also covered economic cooperation, with both nations seeking to balance trade relations while ensuring security concerns are met. This engagement is critical as Prime Minister Modi prepares for an upcoming SCO summit, aiming to solidify a cooperative framework amidst broader geopolitical challenges, particularly with Western powers. Analysts suggest that a successful outcome from these talks could pave the way for greater stability in Asia, while any setbacks could exacerbate existing mistrust, pushing India closer to its alliances in the Quad and beyond. Overall, this renewed engagement reflects a strategic necessity for both

countries to collaborate in addressing mutual interests and regional stability, amidst external pressures that underscore the significance of their bilateral relationship in the current global context.

NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese FM Wang Yi meet to address border issues.



19-Aug-25

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New Delhi for Special Representatives talks aimed at addressing border issues between India and China. Doval highlighted the recent positive developments in bilateral relations and emphasized the importance of maintaining peace along the border, which he argued is crucial for advancing ties between the two nations. Wang Yi expressed a commitment to strengthening mutual trust and cooperation, reiterating the need for strategic communication to resolve border disputes effectively. This meeting follows significant tensions stemming from the 2020 Galwan Valley clashes, and both sides are optimistic about rebuilding relations, as evidenced by the upcoming participation of Prime Minister Modi in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin. The discussions are expected to include new confidence-building measures and the review of the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Despite some troop disengagement, significant numbers remain stationed along the border, indicating that while progress is being made, challenges persist. Overall, these talks reflect a mutual desire to foster a stable, cooperative relationship that benefits both countries while addressing lingering concerns surrounding border security.

Trump optimistic about Ukraine peace deal and security guarantees



19-Aug-25

The recent discussions involving US President Donald Trump, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and European leaders have centered on establishing a peace agreement to resolve the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Trump expressed optimism about reaching a deal, emphasizing the need for security guarantees for Ukraine, which would involve coordinated support from European allies. The meetings included a significant call between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, where Trump conveyed the progress made and discussed the possibility of direct negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, reflecting a potential shift in Russian rhetoric regarding security involvement. Trump proposed a trilateral summit involving him, Zelenskyy,

and Putin to further dialogue, which received positive feedback from European leaders who commended the renewed momentum in peace talks. The overall atmosphere was described as optimistic, with leaders from NATO and the EU expressing unprecedented hope for resolving the conflict through cooperation and dialogue, highlighting the importance of robust security guarantees for Ukraine as a critical component of any settlement. The engagement marks a pivotal moment in international diplomacy, showcasing Trump's active role in bridging divides and potentially reshaping the dynamics of the Ukraine crisis, while reinforcing the strategic alliance between the US and Europe in addressing security concerns in the region.

Jaishankar Stresses Combating Cross-Border Terrorism to China



19-Aug-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized India's priority of combating cross-border terrorism during talks with his Chinese counterpart, underscoring recent counter-terror operations against Pakistan-backed threats. The discussions, part of the 24th round of India-China talks, covered a range of bilateral issues, promoting cooperation and the importance of maintaining peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Jaishankar's call for mutual respect and a multipolar world order reflects India's intention to foster stability and trust with China. The upcoming meeting between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese officials will be crucial for de-escalating border tensions, indicating a potential pathway to improved relations through constructive engagement.

Trump Administration's Remarks Raise Concerns Over F-414 Deal with India



19-Aug-25

Recent remarks by Peter Navarro, a senior advisor to US President Donald Trump, on August 18, 2025, have sparked concerns in India over the potential disruption of the F-414 engine technology transfer agreement between General Electric and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, originally outlined in a 2023 memorandum of understanding. Navarro criticized India's pursuit of sensitive military technology amid its ongoing relations with Russia and China, warning that such demands could lead to the US blocking key defense deals, including the F-414 engines vital for the Tejas MkII program, as well as Javelin anti-tank missiles and Stryker combat vehicles. The F-414 deal, valued at around \$1 billion with an 80% technology transfer, has

faced delays due to negotiations on scope and pricing, with HAL aiming to finalize it by March 2026 despite recent US tariffs imposed in July 2025 on certain Indian imports. This development highlights tensions in US-India defense cooperation, exacerbated by India's 40-45% reliance on Russian crude oil and arms imports, prompting speculation about India's need to diversify partnerships to advance its self-reliance goals.

