



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

December 20,2024 | Day 355

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
MTARTECH	1722.2	1627.35	+5.83%
DATAPATTNS	2567.75	2487.7	+3.22%
ZENTEC	2493.05	2424.0	+2.85%
DCXINDIA	329.8	327.45	+0.72%
BDL	1239.25	1231.85	+0.6%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
PREMEXPLN	536.25	577.35	-7.12%
MAZDOCK	4724.1	5038.8	-6.25%
ASTRAMICRO	797.3	842.9	-5.41%
GRSE	1572.2	1654.75	-4.99%
BEML	4073.8	4281.9	-4.86%

Defense Business and Industry

Estonia Invites Indian Investment in Defense Manufacturing Amid Security Concerns



20-Dec-24

Estonia is actively seeking Indian investment for the production of ammunition, armed vehicles, and howitzers, reflecting a deepening defense partnership amid regional security concerns, particularly due to Russia's actions in Ukraine. This collaboration aligns with India's "Make in India" initiative, offering Indian firms access to the European market and potential technology transfer. The focus areas include 155-mm artillery shells, military vehicles, and howitzer systems, showcasing India's growing defense capabilities. This strategic move not only enhances Estonia's defense autonomy but also positions India as a significant player in the global defense manufacturing landscape, paving the way for future partnerships between European and Asian nations.

MoD Signs ₹7,629 Crore Deal with L&T for K9 VAJRA-T Artillery



20-Dec-24

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth Rs 7,628.70 crore with Larsen & Toubro for the procurement of K9 VAJRA-T Self-Propelled Tracked Artillery Guns for the Indian Army. This acquisition aims to modernize artillery capabilities, enhancing firepower and operational readiness across diverse terrains. The K9 VAJRA-T, equipped with advanced technology, promises high accuracy and rapid fire, even in extreme conditions. This initiative aligns with Aatmanirbhar

Bharat and Make-in-India, generating over nine lakh man-days of employment and fostering the participation of Indian industries, particularly MSMEs, thereby strengthening the nation's defense manufacturing capabilities.

IAF to Acquire Astra MK-2 Missile as Production Commences



20-Dec-24

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to procure the Astra MK-2 missile, with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) issuing a tender for critical components, indicating readiness for trials in the next 7-8 months. Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) is projected to begin production by December 2024, post-testing. The Astra MK-2 enhances the operational capabilities of IAF aircraft, featuring a range exceeding 160 km, which markedly surpasses its predecessor's 110 km. This upgrade allows for beyond-visual-range (BVR) engagements, integrating with platforms like the Sukhoi Su-30MKI and the indigenous TEJAS, thereby strengthening India's defensive posture and deterrence strategy.

102 Aircraft Grounded Amid Supply Chain Challenges, Says Govt



20-Dec-24

The Indian government reported that 102 aircraft are grounded due to supply chain issues, impacting the civil aviation sector, particularly after the pandemic and geopolitical tensions. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol emphasized the importance of maintaining compliance with DGCA regulations while highlighting efforts to foster a domestic aircraft manufacturing ecosystem, including regional transport aircraft, through public and private partnerships. With a total of 822 aircraft registered for scheduled air

transport, the situation underscores the challenges in the aviation industry, yet also reflects India's potential as one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets, promoting self-reliance in aircraft production.

IIT Delhi's DIA-CoE Transfers ABHED Bulletproof Jacket Tech to Industries



20-Dec-24

The DRDO Industry Academia-Center of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at IIT Delhi has successfully transferred technology for the ABHED, a lightweight bulletproof jacket, to three Indian industries, marking a significant step towards self-reliance in defense technology. This initiative, backed by over 50 research projects, involves collaboration between academia, Indian industries, and DRDO, focusing on soldier-specific technologies. The newly developed ABHED jacket, one of the lightest globally, enhances mobility and protection for Indian defense forces. Furthermore, multiple Memoranda of Agreements for developing advanced protective clothing and materials underscore India's commitment to indigenizing defense production and achieving national security goals.

India Unveils Advanced Submarine Battery Test Facility for Navy



20-Dec-24

India has inaugurated a state-of-the-art land-based submarine battery test facility at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, marking a significant leap in naval technology. This facility focuses on developing Lithium-Ion batteries, enhancing the Indian Navy's operational capabilities by allowing submarines to stay submerged longer, thereby improving stealth and strategic reach. The initiative, part of the Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured program, reflects India's commitment to self-reliance in defense manufacturing, reducing dependency on foreign technology. The collaboration with HBL Power Systems will also potentially position India as a key player in defense technology exports, bolstering combat readiness in the Indo-Pacific region.

