



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

December 19,2024 | Day 354

### Top Gainers

| Stock      | Close   | Prev    | Change |
|------------|---------|---------|--------|
| PREMEXPLN  | 577.35  | 543.4   | +6.25% |
| MTARTECH   | 1627.35 | 1556.2  | +4.57% |
| AZAD       | 1734.15 | 1697.1  | +2.18% |
| ZENTEC     | 2424.0  | 2380.95 | +1.81% |
| KRISHNADEF | 765.9   | 752.4   | +1.79% |

### Top Losers

| Stock      | Close   | Prev    | Change |
|------------|---------|---------|--------|
| BDL        | 1231.85 | 1268.1  | -2.86% |
| GRSE       | 1654.75 | 1696.25 | -2.45% |
| ROSSELLIND | 76.63   | 78.47   | -2.34% |
| HAL        | 4385.1  | 4482.85 | -2.18% |
| AVANTEL    | 165.02  | 168.28  | -1.94% |

## Defense Business and Industry

### Indian Navy Plans 94 New Warships by 2034 for 2047 Dominance



19-Dec-24

The Indian Navy has outlined an ambitious roadmap to enhance its maritime capabilities by 2047, aiming to commission 94 new warships by 2034, with a strong emphasis on indigenization under the "Make in India" initiative. Currently, 63 warships are under construction, predominantly in Indian shipyards. Additionally, the Navy plans to operate three to four aircraft carriers by 2040, with a complementary increase in combat aircraft, including Rafale M and TEDBF fighters, significantly boosting its air superiority. This expansion is not only a response to regional threats from Pakistan and China but also positions India as a dominant maritime power in the Indian Ocean, ensuring a strategic edge and better coordination with the Indian Air Force, thereby enhancing overall national defense capabilities.

### US-India Space Collaboration: Astronauts and Defense Cooperation



19-Dec-24

Recent discussions between Indian officials and U.S. representatives, including Ambassador Vinay Kwatra and Deputy Secretary Kurt Campbell, have underscored significant advancements in U.S.-India space cooperation, particularly in preparation for the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station in 2025, which will feature Indian astronauts. This collaboration extends beyond civil space exploration to include defense space cooperation, emphasizing joint projects

like the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite and fostering commercial partnerships to enhance capabilities in satellite technology. The initiatives align with broader strategic goals to deepen interoperability and strengthen defense ties, such as India's participation in U.S. Space Command exercises and the launch of joint challenges under the India-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem. This consolidated partnership exemplifies the growing synergy between the two nations in the evolving global space landscape, promoting innovation and shared security interests.

### US Arms Firms Eye Collaboration to Boost Vietnam's Military



19-Dec-24

Vietnam is actively seeking to enhance its armed forces by showcasing locally made weapons at an international arms expo in Hanoi, attended by nearly 250 exhibitors from various countries, including major U.S. defense firms. U.S. Ambassador Mark Knapper emphasized the potential collaboration between U.S. arms manufacturers and Vietnamese counterparts to bolster Vietnam's military capabilities, particularly amid escalating tensions in the South China Sea. Historically reliant on Russia for military equipment, Vietnam is now prioritizing domestic arms production and diversifying its sources, with ongoing discussions for partnerships with South Korea and other nations. The expo reflects Vietnam's strategic shift towards self-sufficiency in defense, as it navigates complex geopolitical dynamics in the region, marked by overlapping territorial claims and rising assertiveness from China.

## DRDO, IIT Delhi, and Industry Forge 10 Agreements to Boost Defense

R&D  SHARE

19-Dec-24

DRDO, alongside IIT Delhi and industry partners, signed 10 tripartite agreements during the DIA-GARIMA event, focusing on integrating academia and industry into defense R&D. This initiative aligns with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision, aiming for self-reliance in defense technology. Over seven years, approximately 50 projects, funded with Rs 375 crore, have emphasized soldier-centric innovations and high technology readiness levels for advanced systems. The engagement of nearly 100 faculty members and 200 research scholars enhances India's defense R&D capabilities, fostering collaboration that promises significant advancements in indigenous military applications and potential civilian uses, which was showcased to Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh during an exhibition.

## Mumbai Hosts Plate Cutting for New ICG Fast Patrol and NGOPV Vessels

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19-Dec-24

The Plate Cutting Ceremony for the first of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV) and the first of six Next-Gen Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was held in Mumbai on December 19, 2024. Constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. under a Rs 2,684 crore contract, these vessels will incorporate advanced technologies, enhancing the ICG's capabilities in coastal security, maritime law enforcement, and rapid response to threats. This initiative aligns with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision, reinforcing indigenous defense production and improving maritime border security. The commissioning of these state-of-the-art vessels will significantly bolster India's maritime operational readiness.

## Indian Army Unveils AI Incubation Centre to Boost Innovation

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19-Dec-24

The Indian Army has inaugurated the Artificial Intelligence Incubation Centre (IAAIIIC) in Bengaluru, reflecting its commitment to technological evolution and enhancing operational capabilities through AI. This centre, in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited, aims to foster innovation, promote research and development, and build indigenous capacity in AI, thereby reducing dependence on foreign technologies. Additionally, the Indian Navy has commissioned the next-generation INS Nirdeshak survey ship, featuring

80% indigenous content, showcasing India's focus on self-reliance in defense. Together, these initiatives highlight India's strategic drive towards modernizing its armed forces and reinforcing national security through advanced technologies and capabilities.