Putin updates PM Modi on meeting with Trump about Ukraine conflict.

19-Aug-25

Russian President Vladimir Putin called Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 18, 2025, to share details from his recent meeting with US President Donald Trump in Alaska regarding the Ukraine conflict, which has persisted since February 2022. Modi reaffirmed India's longstanding support for a peaceful resolution through dialogue and diplomacy, while both leaders explored ways to strengthen their Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership amid global uncertainties, including US tariffs on Indian goods. They also addressed bilateral cooperation and scheduled discussions between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, underscoring India's pivotal role in fostering geopolitical stability.

Trump aide criticizes India for Russian oil imports, urges US alignment.

19-Aug-25

In a move seen as escalating tensions in US-India relations, White House trade adviser Peter Navarro on August 18, 2025, lambasted India's imports of discounted Russian crude oil, labeling them opportunistic and claiming they fund Moscow's actions in Ukraine while undermining global isolation efforts against Russia. Navarro, in a Financial Times op-ed, warned that India's energy dealings, which surged to over 30% of its crude imports since Russia's 2022 invasion, could jeopardize strategic partnerships and access to US markets, with the Trump administration imposing a 25% tariff on Indian goods effective August 1, 2025, and threatening an additional 25% from August 27, potentially totaling 50% amid a \$45.7 billion US trade deficit in 2024. Indian officials swiftly condemned the tariffs as unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable, asserting that the nation's energy security and economic interests must take precedence, with New Delhi vowing to safeguard its sovereignty and pursue balanced international ties without compromising on

vital imports essential for domestic needs and refining exports.

China Showcases Military Might with Advanced Weapons Ahead of WWII Parade

19-Aug-25

The upcoming military parade in China, marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, will showcase advanced military hardware, including hypersonic missiles, unmanned combat drones, and next-generation armored vehicles. The United States expresses concern over China's military modernization, particularly in naval and aerospace capabilities, which could threaten regional stability. Analysts highlight that the introduction of hypersonic weapons and advanced unmanned systems signifies China's ambition to enhance its military capabilities. This display underscores the need for India to bolster its defense strategies and technological advancements to address potential threats in the evolving geopolitical landscape.

Russia returns 1,000 Ukrainian soldiers' bodies in exchange deal

19-Aug-25

Russia has returned the bodies of 1,000 Ukrainian soldiers, including five who died in captivity, while Ukraine repatriated 19 Russian soldiers in a recent exchange, marking a rare area of cooperation amid the ongoing conflict. This repatriation aligns with agreements made during talks in Istanbul, although Kyiv initially proposed a larger exchange of 6,000 soldiers. The high casualty rates on both sides underscore the brutal nature of the conflict, emphasizing the need for humanitarian considerations despite ongoing hostilities. Such exchanges reflect the complexities of wartime negotiations and the challenges in addressing the human cost of the conflict.

Russia escalates attacks on Ukraine post-Washington summit.

19-Aug-25

Russia intensified its attacks on Ukraine, striking Kremenchuk and other regions following a summit in Washington aimed at fostering peace. The Ukrainian air force reported the largest bombardment in August, with 270 drones and 10 missiles launched, resulting in significant damage to energy infrastructure, though no casualties were reported. Ukrainian officials condemned the strikes as evidence of President Putin's unwillingness to negotiate for peace, highlighting the

ongoing cycle of destruction. This escalation underlines the critical need for international diplomatic efforts and support to counteract aggression and stabilize the region, emphasizing India's strategic interests in maintaining peace and security in global geopolitics.

PM Modi to meet China's Wang Yi to discuss border and trade issues SHARE

19-Aug-25

Prime Minister Modi is set to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to discuss easing border tensions and trade between India and China, following a prolonged standoff exacerbated by the 2020 Ladakh clash. Despite recent dialogues and progress in troop withdrawals, experts warn that political compromises at high levels are essential for resolving the boundary dispute. The warming ties occur amidst frayed relations between India and the U.S. due to tariff impositions, prompting India to strengthen ties with Russia while balancing its complex relationship with China, especially given Beijing's support for Pakistan. This evolving dynamic underscores India's strategic navigation between its neighbors and global partnerships.