HAL Advocates for HS 748 Upgrade as IAF Pushes for Retirement



20-Dec-24

A disagreement between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has arisen over the future of the aging Hawker Siddeley HS 748 Avro aircraft. The IAF intends to retire the fleet in favor of the Airbus C295, citing technological obsolescence, while

HAL argues for a modernization plan to extend the aircraft's life. Despite HAL's proposal to upgrade the Avro with new engines and avionics, the IAF remains unconvinced, primarily due to limitations in the aircraft's logistical capabilities. This situation underscores a critical need for HAL to redefine the Avro's role within the Indian military to avoid retirement, highlighting the challenges of balancing modernization with operational needs.

Solar Industries Prepares for Bulk Nagastra-I Orders from Army



20-Dec-24

Solar Industries has successfully supplied 480 units of its Nagastra-I Loitering Ammunition to the Indian Army, marking a significant advancement for India's defense industry with over 75% of components indigenously sourced. Following rigorous trials, the ammunition has been accepted for operational use, and the Indian Army is currently evaluating its performance in real-world conditions. The company is poised to ramp up production to meet anticipated bulk orders, with the capability to scale from a few dozen units per week to several per day. This lightweight, precise strike capability enhances the Army's tactical advantage, underscoring the importance of indigenous development in modern warfare.

Dynamatic and Aequs Boost India's Role in Airbus A220 Program



20-Dec-24

Dynamatic Technologies has partnered with Aequs Pvt Ltd to supply over 200 complex parts for the Airbus A220 Door Program, marking a significant advancement in India's aerospace sector under the Make in India initiative. This collaboration showcases the capabilities of Indian firms in precision manufacturing, emphasizing quality and reliability aligned with global standards. Both companies view this partnership as a testament to the maturity of India's aerospace industry and its integration into the global supply chain, paving the way for enhanced aerospace exports and greater international presence. This deal not only strengthens their relationship but also opens doors for further collaborations within the aerospace domain.

India Develops Indigenous Long-Range Drones to Boost Military Capabilities

🔒 SHARE

20-Dec-24

India is advancing towards the development of indigenous long-range Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) drones to enhance military capabilities and reduce reliance on foreign imports, particularly from Israel. This initiative aims to establish a sustainable ecosystem for drone technology in India, with Economic Explosives Limited proposing a comprehensive development plan under the Indigenously Designed, Developed, and Manufactured (IDDM) procurement pathway. The focus on domestically produced drones reflects India's commitment to self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) and enhances operational flexibility across the armed forces. By fostering local production, India not only aims to secure its national interests but also seeks to position itself as a significant player in the global defense market.

Indian Air Force and Army Advance with LUH Mk-I Helicopter Purchase

🔒 SHARE

20-Dec-24

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Army (IA) are advancing their light helicopter capabilities with the procurement of 12 Light Utility Helicopters (LUH Mk-I) from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), approved by the Ministry of Defence in November 2021. This initiative aims to replace aging Cheetah and Chetak helicopters, enhancing operational effectiveness in high-altitude regions along the borders with Pakistan and China. With a ceiling of 6.5 km and a range of 350 km, the LUH Mk-I supports various roles, including reconnaissance and logistics, while reinforcing India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing and aligning with the Make in India initiative.

BrahMos NG Missile Design Complete; Development Phase Underway

🔒 SHARE

20-Dec-24

The design phase for the BrahMos NG missile has been successfully completed, marking a significant advancement in India's defense capabilities. Dr. Jaiteerth Joshi, DG of BrahMos, announced that development has commenced, focusing on creating a lighter, more compact missile that can be deployed on various platforms, including the indigenous Tejas fighter jet. At 1.5 tonnes and 6 meters in length, the BrahMos NG retains its predecessor's speed and range while incorporating advanced stealth and guidance

systems. This development not only strengthens India's military arsenal but also positions the BrahMos NG as a competitive export option for other nations seeking to enhance their defense systems.