## Indian Navy Acquires Rafale M as Interim Fighter; TEDBF by 2035

 SHARE

19-Dec-24

The Indian Navy has confirmed the acquisition of 26 Rafale M fighter jets as an interim solution to replace the aging MiG-29K fleet, which will enhance operational capabilities until the indigenous Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF) enters service around 2035. The Rafale M, with its advanced features and carrier compatibility, ensures the Navy maintains combat readiness during this transitional phase. This strategic move underscores the Indian Navy's commitment to indigenous development and reduced reliance on foreign systems, while judiciously limiting the Rafale M procurement to avoid overspending and allocate resources toward the TEDBF's development and production. The projected first flight of the TEDBF prototype is expected around 2028, with production clearance by 2033.

## Rustom-1 Drone Set to Launch with NAG-MK2 Anti-Tank Missiles

 SHARE

19-Dec-24

The Indian defense sector is advancing with the development of the SRUAV-Weaponised, an armed variant of the Rustom-1 drone, which will integrate four Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs), likely the NAG-MK2. This marks a significant upgrade from its original reconnaissance role to a multi-role unmanned combat aerial vehicle, enhancing India's aerial strike capabilities against armored targets from a standoff distance. The weaponization of the Rustom-1 not only increases tactical utility in combat scenarios but also underscores India's commitment to indigenous UAV technology and operational readiness. Successful integration of the NAG-MK2 could pave the way for future enhancements in both weaponry and sensor capabilities.

## CAG Report Raises Concerns Over IAF's Pilatus Trainer Reliability

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19-Dec-24

The CAG report has raised concerns regarding the operational reliability of the IAF's Pilatus PC-7 Mk-II trainers, highlighting 38 instances of engine oil leaks in 16 out of 64 aircraft from 2016 to 2021. This issue

jeopardizes pilot training efficiency and safety, prompting discussions on procurement strategies and the need for enhanced indigenous capabilities, particularly with the development of the Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40). The ongoing challenges with foreign-supplied equipment underline the urgency for India to bolster its self-reliance in defense manufacturing, ensuring future aircraft meet the IAF's operational needs effectively. This scenario might serve as a catalyst for accelerating local production efforts in the defense sector.

## AI Enhancements Boost TEDBF Safety and Precision for Carriers

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19-Dec-24

The Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF), a key project in India's indigenous defense aviation, will integrate advanced AI features, notably an automatic landing and take-off system for carrier operations. This innovation enhances safety and precision, significantly reducing human error during landing—a critical aspect given the demanding conditions of naval aviation. By automating these processes, the TEDBF not only increases operational efficiency and mission readiness but also extends the aircraft's lifespan through precise maneuvers. This positions the TEDBF competitively against modern naval fighters, showcasing India's commitment to cutting-edge defense technology and operational excellence in carrier-based aviation.

## Indian Army's FRCV Program to Feature DRDO's 1500hp Engine

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19-Dec-24

The Indian Army's Future Ready Combat Vehicle (FRCV) program is set to transform its armored fleet, featuring the DRDO-developed Datran 1500hp engine for next-generation main battle tanks (MBTs). This military-grade engine significantly enhances mobility with a 30.1 power-to-weight ratio, contributing to India's self-reliance in defense technology. The program will develop two distinct prototypes, both utilizing the common engine, with a focus on reducing foreign dependency. The first batch of over 590 tanks will be produced in three phases, modernizing the Army's aging T-72 fleet by the mid-2040s and reflecting India's commitment to advancing its indigenous defense capabilities.

## Global Demand for India's Guided Pinaka Rocket System Grows

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19-Dec-24

The Guided Pinaka Rocket System has attracted significant global interest, particularly from Armenia, which has placed orders for this advanced weaponry, indicating a growing trust in Indian defense technology. Major General V. Arya pointed out that this system, with its enhanced range of 75 to 90 kilometers and precision strikes capabilities, is a transformative upgrade from its unguided predecessor. The affordability and proven efficacy of the Guided Pinaka make it a competitive choice against similar international systems. As more nations engage in negotiations, India stands to bolster its defense exports and production capabilities, reinforcing its position as a credible supplier of advanced military equipment.

## Govt backs Agnikul Cosmos in Agnibaan rocket development

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19-Dec-24

The Indian government is supporting Agnikul Cosmos Pvt. Ltd. in developing the Agnibaan rocket, a customizable two-stage launch vehicle capable of carrying payloads of up to 300 kg to 700 km altitude. This initiative, facilitated by the Technology Development Board, aims to enhance satellite launch accessibility and efficiency. Agnikul's innovative approach, including the world's first single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine, showcases India's indigenous capabilities and aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The project's success exemplifies how reforms in the space sector are fostering private sector involvement, transforming India into a global hub for space technology innovation and strengthening national defense capabilities through improved satellite deployment.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

## Parliamentary Panel Urges Swift Acquisition of Fifth-Gen Fighters

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19-Dec-24

In light of ongoing procurement delays, a Parliamentary Committee has urged the Indian Government to expedite the acquisition of fifth-generation fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF), emphasizing the need to maintain combat readiness amid evolving regional threats. Concurrently, defense analyst Ranesh Rajan cautioned that Pakistan's upcoming J-35A stealth

fighter acquisition could trigger a panic buying scenario in India, akin to previous historical patterns. He noted that the introduction of advanced aircraft by Pakistan may compel India to fast-track its own fighter jet programs, including the indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), which remains years away from production. Rajan also highlighted Russia's potential role in supplying fifth-generation fighters, framing India's decision-making as a balance between immediate threats and long-term defense autonomy. The strategic dynamics underscore the urgency for India to enhance its aerial capabilities promptly while fostering self-reliance in defense technologies.