India and China to hold border talks in 2026 in China SHARE

19-Aug-25

China and India are set to hold their next border meeting in 2026, following a recent meeting between China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The discussions underscored the importance of fostering steady ties and highlighted both nations' commitment to improving their relationship amid ongoing tensions. This decision marks a cautious step towards diplomatic progress, reflecting India's proactive stance in addressing bilateral issues through dialogue. By scheduling future talks, India aims to assert its strategic interests while promoting stability in the region, demonstrating a balanced approach to its foreign policy amidst challenges from China.

Kim Jong Un escalates nuclear ambitions amid US-South Korea drills SHARE

19-Aug-25

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has ordered a rapid expansion of the country's nuclear weapons program, coinciding with the start of joint US-South Korea military exercises, which he perceives as provocative rehearsals for war. Despite attempts by South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung to ease tensions, Kim's

rhetoric remains aggressive, emphasizing North Korea's commitment to enhancing its military capabilities, including modernizing its navy and increasing nuclear armament. Amidst a backdrop of global instability with Russia and Middle Eastern conflicts, Kim's statements reflect a refusal to engage in denuclearization and a determination to assert North Korea's military posture firmly.

Macron proposes four-way summit for Ukraine-Russia peace talks. SHARE

19-Aug-25

French President Macron has proposed a four-way summit involving Ukraine, Russia, the US, and European leaders, following discussions at the White House with President Trump and Ukrainian President Zelensky. He emphasized that addressing security guarantees necessitates a collective approach for the entire European continent. This initiative reflects a strategic effort to enhance diplomatic engagement and stabilize the region amidst ongoing tensions. Macron's call for inclusivity in negotiations underscores the importance of multilateral discussions in achieving lasting peace and security in Europe, suggesting a proactive stance from European leaders to navigate the complexities of the situation effectively.

Zelensky open to meeting Putin to negotiate end to war SHARE

19-Aug-25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky expressed his readiness to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin to negotiate an end to the ongoing war, amid mounting pressure for Ukraine to concede territory due to recent Russian advances. This willingness for dialogue highlights the complexities of the conflict, where military dynamics challenge diplomatic efforts. Zelensky's approach could be seen as a strategic move to regain leverage while underscoring Ukraine's sovereignty. The situation reflects the broader geopolitical tensions and the need for a sustainable resolution, showcasing the delicate balance that Ukraine seeks in navigating its defense and diplomatic strategies against a formidable adversary.

Trump anticipates Putin will soon release 1,000 Ukrainian prisoners SHARE

19-Aug-25

U.S. President Donald Trump announced his expectation that Russian President Vladimir Putin would soon release over 1,000 Ukrainian prisoners following a trilateral meeting with Ukrainian leader

Voldymyr Zelenskiy and several European leaders. Trump expressed optimism about potential positive developments in the ongoing conflict, suggesting that this release could be imminent. The anticipated move may signify a willingness from Russia to engage in dialogue and potentially de-escalate tensions, although the broader implications for Ukraine's sovereignty and ongoing hostilities remain complex. This situation highlights the challenges faced by global leaders in mediating peace and advancing humanitarian efforts amidst geopolitical strife.

Trump Aide Urges Sanctions on Nations Buying Russian Oil



19-Aug-25

US Senator Lindsey Graham has urged President Donald Trump to impose heavy tariffs on nations like India, China, and Brazil for purchasing Russian oil, aiming to crush Russia's economy and end the Ukraine war, as stated in interviews on August 10 and August 17, 2025. Trump imposed an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods effective August 27, 2025, stacking to 50% total, after noting India's reduced Russian oil imports, which accounted for 35-40% of its supply by 2025. This pressure strategy has drawn criticism from India, potentially straining US-India relations amid warnings from Trump aides on August 18, 2025, that New Delhi must align as a strategic partner by halting such purchases.

Rijiju Discusses Strengthening India-Russia Relations with Kalmykia



19-Aug-25

Union Minister Rijiju's discussions with Kalmykia's leadership emphasized strengthening the historic India-Russia relationship through enhanced cultural and developmental exchanges. This dialogue coincided with a significant phone conversation between PM Modi and President Putin about the Ukraine conflict, reinforcing India's commitment to promoting peace through diplomacy. The interactions illustrate India's strategic autonomy, balancing relationships with major global powers while deepening ties with Russia at various levels. India's proactive stance in fostering regional cooperation and supporting multilateral efforts for conflict resolution showcases its diplomatic maturity and dedication to stability in a multipolar world.