Indian Navy Receives Warships Surat and Nilgiri, Boosting Self-Reliance

🔒 SHARE

20-Dec-24

In a significant advancement towards Aatmanirbharta, the Indian Navy received two indigenously designed warships—destroyer Surat and frigate Nilgiri—on December 20, 2024. Surat, the fourth Project 15B destroyer, features advanced weaponry and AI capabilities, while Nilgiri is the first of the Project 17A frigates, both enhancing India's maritime operational readiness. These deliveries underscore India's growing self-reliance in defense production, with 75% indigenization and contributions from over 200 MSMEs. The rapid construction timeline, particularly for Surat, exemplifies India's enhanced shipbuilding capabilities, marking a pivotal step in bolstering the Navy's combat effectiveness and supporting the national defense ecosystem.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Defense Minister Calls for AI and Quantum Mastery for Security and Innovation

🔒 SHARE

20-Dec-24

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the need for India to master high-end technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing to enhance national security and innovation. During the Indian National Academy of Engineering's Annual Convention, he highlighted India's shift toward self-reliance in defense, backed by initiatives like Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and the Technology Development Fund (TDF). He noted India's growing role as an arms exporter and the importance of collaboration between academia and industry to advance technological prowess. Furthermore, he underscored the significance of integrating India's heritage into future innovations, reinforcing the government's support for the youth in driving this transformative journey.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

U.S. Warns Pakistan's Missiles May Soon Threaten U.S. Security SHARE

20-Dec-24

A senior U.S. official, Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer, has warned that Pakistan's advancements in long-range missile technology could allow it to target locations beyond South Asia, including the United States. This shift in Pakistan's missile program focus raises concerns about its intentions, with the U.S. imposing new sanctions on Pakistani entities involved in missile development. Pakistan's government condemned these actions as discriminatory, arguing they exacerbate military asymmetries with India and threaten regional stability. The evolving dynamics highlight the deteriorating U.S.-Pakistan relations post-Afghanistan withdrawal, as Pakistan's missile capabilities increasingly resemble those of other adversarial nuclear states, enhancing the need for vigilance in South Asia while underscoring the importance of India's strategic partnerships to counterbalance potential threats.

Pentagon Highlights Thriving US-India Defense Partnership SHARE

20-Dec-24

The Pentagon has highlighted the accelerating and robust defense ties between India and the US amid the administration transition, emphasizing the significance of this partnership in the face of evolving geopolitical challenges, particularly regarding India-China relations. India's status as a Major Defence Partner has led to agreements like the procurement of 31 MQ-9B drones, enhancing its ISR capabilities. Additionally, the Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) facilitates mutual defense goods supply, showcasing a commitment to align defense procurement systems. With regional threats from Pakistan's missile advancements, India's focus on mastering AI and quantum computing is vital for bolstering national security and innovation, reinforcing its strategic position in the Indo-Pacific.

Putin signals readiness to negotiate Ukraine with Trump SHARE

20-Dec-24

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed a willingness to negotiate over Ukraine with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, emphasizing that Russia has grown stronger since its military operations began

in 2022. He reiterated Russia's readiness for compromises without preconditions for talks, dismissing claims of a weakened position. Putin suggested that the Ukrainian forces willing to continue fighting may soon diminish, which could lead to negotiations. He ruled out temporary truces, insisting on a long-lasting peace deal, while reiterating Russia's control over significant territories in Ukraine and the importance of a legally valid agreement with Ukraine's legitimate authorities. This stance highlights Russia's strategic positioning and its ongoing commitment to its military objectives, potentially complicating future diplomatic engagements.

Taiwan Reports Increased Chinese Military Activity Nearby SHARE

20-Dec-24

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence reported heightened Chinese military activity, detecting 12 PLA aircraft and five PLAN vessels around Taiwan, with five aircraft crossing the median line into Taiwan's southwestern ADIZ. This surge in Chinese maneuvers raises concerns regarding regional stability and Beijing's assertiveness over Taiwan. Additionally, China is expected to launch a rocket that will fly over Taiwan's ADIZ, part of a broader pattern of satellite launches over the area. While the MND acknowledges that these activities have not threatened Taiwan's security, they underline the increasing military pressure on the island. This situation emphasizes the strategic importance of Taiwan in the context of regional security, potentially calling for enhanced defense cooperation among like-minded nations to counterbalance China's assertive posture.

US Considers F-35A Sale to India Amid Pakistan's J-35 Acquisition SHARE

20-Dec-24

Recent discussions highlight the possibility of the U.S. offering the F-35A fighter jet to India to counter Pakistan's acquisition of the J-35A, marking a strategic shift in U.S.-India defense relations. However, experts caution against a hasty acquisition, referencing past "panic buying" that detracted from indigenous development programs like the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). They underscore the importance of maintaining strategic autonomy and investing in self-reliant initiatives rather than succumbing to immediate pressures. The complexities of high costs, geopolitical implications, and the existing S-400 system further complicate the decision to procure foreign technology. As tensions with China and

Pakistan escalate, India must balance urgent modernization needs with long-term strategic goals, emphasizing the need for careful assessment of its defense options.