## Rajnath Singh: India Achieving Unprecedented Defense Progress

19-Dec-24

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized India's unprecedented progress in self-reliance in the defense sector under the Modi government, highlighting the urgent need for scientists and engineers to specialize in high-end technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing. He pointed out that India, once lagging in modern weaponry, is now exporting arms and achieving significant technological advancements through initiatives like Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and the Technology Development Fund (TDF). Singh urged for stronger collaboration between academia, industry, and research institutions, praising the role of IITs and the Indian National Academy of Engineering in fostering innovation. He expressed confidence that these efforts will bolster India's position in global defense technology, ultimately contributing to the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) while encouraging the youth to innovate and stay connected to India's heritage.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### US Sanctions Pakistan Entities for Ballistic Missile Activities

19-Dec-24

The U.S. has imposed sanctions on four Pakistani entities, including the National Development Complex (NDC) and three private firms, for their involvement in Pakistan's ballistic missile program. These sanctions, enacted under Executive Order 13382, aim to curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction amid ongoing concerns about Pakistan's estimated 170 nuclear warheads. Pakistan's Foreign Office criticized the sanctions as "unfortunate and biased," arguing they

exacerbate military asymmetries in South Asia and undermine the credibility of non-proliferation efforts. The U.S. maintains its stance against proliferation, highlighting the strategic implications of these sanctions in the region, which could lead to increased military spending by Pakistan in response to perceived threats, particularly from India.

## India Stresses Importance of Peaceful Border Management with China

19-Dec-24

India recently underscored the significance of maintaining peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) during extensive talks between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing. This dialogue, part of the Special Representatives framework, focused on the boundary issues that have strained relations since clashes in 2020, emphasizing the need for effective management of border tensions to promote overall bilateral ties. Both sides reiterated their commitment to the October 2024 disengagement agreement concerning Eastern Ladakh, which permits patrolling and grazing in contested regions, showcasing a mutual desire for stabilization. While the meeting did not yield major breakthroughs, it marked a crucial step in reaffirming commitments and nurturing dialogue, with future discussions anticipated on long-term border settlements. The discussions also touched upon the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage and trade at Nathu La, signaling potential areas of cooperation and improved relations. Additionally, a lesser-known but significant understanding was achieved regarding river data sharing, essential for India as a lower riparian state. The emphasis on rebuilding political mutual trust and enhancing institutional dialogue reflects a cautious yet optimistic approach by both nations in navigating their complex relationship. In light of recent animosities, it is prudent for both sides to adopt a gradual, trust-building strategy before addressing critical issues related to the LAC and boundary resolution, ensuring that they do not overlook the volatile nature of the LAC that could lead to further confrontations. As India positions itself to strengthen its diplomatic stance, fostering cooperation while managing border complexities remains vital for sustainable peace and development in the region.



## India and China Revive Kailash Yatra, River Cooperation, Trade SHARE

19-Dec-24

India and China have agreed to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra for Indian pilgrims, enhance cooperation on trans-border rivers, and promote trade through the Nathu La Pass following high-level discussions between India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The meetings focused on maintaining peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), refining border management, and implementing previous disengagement agreements. With a commitment to future dialogues and confidence-building measures, both nations aim to normalize relations after recent tensions. This renewed engagement reflects a mutual desire for stability, which is crucial for the broader regional and global context, fostering opportunities for economic cooperation and security collaboration between two major developing economies.

## US State Department Highlights Strong India Partnership SHARE

19-Dec-24

The recent statements by Vedant Patel, Principal Deputy Spokesperson of the US State Department, underscore the significant partnership between the United States and India, particularly under the Biden administration. Patel emphasized India's crucial role in the Indo-Pacific region, highlighting cooperation on security, trade, and consular matters. The discussions between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the G7 meeting in Italy further reinforced their commitment to deepening bilateral ties and addressing global security challenges collaboratively. This enhanced partnership not only strengthens regional stability but also fosters economic growth, showcasing India's strategic importance to the US in tackling contemporary geopolitical issues. Overall, the dialogue reflects a shared vision for addressing security concerns and promoting prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, with India recognized as a vital ally.

## Indian Navy Chief strengthens India-Indonesia ties aboard INS Mysore SHARE

19-Dec-24

During a four-day official visit to Indonesia from December 15 to 18, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi hosted a deck reception onboard the Indian Navy's indigenous guided missile destroyer, INS Mysore, fostering cultural exchange and strengthening

military ties with Indonesian officials. Key discussions with General Agus Subiyanto, Commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces, focused on enhancing naval cooperation, information sharing, capacity building, and collaboration in the defense industry between the two nations. This goodwill visit emphasized the importance of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Indonesia, aiming to deepen bilateral defense relations and explore new avenues for operational interactions. The discussions highlight India's commitment to robust maritime diplomacy and collaboration in the region, reinforcing its position as a key player in South-East Asian security dynamics.