India Mocks Pakistan's Denial of Damage at Nur Khan Airbase After Operation Sindoor



19-Aug-25

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi asserted on August 17, 2025, that Indian missile strikes during Operation Sindoor in early May 2025 caused no damage to Nur Khan Airbase near Rawalpindi, claiming seven missiles either fell short or landed outside the facility, with only minor damage at another base resulting in one air force member's death. This denial followed Indian airstrikes launched on May 6-7, escalating to missile exchanges over the week, before a US-brokered ceasefire on May 18. However, fresh satellite imagery dated May 23 revealed extensive destruction, including the demolition of an entire complex near the strike site, indicating broader impact beyond initial reports of damaged special-purpose trucks and infrastructure. Indian officials highlighted the strikes' exposure of vulnerabilities in Pakistan's air defenses, including Chinese radar systems, while social media in India mocked Naqvi's claims by citing visual evidence of hits on hangars, runways, and radar sites at the base, which serves as a key hub for VIP transport and military logistics.

China Promises to Meet India's Needs for Key Resources



19-Aug-25

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi assured India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar that China will address India's needs for fertilizers, rare earths, and tunnel boring machines, vital for India's agriculture, technology, and infrastructure. This meeting, amidst efforts to stabilize India-China relations post-military standoffs, underscores both nations' intent to maintain economic cooperation despite strategic frictions. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of constructive dialogue and mutual respect, indicating India's priority for fertilizer imports and reduced dependency on Western suppliers. This engagement could act as a confidence-building measure, fostering stability while acknowledging unresolved border issues, ultimately reflecting a pragmatic approach from both sides amidst a dynamic geopolitical landscape.

Military Operations

India Halts Operation Sindoor: Insights from Ex-Defense Adviser



19-Aug-25

Recent discussions surrounding Operation Sindoor highlight its strategic implications in the context of India-Pakistan relations. Retired Lieutenant General Vinod Khandare explained that the operation was a response to Pakistan's failure to curb terrorism on its soil, particularly following the Pahalgam terror attack. He emphasized the importance of self-reliance, or Atmanirbharta, in contemporary defense strategies, especially given the changing dynamics of modern warfare and cyber threats. Khandare argued against escalating the conflict further, stating that occupying Pakistan-occupied Kashmir could create significant long-term challenges for India, potentially leading to a "new monster" of conflict. He reiterated that military action, while sometimes necessary, comes with substantial financial burdens, urging a balance between military might and national development goals. He also acknowledged India's advancements in high-tech warfare capabilities during the conflict, underscoring the need for innovation in defense while maintaining a focus on economic and industrial growth. This perspective reinforces India's commitment to a prudent and balanced approach in dealing with its geopolitical challenges, ensuring both security and development aspirations are met.

Indian Army Cheetah helicopter safely makes precautionary landing in Assam.



19-Aug-25

An Indian Army Cheetah helicopter made a precautionary landing in Tinsukia, Assam, after the pilot detected a suspected technical issue, landing safely on a playground with no injuries or damage reported. The helicopter was on a routine flight from Dinjan to Anini, crucial for logistical support in the challenging terrain of the Assam-Arunachal corridor. Eyewitnesses noted the pilot's calm response and adherence to safety protocols, demonstrating the professionalism of Army aviation crews. Such precautionary landings are standard practice to mitigate risks, and technical teams will inspect the aircraft before it resumes operations, showcasing the Indian Army's commitment to safety and operational readiness.

Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps Launches Flood Rescue in Nanded



19-Aug-25

Following heavy rains in Maharashtra, the Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps has initiated flood relief operations in Nanded, responding promptly to a request from the state government. This mobilization underscores the Indian Army's commitment to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, showcasing its readiness to support civil authorities during natural calamities. The deployment of specialized units like the Sudarshan Chakra Corps highlights the effectiveness of India's defense forces not only in combat roles but also in crisis management, reinforcing their integral role in national disaster response strategies. Such proactive measures enhance public confidence in the military's capability to address emergencies, further solidifying the relationship between the armed forces and civilian governance.