Putin Notes Rising Global Interest in BRICS Collaboration



20-Dec-24

Russian President Putin highlighted the growing interest in BRICS among various states, emphasizing the group's collaborative nature where decisions are made by consensus, allowing all member nations to have an equal voice regardless of their size or development level. This approach not only fosters a collective interest in economic development but also enhances the bloc's global influence. For India, as a key member of BRICS, the emphasis on equality and collaboration aligns with its strategic interests in promoting multilateralism and countering unilateral actions by other global powers, thus reinforcing its position in the emerging multipolar world order. This development is crucial for India's diplomatic and economic aspirations on the global stage.

Netanyahu Targets Iran After Military Successes Against Rivals



20-Dec-24

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to intensify efforts against Iran's nuclear ambitions following significant military gains over Hamas, Hezbollah, and Syria's Assad regime. As Israel consolidates its control over Gaza, the prospects for Palestinian statehood diminish, with Netanyahu likely to negotiate a ceasefire while maintaining military dominance. The geopolitical landscape is shifting, with Iran's regional influence waning and a potential alignment between the U.S. under Trump and Israeli interests. Amidst these developments, the Syrian situation remains precarious, with the potential for either stabilization or increased chaos depending on the actions of new factions like Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.

Putin regrets not invading Ukraine earlier, outlines future plans



20-Dec-24

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed regret for not invading Ukraine sooner, emphasizing the need for systemic preparation ahead of the 2022 invasion. At a controlled press conference, he claimed Russia's sovereignty had improved under his leadership and discussed ongoing military actions in Ukraine, asserting progress on the frontlines. He highlighted Russia's

close relations with China and indicated a willingness to engage in compromises to resolve the conflict. Furthermore, Putin referenced Russia's updated nuclear doctrine and the introduction of the new Oreshnik missile, while maintaining a defiant stance regarding Western perceptions of Russia's military position.

Allegations Surface: Assad's Deal with Israel for Safe Exit



20-Dec-24

A controversial report suggests that former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad may have traded military secrets with Israel to secure a safe exit during the collapse of his regime in 2012, allegedly disclosing key locations of weapon depots and military assets. This arrangement purportedly ensured that Israeli airstrikes would not target him as he fled to Russia. While the timing of subsequent Israeli operations lends some credence to these claims, skepticism remains due to the lack of corroborative evidence and concerns over Russia's role in Assad's departure. These allegations highlight the complex geopolitical dynamics and shifting alliances in the region during a tumultuous period in Syria's history.

MEA Stays Alert on Pakistan's Ballistic Missile Threats



20-Dec-24

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) emphasized its vigilance regarding developments affecting national security, particularly in light of the U.S. sanctions on four entities linked to Pakistan's ballistic missile program. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reaffirmed India's seriousness in monitoring these threats, especially as the U.S. highlighted the risks posed by Pakistan's long-range missile advancements, including the SHAHEEN series. The entities sanctioned include the National Development Complex and several Karachi-based suppliers, all contributing to missile development efforts. This situation underscores the ongoing security challenges India faces from regional adversaries, necessitating a proactive defense posture to safeguard national interests.

Karnataka Detains 159 Bangladeshis, 24 Pakistanis for Illegally Residing



20-Dec-24

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara announced the detention of 159 Bangladeshi and 24 Pakistani nationals for illegal residency, highlighting ongoing challenges with border security and illegal immigration. He outlined the formation of a special task force to

track and deport illegal immigrants, emphasizing the need for stricter border controls. Parameshwara raised concerns about intelligence agencies' effectiveness in detecting long-term illegal residents and noted that individuals from African nations are also involved in drug trafficking while misusing student visas. This situation underscores the necessity for enhanced vigilance and collaboration between state police and national defense forces to secure India's borders effectively.

US Urges Supreme Court to Reject Rana's Extradition Appeal

🕒 SHARE

20-Dec-24

The US government has urged the Supreme Court to dismiss the petition of Tahawwur Rana, a convict in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, seeking to avoid extradition to India. Rana has exhausted all legal recourse in lower courts and now faces his last chance in the US Supreme Court after being denied relief by the appeals court. The US Solicitor General argued against Rana's claim of being tried and acquitted in a Chicago federal court, emphasizing that India has valid charges against him for his involvement in the attacks. This extradition is crucial for India's commitment to justice and counter-terrorism efforts, reinforcing international cooperation against terrorism.