## Putin Claims Russia Approaching Key Goals in Ukraine Conflict SHARE

19-Dec-24

Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that his forces are making significant territorial gains in Ukraine, claiming daily advancements along the entire front line. He expressed readiness to engage in negotiations with Donald Trump to potentially resolve the conflict, asserting that Russia has grown stronger since the invasion began in 2022. Putin emphasized that while they remain open to compromises, he ruled out major territorial concessions and noted that the Ukrainian forces would soon exhaust their willingness to continue fighting. He also highlighted Russia's military capabilities, mentioning the hypersonic "Oreshnik" missile and suggested conducting strikes to test Western air defenses. This situation underscores the complex interplay between military strategy and diplomatic overtures, reflecting Russia's intent to solidify its gains while exploring potential avenues for a negotiated settlement.

## Russia's General: Cold War Nuclear Arms Control is Obsolete SHARE

19-Dec-24

Russia's Chief of the General Staff, Valery Gerasimov, declared that arms control from the Cold War is obsolete due to deteriorating trust between Moscow and the West, particularly criticizing U.S. actions that he believes have worsened global conflicts. He indicated that Russia will strengthen ties with countries like China, India, and Iran, while citing the U.S. missile deployments in Europe and Asia as a catalyst for a new arms race. Despite the suspension of the New START treaty, both Russia and the U.S. reportedly adhere to warhead limits. This situation underscores the escalating geopolitical tensions and highlights the need

for India to strategically navigate its alliances amidst the evolving global security landscape.

## Netanyahu: Israel Will Maintain Military Presence on Mount Hermon



19-Dec-24

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has affirmed that Israel will maintain its military presence on Mount Hermon along the Syrian border until a new security arrangement is established, following the recent destabilization of the Assad regime. This strategic move has faced international criticism, including from the UN, for allegedly violating agreements, yet Israel emphasizes the necessity for heightened security in the region. Netanyahu has stated that bolstering the Golan Heights is crucial for Israel's strength, citing ongoing threats from Syria. This situation underscores Israel's ongoing commitment to safeguarding its territorial integrity amidst regional volatility.

## Iran's IRGC Expands Control Over Oil Exports Amid Sanctions



19-Dec-24

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) have significantly increased their control over the country's oil exports, now managing up to 50% of the sector, a rise from 20% three years ago. This consolidation comes despite stringent Western sanctions, enabling Iran to generate over \$50 billion annually from oil, primarily exporting to China. The IRGC's dominance complicates efforts to enforce sanctions, as they excel in smuggling operations, unlike traditional oil management entities. With potential changes in U.S. leadership, tougher sanctions could be imminent, prompting Iran to prepare for further restrictions. This evolving situation may impact regional stability and India's energy security concerns given its relationships in the region.

## Pokrovsk: Key Battleground Shaping Ukraine's Conflict Dynamics



19-Dec-24

Russian forces are advancing towards the strategic city of Pokrovsk in eastern Ukraine, crucial for its road and rail networks and near key coal mines essential for Ukraine's steel industry. Control of Pokrovsk would disrupt Ukrainian supply lines and facilitate further Russian territorial claims in Donetsk, escalating the conflict. Ukrainian forces are reinforcing their defenses and preparing for the onslaught, while both sides report significant casualties. The situation underscores the ongoing geopolitical tensions, with Western allies

supporting Ukraine against what they perceive as Russia's illegal territorial ambitions and colonial warfare. The outcome in Pokrovsk could significantly influence the broader dynamics of the conflict.

## Pentagon: China to Surpass 1,000 Nuclear Warheads by 2030



19-Dec-24

China is projected to expand its nuclear arsenal to over 1,000 warheads by 2030, having added approximately 100 in the past year, with around 500 currently operational. This expansion includes constructing missile fields with 320 launch silos, enhancing China's ability to target U.S. cities and military installations. Additionally, China's military pressure on Taiwan complicates regional dynamics, posing challenges to U.S. interests. However, internal corruption investigations within China's Central Military Commission may impede military modernization efforts, potentially slowing down advancements despite overall growth. This situation underscores the need for India to remain vigilant and strengthen its own defense capabilities in light of China's aggressive military posture.

## Jaishankar and Israeli FM Discuss Middle East Dynamics and Ties



19-Dec-24

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar spoke with Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen to discuss the evolving political dynamics in the Middle East, particularly highlighting the recent turmoil in Syria. Jaishankar expressed gratitude for the insights shared by Cohen and underscored the significance of enhancing bilateral relations between India and Israel. The conversation reflects India's proactive diplomatic stance in addressing regional developments and the commitment to fostering closer ties with Israel amidst complex geopolitical challenges. Strengthening these relations is crucial for both nations, enhancing strategic cooperation and addressing shared security concerns in a turbulent region.

## US Lawmakers Call for End to Military Aid for Israel Amid Gaza Crisis



19-Dec-24

U.S. lawmakers are urging President Biden to halt military aid to Israel, citing concerns about the nation's actions in Gaza that they claim violate humanitarian standards. Led by Congress members Greg Casar and Summer Lee, the letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken highlights that Israel's inadequate delivery of

humanitarian aid exacerbates suffering and risks U.S. national security by undermining international law. The situation could further isolate Israel and escalate regional instability if military assistance continues amid perceived war crimes. This reflects growing domestic pressure in the U.S. questioning the implications of unconditional military support in complex geopolitical contexts.