Pakistani Journalist Admits India's Precision Strikes Overwhelmed Them



19-Aug-25

Prominent Pakistani journalist Najam Sethi has revealed that India's Operation Sindoor involved highly effective precision missile strikes on Pakistani military installations, overwhelming their defenses and showcasing India's superior military capabilities. Sethi acknowledged India's ability to target parked aircraft and highlighted the failure of Pakistani retaliatory strikes, emphasizing the effectiveness of India's air defense systems. This operation illustrates India's advancements in missile technology and intelligence, raising concerns about Pakistan's preparedness and the efficacy of its military strategies. Sethi's candid admission marks a significant moment in acknowledging the evolving military balance in the region, urging introspection within Pakistan's defense establishment.

IAF Chief: Future Operations Should Target PAF's Ground Assets



19-Aug-25

The IAF Chief revealed that during Operation Sindoor, there were calls to intensify strikes against the PAF, particularly to target aircraft on the ground, which could have significantly degraded PAF combat strength. While the operation demonstrated India's capacity to strike deep into Pakistani airspace, the Chief acknowledged that future strategies should focus on crippling PAF assets like F-16s and JF-17s during maintenance.

Enhanced ISR capabilities and advanced munitions are essential for this approach. The IAF's success in damaging crucial infrastructure at Sargodha, a strategic base, highlights India's growing operational capabilities and the importance of decisive actions in future conflicts.

pressing need for enhanced collaborative frameworks and innovation in this domain.

CRPF warns personnel of fake app jeopardizing sensitive data

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19-Aug-25

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has issued an alert to its 3.25 lakh personnel regarding a fraudulent mobile app named 'Sambhav Application Writer' that mimics its official application. This unauthorized app poses serious security risks by attempting to collect sensitive personal and organizational information from CRPF staff. The CRPF has urged all units to inform their personnel about this threat and ensure compliance with the advisory, emphasizing the importance of operational security. The original app, 'CRPF Sambhav', is crucial for personnel to access administrative details, highlighting the need for vigilance against such cyber threats to safeguard national security.

ZALA GEOSMOS: Independent Communication and Navigation System

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19-Aug-25

The ZALA company recently unveiled its innovative ZALA GEOSMOS communication and navigation system at the Unmanned Systems forum in Moscow. This new technology is designed to operate independently of satellites and mobile networks, enhancing the reliability of aviation systems even in adverse conditions. By utilizing ground-based software-defined systems and onboard equipment, ZALA GEOSMOS enables secure communication and accurate location tracking for both unmanned and manned aircraft in a shared airspace. This advancement not only addresses critical infrastructure needs but also aligns with Russia's goals for a sovereign digital communication framework, underscoring the importance of self-reliance in defense technologies.

Miscellaneous

Heavy rains in Maharashtra cause fatalities, disrupt Mumbai operations.

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19-Aug-25

Heavy rainfall in Maharashtra has caused significant disruption, resulting in at least seven fatalities and affecting over 800 villages, with extensive damage to cropland. The National Disaster Response Force

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Punjab Police arrest BKI operatives, seize hand grenade in Rajasthan

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19-Aug-25

Punjab Police's Counter Intelligence recently apprehended two operatives of the pro-Khalistan militant group Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) in Rajasthan, recovering a hand grenade linked to a broader terror plot. The arrests, directed by Canada-based masterminds, uncovered additional operatives and their plans to target government and police establishments in Punjab, notably ahead of Independence Day. This operation reflects ongoing challenges in countering foreign-backed terrorism aimed at destabilizing peace in the region, highlighting the need for robust internal security measures and international cooperation to thwart such threats effectively. The proactive stance of Punjab Police underscores India's commitment to maintaining national security and combating terrorism.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Horizon3.ai appoints CFO to drive growth in cybersecurity sector

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19-Aug-25

Horizon3.ai, a cybersecurity startup integrating military intelligence with Silicon Valley expertise, has appointed Holly Grey as CFO to enhance its operational capabilities amid increasing cyber threats. The company has reported remarkable growth, achieving 101% year-over-year revenue increase and raising substantial funding to support its mission of leveraging AI in threat identification. CEO Snehal Antani emphasizes the importance of cybersecurity across all organizational functions, particularly concerning third-party vendors. The emphasis on a trust-based culture is critical, as strong leadership in cybersecurity can significantly bolster both private and national defenses against evolving digital conflicts, showcasing the

(NDRF) and armed forces are actively involved in rescue operations, having saved 206 villagers in Nanded. Mumbai faced severe waterlogging, leading to school closures and transport delays, with 177 mm of rain recorded within six hours. The India Meteorological Department has issued red alerts for various districts, forecasting continued heavy rainfall, especially in coastal areas. The situation underscores the urgent need for robust disaster management strategies to mitigate such crises effectively.