## Amit Shah assesses J&K security post-assembly elections



19-Dec-24

Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, marking his first meeting post the assembly elections that saw the National Conference return to power. The meeting, attended by top military and intelligence officials, focused on a security roadmap for 2025 amid ongoing terror threats, including a recent attack that killed seven individuals. Despite a decline in civilian and terrorist casualties compared to 2019—when 142 terrorists were eliminated and 50 civilians killed—challenges remain as sporadic attacks persist. This proactive review emphasizes the central government's commitment to maintaining stability and security in the region, crucial for J&K's development and integration into the nation.

## Israel Intensifies Gaza Strikes Amid Ceasefire Negotiations



19-Dec-24

U.S. and Arab mediators are working to establish a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, as ongoing Israeli airstrikes in Gaza have reportedly killed 26 Palestinians in one day. Despite some progress in negotiations, significant differences remain, particularly regarding the terms of hostages and military actions. Israel insists on the right to maintain security control over Gaza, arguing its operations target Hamas to prevent further threats. As the humanitarian situation deteriorates, accusations of ethnic cleansing and genocide are exchanged, with Israel claiming to facilitate aid while denying such allegations. The conflict's complexities continue to challenge diplomatic efforts for peace.

## Putin Proposes Missile Duel with U.S. Amid Rising Tensions



19-Dec-24

Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed a missile "duel" with the United States to demonstrate the capabilities of Russia's new Oreshnik hypersonic ballistic missile, claiming it can defeat U.S. missile defenses. This suggestion follows tensions heightened

by Ukraine's use of U.S. and British missiles against Russian targets. Putin's remarks indicate a willingness to engage in a provocative experiment to challenge Western skepticism, positioning the Oreshnik as a modern weapon built on prior designs. This announcement underscores the escalating military tensions and the strategic necessity for India to enhance its own defense capabilities to counter regional threats amidst this global arms race.

## Finland Boosts Defense Training Amid Rising Russian Threats



19-Dec-24

Finland is significantly enhancing its national self-defense capabilities amid concerns over Russian aggression, particularly following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The interest in firearms training has surged, with the Vantaa Reservist Association's membership doubling to over 2,100 in two years. The government plans to open more than 300 new shooting ranges and has hosted 120,000 training days this year, reflecting a broader civil defense strategy. Additionally, Finland maintains Cold War-era shelters for around 85% of its population, highlighting its commitment to preparedness against potential threats from neighboring Russia. This emerging dynamic underscores Finland's proactive approach to national security within the context of NATO membership.

## Military Operations

### Kulgam Encounter: Five Hizbul Terrorists Killed, Two Injured



19-Dec-24

In a significant operation in Kulgam district, Jammu and Kashmir, Indian security forces neutralized five Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists, including a top commander, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, during a cordon-and-search operation that escalated into an encounter following heavy gunfire from the terrorists. Two security personnel sustained injuries and were evacuated for medical treatment. The operation was based on specific intelligence regarding terrorist activities in the Kadder area, which underscores the effectiveness and proactive measures taken by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir police in combating terrorism in the region. This incident not only highlights the ongoing challenges posed by terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir but also reflects the commitment of Indian security forces to ensure safety and stability in the area. The successful neutralization of these terrorists bolsters the

overall security framework and demonstrates the resilience of Indian forces in their counter-terrorism efforts, contributing to long-term peace and security in the region.

## Tragic Training Incident in Bikaner Claims Two Soldiers' Lives



19-Dec-24

Two soldiers were tragically killed, and one injured in a training incident at Bikaner's Mahajan field firing range when an ammunition charger exploded while loading a tank. This marks the second fatal incident in the range within a week, following the death of gunner Chandra Prakash Patel due to an accident involving a gun towing vehicle. The loss of soldiers Ashutosh Mishra and Jitendra highlights the inherent risks in military training exercises, emphasizing the need for stringent safety protocols. Such incidents underline the importance of continuous training and safety measures to protect the lives of personnel while maintaining operational readiness.

## Operation Prahar: Major Offensive Against Naxalites in Chhattisgarh



19-Dec-24

Operation Prahar, launched in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, aims to combat Naxalite insurgency, resulting in significant success with 188 Naxals neutralized in 2024, including major offensives that eliminated 29 and 31 Maoists in April and October. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's strategy seeks to eradicate Naxalism by March 2026, incorporating military action along with developmental initiatives to address underlying issues driving insurgency. Despite these achievements, some criticism has emerged regarding operational planning and the challenging terrain that Naxalites exploit, highlighting the complexity of counter-insurgency efforts in this region. Overall, the operations reflect a determined effort by Indian security forces to restore peace and stability in affected areas.

## Pentagon reveals China's 120,000 troops near Indian border.



19-Dec-24

The Pentagon has revealed that China maintains approximately 120,000 troops, along with artillery systems, missiles, and tanks near the Indian border, highlighting the ongoing military tensions in the region. This information underscores the strategic challenges India faces as it seeks to secure its borders amidst a growing Chinese military presence. In response, India has been strengthening its defense capabilities and

fostering closer ties with allies to ensure its national security. The situation emphasizes the need for vigilance and readiness within the Indian defense forces as they navigate this precarious geopolitical landscape.

## Ukraine Targets Russian Oil Refinery with Missile and Drone Attack



19-Dec-24

Ukraine launched a significant strike on Russia's Rostov region, deploying at least 13 missiles and 84 drones, resulting in a fire at the Novoshakhtinsk oil refinery. This attack forms part of Ukraine's strategy to target Russian oil infrastructure, which is vital for funding its military operations. Russian air defenses reportedly intercepted 84 drones, including 36 in Rostov. The situation escalated following Ukraine's recent use of U.S.-made ATACMS and British Storm Shadow missiles, prompting a retaliatory response from Russia utilizing new hypersonic missile technology. This incident underscores the ongoing intensity of the conflict and highlights Ukraine's determination to disrupt Russian supply lines, a crucial element in its defense strategy.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

## NIA Raids 17 Sites in AK-47 Trafficking Probe Across India



19-Dec-24

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted raids across 17 locations in Bihar, Nagaland, Haryana, and Jammu & Kashmir as part of an ongoing investigation into an AK-47 trafficking case. This operation follows the recovery of an AK-47 rifle and ammunition, leading to arrests linked to a broader network involved in illegal arms trading. Additionally, the Indian Army has launched an AI incubation center in Bengaluru, aimed at enhancing technological capabilities within the defense sector. These initiatives highlight India's proactive measures in combating illegal arms proliferation while simultaneously advancing military innovation through artificial intelligence, emphasizing a comprehensive strategy to strengthen national security.



## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Indian Air Force Faces Critical Pilot Shortage Challenges SHARE

19-Dec-24

The Indian Air Force (IAF) faces a critical pilot shortage, with a deficit increasing from 486 in 2015 to 596 by the end of 2021, according to a CAG report. Factors contributing to this crisis include the lure of better pay and lifestyle in commercial aviation, inadequate training infrastructure, and high turnover rates as pilots leave after their initial commitments. This shortage threatens operational readiness, leading to overstretched personnel and potential morale issues. Addressing these challenges is essential for maintaining the efficacy of one of the world's largest air forces, highlighting the need for strategic reforms in recruitment and retention policies.

## Miscellaneous

### Navy speedboat collision off Mumbai: 13 dead, 101 rescued SHARE

19-Dec-24

A tragic incident occurred off the Mumbai coast when an Indian Navy speedboat collided with the Neelkamal ferry, resulting in the deaths of 13 individuals, including 10 civilians and 3 Navy personnel. The Navy speedboat was reportedly undergoing a test run for its new engine when it lost control due to a stuck throttle, leading to the collision in a busy maritime area. Following the incident, a major rescue operation was launched involving multiple naval and Coast Guard vessels, helicopters, and local authorities, successfully rescuing 101 individuals. The accident has raised significant concerns regarding naval operational protocols and the appropriateness of conducting such tests in densely populated waterways like Mumbai's, prompting calls for a review of safety measures, training requirements, and the geographical placement of naval operations. Critics emphasize the need for enhanced operational judgment and risk assessment training to prevent future tragedies and restore public confidence in the Navy's ability to manage civilian safety while conducting military operations. The Navy has initiated an investigation to determine the cause of the throttle malfunction and the circumstances surrounding the incident, underscoring

the critical importance of revisiting safety protocols and operational oversight in maritime contexts.

### Indian woman returns home after 22 years in Pakistan due to deception. SHARE

19-Dec-24

An Indian woman, Hamida Bano, has returned to India after 22 years in Pakistan, having been deceived by a travel agent promising a job in Dubai. Bano, originally from Mumbai, was trafficked to Pakistan instead and married a Pakistani man who later died from COVID-19. Her story gained attention through a local YouTuber, Waliullah Maroof, which facilitated her reconnection with her family in India. This incident highlights the vulnerabilities faced by individuals seeking employment abroad and underscores the importance of vigilance against human trafficking, particularly in regions with limited job opportunities. Bano's return is a testament to resilience and the enduring bond of family.

### INS Tushil Begins Maiden Deployment to Strengthen Maritime Ties SHARE

19-Dec-24

INS Tushil, the Indian Navy's latest multi-role stealth guided missile frigate, commenced its maiden operational deployment from Kaliningrad, Russia, on December 17, 2024. Commissioned in the presence of Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, the ship's journey will traverse significant maritime routes, engaging in diplomatic and military activities with various navies, particularly in piracy-prone areas. Port calls will facilitate capability-building exercises and interactions with military leadership while also connecting with the Indian diaspora. This deployment underscores India's commitment to enhancing maritime cooperation with neighboring regions and reinforces the Indian Navy's role in safeguarding maritime interests and promoting stability in international waters.

### Air Chief Marshal AP Singh Champions Readiness at CAC Conference SHARE

19-Dec-24

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh visited the Central Air Command (CAC) Headquarters for the CAC Commanders' Conference on December 18-19, 2024. He emphasized the importance of operational readiness in light of the current security environment and urged commanders to enhance combat capability through innovation and self-reliance. The CAS highlighted the critical need for rigorous maintenance practices and robust security measures, both physical and cyber. He acknowledged CAC's role in IAF

exercises, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, and civil support, reinforcing the IAF's core values of Mission, Integrity, and Excellence. This conference underscores the IAF's proactive stance in ensuring national defense and operational effectiveness.