PM Modi and IAF Capt. Shukhla discuss India's space achievements



19-Aug-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged in a light-hearted conversation with IAF Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to complete a mission to the ISS, discussing his experiences and experiments conducted in space. Shukla emphasized India's growing stature in global space exploration and the significance of the upcoming Gaganyaan mission. He highlighted the excitement around India's advancements and the need to encourage the younger generation in space technology. Modi praised Shukla's achievements, reinforcing India's commitment to becoming self-reliant in space endeavors. This interaction reflects India's dedication to enhancing its capabilities in space science and fostering a new generation of innovators.

Veteran Actor and Ex Army Capt Achyut Potdar of 3 Idiots Fames Passes Away at 91



19-Aug-25

Veteran actor Achyut Potdar, best known for his role as a strict professor in the 2009 film 3 Idiots where his dialogue "Kehna Kya Chahte Ho" became a cultural meme, died on August 18, 2025, at Jupiter Hospital in Thane due to heart-related complications including high blood pressure and weak cardiovascular health, just days before his 91st birthday on August 22. Born in 1934 in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, Potdar earned a postgraduate degree in economics in 1961, topping his university and winning a gold medal, before serving as a professor in Rewa. Driven by national duty amid the

1962 war, he joined the Indian Army via emergency commission, serving in the Army Services Corps until retiring as captain in 1967, an experience that instilled discipline reflected in his later roles. He then worked at Indian Oil Corporation for 25 years until 1992, entering acting at age 44 with his 1980 debut in Aakrosh, amassing over 125 films and 100 TV shows across Hindi and Marathi cinema. Tributes from Aamir Khan, Jackie Shroff, and Hansal Mehta highlighted his versatility, humor, and profound impact on Indian entertainment.

India's Moon Mission by 2040 to Propel Viksit Bharat by 2047



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Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced that India aims to send an astronaut to the moon by 2040, marking a significant milestone towards a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047. With reforms in the space sector since 2014, India's space economy is projected to grow from USD 8 billion to USD 45 billion in the next decade. Key missions include an uncrewed robot mission in 2026 and the Gaganyaan human spaceflight in 2027, alongside the establishment of a Bharat Antariksh Station by 2035. This ambitious space agenda underscores India's commitment to becoming a major player in global space exploration and technology.