## Air India Orders 34 Trainer Aircraft for New Pilot Academy



19-Dec-24

Air India has placed an order for 34 trainer aircraft to support its new Flying Training Organisation (FTO) in Amravati, Maharashtra, set to commence operations in 2025. This includes 31 single-engine aircraft from Piper Aircraft and 3 twin-engine aircraft from Diamond Aircraft. The FTO aims to graduate 180 commercial pilots annually, enhancing India's aviation training infrastructure in line with the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. With state-of-the-art facilities and advanced training systems, this strategic move positions Air India as a key player in addressing the growing demand for qualified pilots in India's rapidly expanding aviation sector.

## Bangladesh Court Reduces Death Sentence for ULFA Leader, Raising Security Concerns



19-Dec-24

A Bangladesh High Court has commuted ULFA leader Paresh Baruah's death sentence to life imprisonment, acquitting a former junior minister and five others involved in a 2004 arms smuggling case for the separatist group in Northeast India. Baruah, who is believed to be in China, was sentenced to death in absentia in 2014 and is on India's National Investigation Agency's most-wanted list. This ruling raises concerns about cross-border terrorism and the potential for increased separatist activities in India's Northeast, highlighting the importance of regional cooperation and vigilance in addressing security threats. India's defense strategy may need to adapt to these developments to ensure stability in the region.

## Centre Reinstates Protected Area Permit in Manipur for Security



19-Dec-24

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has reimposed the Protected Area Permit (PAP) in Manipur, Nagaland, and Mizoram due to security concerns from cross-border influx and potential unrest. This permit mandates that foreigners must obtain prior authorization to travel in these regions, enhancing monitoring of their

movement. The state government has also reacted to a questionable warning from a non-existent organization regarding the Chief Minister's travel plans, highlighting the importance of verifying information sources. This proactive measure reflects the government's commitment to maintaining peace and security, while urging citizens to remain vigilant against misleading claims intended to incite confusion.

## NIOT Pioneer Deep-Sea Imaging at Hydrothermal Sulphide Fields



19-Dec-24

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has achieved a significant milestone in deep-sea exploration, successfully conducting high-resolution imaging at hydrothermal sulphide fields about 4500 meters deep in the Southern Indian Ocean. This groundbreaking mission, led by Dr. N.R. Ramesh aboard the research vessel Sagar Nidhi, utilized the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle OMe 6000, showcasing India's advanced underwater technology. The findings are expected to enhance global understanding of deep-sea environments while aligning with India's strategic interests in sustainable ocean resource development under the Blue Economy initiative. This expedition marks a promising step for future explorations and potential mineral extraction in these rich underwater ecosystems.

## Gaganyaan-G1 Launch Begins: LVM3 Assembly for Uncrewed Flight



19-Dec-24

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has commenced the launch campaign for the first uncrewed flight of the Gaganyaan program, with the assembly of the human-rated LVM3 rocket, designated as HLVM3, at SDSC-SHAR. The HLVM3, enhanced for human safety with a Crew Escape System, aims to validate critical technologies for future manned missions and is vital for India's long-term space ambitions, including the Bharatiya Antariksh Station. The successful LVM3-X/CARE mission provided foundational data that informs these advancements, reflecting ISRO's commitment to self-reliance and innovation in the space sector as it progresses towards its maiden human spaceflight.

## PM Modi's Historic Visit to Kuwait: First in 43 Years



19-Dec-24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Kuwait on December 21-22, marking the first Indian Prime

Ministerial visit in 43 years since Indira Gandhi's trip in 1981. This visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations, focusing on energy security, trade, and labor welfare, especially for the large Indian expatriate community in Kuwait, which constitutes the largest foreign demographic there. With bilateral trade reaching USD 10.47 billion in 2023-24, the discussions will enhance cooperation in various sectors, fostering deeper ties between India and Kuwait and reflecting India's proactive diplomatic engagement in the Gulf region.

## Netherlands PM Seeks to Boost Ties with India, Focus on Tech and Trade



19-Dec-24

In a recent phone call, Netherlands Prime Minister expressed a desire to strengthen relations with Indian

Prime Minister Modi, focusing on enhancing economic connectivity and cooperation in emerging technologies like semiconductors and green hydrogen. Both leaders highlighted the significant contributions of the large Indian community in the Netherlands, which fosters cultural ties and economic interactions. This dialogue underscores the importance of international collaboration in technology and trade, and it reflects India's growing influence in global partnerships, particularly in sustainable development and innovation sectors. Strengthening ties with the Netherlands could enhance India's strategic positioning in the global defense technology landscape.