Seven Arrested in Meerut Assault on Army Jawan



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In a significant development related to the assault of an Army jawan in Meerut, authorities have made seven arrests, including the most recent one of Neeraj Talian alias Bittu. This incident underscores the growing concern over the safety of military personnel even in civilian areas. The prompt action by law enforcement showcases the commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting those who serve the nation. Such incidents highlight the need for increased awareness and security measures to ensure the safety of armed forces members outside of their operational environments, reinforcing the imperative of national unity and respect for the military.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
SUNITATOOL	722.0	758.1	705.0	758.1	4375	5.0	54.07	731.09	761.62
SWANDEF	372.0	372.2	372.0	372.2	950	4.99	99.99	243.58	37.15
RELINFRA	264.2	274.9	264.2	274.9	1023141	4.98	34.65	305.87	292.19
CENTUM	2612.8	2746.1	2585.8	2674.5	107669	4.28	72.56	2336.04	1908.49
RTNINDIA	51.49	54.25	51.48	53.87	4067413	4.26	46.07	54.36	54.6
NIBE	1178.05	1251.9	1175.5	1237.25	66999	3.77	26.32	1515.08	1499.52
PTC	186.7	192.5	184.7	192.01	1579810	3.58	57.73	186.25	167.07
WALCHANNAG	178.99	185.8	176.0	183.75	68134	3.09	35.71	192.54	220.39
AZAD	1573.1	1618.9	1565.0	1613.6	222147	2.39	57.68	1534.82	1574.1
ADANIENT	2339.9	2395.6	2314.1	2388.4	1069432	2.35	47.92	2401.04	2440.9
LOKESHMACH	204.87	208.9	201.0	206.25	35657	2.23	51.11	205.84	235.03
HBLPOWER	772.0	794.35	761.5	789.85	3402843	2.2	83.98	636.63	563.54
JYOTICNC	926.1	967.0	926.1	943.9	345478	1.99	39.94	988.03	1120.43
MARINE	174.0	176.89	172.01	174.55	115218	1.97	39.33	179.67	210.0
IDEAFORGE	452.65	462.65	449.0	459.25	105455	1.66	42.9	457.4	500.67
MIDHANI	392.4	398.5	390.25	397.0	220150	1.48	47.03	398.6	347.22
GOODLUCK	992.9	1008.0	985.1	998.7	65622	1.47	41.96	1045.74	900.4
APOLLO	196.9	199.85	194.6	198.64	6250296	1.37	65.31	180.82	137.46
TECHERA	197.0	201.0	193.25	198.85	16000	1.09	47.71	203.76	178.83
HIGHENE	623.9	626.7	609.0	617.0	4710	0.87	38.98	634.2	602.9
PARAS	679.85	683.05	670.3	680.75	276910	0.66	43.9	688.69	608.01
ASTRAMICRO	1017.9	1031.8	1004.0	1009.8	281518	0.64	53.42	978.14	846.7
BEML	4110.7	4144.0	4078.9	4120.9	165662	0.63	50.24	4043.0	3714.93
DCXINDIA	247.55	249.9	245.45	248.55	303469	0.59	38.7	259.8	296.0
DRONACHRYA	78.49	79.0	77.48	77.6	36000	0.36	49.96	75.61	90.75
BHARATFORG	1184.9	1194.4	1175.4	1188.5	217082	0.34	48.84	1179.48	1217.5
URAVIDEF	490.5	495.0	480.0	492.0	577	0.31	46.62	499.22	452.39
MAZDOCK	2742.7	2759.0	2703.0	2747.4	762684	0.3	41.04	2779.82	2637.4
TEMBO	582.1	613.85	555.45	585.4	147381	0.13	74.12	513.15	584.3
AVANTEL	132.85	133.44	131.22	132.95	434086	0.08	44.33	133.03	139.32
TANEJAERO	395.05	400.0	390.0	399.0	10109	-0.19	38.71	427.27	380.94
ROSSELLIND	67.5	68.28	66.91	67.33	17786	-0.4	47.57	67.28	71.73
ZENTEC	1440.2	1445.0	1409.8	1421.6	209652	-0.54	30.13	1550.75	1754.58
LT	3648.9	3654.0	3608.2	3613.0	1352944	-0.61	51.12	3590.56	3512.53
CFF	639.6	645.0	630.0	635.65	12200	-0.62	53.36	625.23	586.39
LMW	15254.0	15350.0	15041.0	15095.0	2348	-0.63	42.87	15252.4	16042.46
BEL	382.5	383.7	377.5	380.05	11111204	-0.64	39.86	387.99	324.75
DYNAMATECH	6626.5	6660.0	6486.5	6581.5	4517	-0.68	43.02	6716.17	7025.97
COCHINSHIP	1722.0	1732.9	1700.4	1707.4	612383	-0.83	38.56	1740.77	1620.36
AXISCADES	1150.0	1227.0	1138.0	1187.4	247528	-0.87	37.73	1298.28	889.75
HAL	4510.0	4510.0	4425.1	4452.6	1264131	-1.37	39.36	4538.81	4321.92
KRISHNADEF	795.05	795.1	781.1	785.55	15500	-1.48	38.5	806.53	751.75
MTARTECH	1540.1	1540.1	1510.2	1515.1	54141	-1.62	49.52	1498.71	1547.21
SOLARINDS	14980.0	15080.0	14607.0	14699.0	90425	-1.72	45.08	14669.55	12209.13
DATAPAT'TNS	2598.0	2599.9	2531.0	2541.0	190889	-1.94	42.73	2607.4	2343.85
SIKA	1301.45	1319.0	1255.0	1272.0	41742	-2.19	54.32	1203.8	762.33
PREMEXPLN	508.8	515.45	498.2	500.05	302344	-2.47	52.97	467.63	466.38
GRSE	2664.0	2718.0	2590.0	2602.4	1043134	-2.62	47.29	2584.97	2001.74
MACPOWER	827.0	859.9	780.1	799.9	21848	-3.31	31.59	945.32	1060.03
BDL	1605.6	1605.9	1546.0	1549.1	2525515	-3.52	38.79	1598.36	1414.1