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# Defence Sector Stocks

| Stock      | Open     | High     | Low     | Close   | Volume   | Change | RSI14 | SMA20    | SMA200   |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|--------|-------|----------|----------|
| PREMEXPLN  | 521.25   | 592.8    | 521.25  | 577.35  | 649833   | 6.25   | 69.25 | 483.86   | 517.59   |
| MTARTECH   | 1577.7   | 1637.9   | 1546.25 | 1627.35 | 343017   | 4.57   | 41.53 | 1724.61  | 1796.83  |
| AZAD       | 1650.85  | 1755.0   | 1650.6  | 1734.15 | 113717   | 2.18   | 53.75 | 1743.31  | 1533.93  |
| ZENTEC     | 2316.9   | 2489.0   | 2262.0  | 2424.0  | 908641   | 1.81   | 81.01 | 2020.78  | 1431.45  |
| KRISHNADEF | 720.15   | 774.0    | 720.15  | 765.9   | 33250    | 1.79   | 64.11 | 688.07   | 638.56   |
| LMW        | 17205.05 | 17699.9  | 17199.0 | 17624.0 | 9201     | 1.63   | 67.97 | 16660.89 | 16086.03 |
| ASTRAMICRO | 809.0    | 848.8    | 808.1   | 842.9   | 230346   | 1.62   | 61.95 | 802.3    | 797.49   |
| APOLLO     | 95.0     | 97.8     | 94.05   | 96.74   | 1101162  | 0.85   | 45.77 | 97.94    | 105.57   |
| MARINE     | 297.0    | 332.5    | 293.0   | 309.3   | 1777827  | 0.23   | 66.45 | 278.41   | 188.92   |
| CFF        | 690.0    | 712.0    | 690.0   | 690.0   | 11400    | 0.09   | 52.6  | 691.91   | 614.04   |
| DCXINDIA   | 320.15   | 339.9    | 319.25  | 327.45  | 1059146  | 0.02   | 50.29 | 328.32   | 333.27   |
| HBLPOWER   | 661.15   | 685.7    | 660.55  | 676.5   | 1985726  | -0.41  | 62.32 | 646.13   | 559.32   |
| LOKESHMACH | 348.0    | 353.55   | 345.35  | 349.55  | 38832    | -0.61  | 44.77 | 358.35   | 390.06   |
| BHARATFORG | 1290.0   | 1316.9   | 1275.5  | 1297.8  | 1019636  | -0.66  | 35.78 | 1343.22  | 1448.64  |
| SOLARINDS  | 10163.2  | 10290.05 | 10054.8 | 10235.3 | 34308    | -0.85  | 43.62 | 10537.97 | 10010.5  |
| LT         | 3702.15  | 3762.2   | 3700.0  | 3716.35 | 1856838  | -1.11  | 46.91 | 3791.08  | 3616.64  |
| MAZDOCK    | 4956.1   | 5122.95  | 4941.2  | 5038.8  | 1912692  | -1.21  | 63.06 | 4741.53  | 3774.32  |
| SIKA       | 2500.5   | 2624.4   | 2500.5  | 2592.05 | 1883     | -1.32  | 48.16 | 2611.77  | 2477.32  |
| NIBE       | 1767.7   | 1800.0   | 1751.0  | 1771.05 | 23828    | -1.46  | 48.19 | 1773.47  | 1737.15  |
| DATAPATNS  | 2425.0   | 2529.0   | 2425.0  | 2487.7  | 110893   | -1.48  | 48.81 | 2531.55  | 2726.34  |
| ADANIENT   | 2429.0   | 2434.0   | 2397.1  | 2419.35 | 1181898  | -1.55  | 39.0  | 2437.88  | 3016.6   |
| MIDHANI    | 354.0    | 361.7    | 352.75  | 357.75  | 232451   | -1.55  | 48.15 | 361.42   | 410.5    |
| TANEJAERO  | 446.9    | 448.0    | 441.0   | 444.6   | 12190    | -1.59  | 46.97 | 453.16   | 491.78   |
| BEL        | 295.0    | 300.45   | 295.0   | 298.5   | 13349532 | -1.74  | 44.44 | 307.68   | 276.63   |
| COCHINSHIP | 1526.1   | 1565.0   | 1511.2  | 1547.5  | 233424   | -1.76  | 47.04 | 1585.69  | 1696.6   |
| PARAS      | 1044.9   | 1050.0   | 1027.05 | 1037.85 | 80062    | -1.77  | 43.54 | 1082.65  | 1026.07  |
| PTC        | 155.0    | 155.79   | 152.2   | 154.16  | 2134885  | -1.79  | 27.55 | 170.4    | 202.01   |
| BEML       | 4230.0   | 4334.5   | 4225.05 | 4281.9  | 141291   | -1.85  | 53.54 | 4275.99  | 3934.04  |
| HIGHENE    | 661.0    | 669.5    | 643.3   | 652.9   | 9684     | -1.88  | 51.21 | 643.51   | 715.07   |
| TEMBO      | 800.0    | 830.0    | 792.7   | 818.45  | 71312    | -1.91  | 70.45 | 745.84   | 368.32   |
| IDEAFORGE  | 605.0    | 611.95   | 600.6   | 604.65  | 79193    | -1.91  | 46.69 | 604.87   | 696.3    |
| AVANTEL    | 163.4    | 167.75   | 162.35  | 165.02  | 402081   | -1.94  | 50.62 | 162.83   | -        |
| HAL        | 4399.45  | 4442.95  | 4375.0  | 4385.1  | 1084324  | -2.18  | 43.21 | 4512.56  | 4413.25  |
| ROSSELLIND | 77.01    | 77.8     | 74.7    | 76.63   | 64976    | -2.34  | 29.79 | 83.2     | 372.13   |
| GRSE       | 1625.1   | 1669.7   | 1625.1  | 1654.75 | 365402   | -2.45  | 48.48 | 1684.57  | 1560.28  |
| BDL        | 1219.85  | 1245.0   | 1214.85 | 1231.85 | 648958   | -2.86  | 60.02 | 1177.58  | 1201.07  |