China's 13,000 Missile Arsenal: A Growing Threat to India

🕒 SHARE

20-Dec-24

China's People's Liberation Army Rocket Force has built a formidable missile arsenal, exceeding 13,000 missiles, which poses a significant threat to India's military and industrial infrastructure. With over 1,300 MRBMs and hundreds of ICBMs and SRBMs, these missiles can precisely target Indian cities and military sites, overwhelming India's missile defense capabilities. The diverse range and modern features of these systems enhance China's coercive power in the Indo-Pacific and complicate India's defense strategy along the Line of Actual Control. Consequently, India must reevaluate its defense policies and strengthen international alliances to counter this evolving threat effectively.

Military Operations

Human error identified as cause of General Rawat's chopper crash

🕒 SHARE

20-Dec-24

A parliamentary report has concluded that human error was the cause of the Mi-17 V5 helicopter crash that killed India's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, on December 8, 2021. The helicopter, which was en route to the Defence Services Staff College in Tamil Nadu, lost contact with air traffic control shortly before crashing, likely due to loss of situational awareness as it entered cloud cover. The report noted that human error accounted for a significant portion of aircraft accidents within the Indian Air Force during the 13th Defence Plan period, highlighting the need for enhanced training and operational protocols. The Ministry of Defence committed to implementing recommendations from inquiry committees to improve safety measures, thereby aiming to prevent such tragedies in the future. This proactive approach reflects the Indian defense establishment's dedication to operational readiness and safety in its aviation practices.

Kazakh Paratroopers Train in Jungle Warfare at India's CIJW School

🕒 SHARE

20-Dec-24

Fifteen Kazakh paratroopers are undergoing intensive jungle warfare training at India's renowned Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare (CIJW) School in Mizoram, reflecting deepening defense ties between India and Kazakhstan. This program emphasizes skills in low-intensity conflict operations and jungle survival, enhancing Kazakhstan's military capabilities beyond their traditional cold environments. The CIJW School's global reputation, bolstered by India's extensive counterinsurgency experience, facilitates international military collaboration, previously training personnel from various nations. Additionally, India's Air Chief recently highlighted the importance of operational preparedness, underscoring India's commitment to enhancing its air force capabilities amidst regional security concerns, with Estonia seeking Indian investment in defense production.

Israel Launches Airstrikes on Houthis After Failed Missile Attack

🕒 SHARE

20-Dec-24

Israel has launched airstrikes against Houthi-controlled ports and energy infrastructure in Yemen, responding to

recent missile attacks from the Iran-aligned group, which aimed at Israeli targets. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu warned that any aggression against Israel would result in severe retaliation, marking the Houthis as part of Iran's "axis of evil." The strikes, involving 14 fighter jets, targeted Salif and Ras Issa ports, as well as power stations in Sanaa, reportedly killing nine and disrupting electricity for thousands. This escalation highlights the continued geopolitical tensions in the region, particularly involving Iranian influence through proxies like the Houthis, which poses a broader security concern for Israel and its allies.

Ukraine Intensifies Strikes on Russia as Moscow Retaliates



20-Dec-24

Ukraine has escalated its strikes against Russian territory, launching 13 missiles and 84 drones, targeting oil infrastructure in Rostov, which is critical for Russia's war economy. In retaliation, Russia employed long-range precision weapons, claiming to have targeted Ukrainian command centers and military assets, leading to civilian casualties in Kyiv. The conflict indicates a significant increase in military capabilities on both sides, particularly with Ukraine utilizing U.S. and British-supplied missiles. This ongoing escalation highlights the geopolitical stakes, as each nation seeks to assert dominance while the international community closely monitors the developments.

Air Chief Highlights Operational Readiness at Commanders' Conference



20-Dec-24

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh emphasized the significance of operational preparedness during the Central Air Command Commanders' Conference held on December 18-19, 2024, highlighting the Indian Air Force's (IAF) adaptability to a dynamic geopolitical landscape. He urged a high state of readiness and the integration of advanced technologies in space, cyber, and electronic warfare to address emerging contingencies effectively. Additionally, the investigation into a chopper crash that took the life of General Bipin Rawat pointed to human error, underscoring the importance of stringent operational protocols. Kazakh paratroopers are also undergoing intensive jungle warfare training at India's CIJW School, reflecting India's commitment to regional security collaboration and capacity building within allied forces.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Gurdaspur Blast Marks Second Explosion in Punjab This Week



20-Dec-24

A blast occurred outside the Bakshiwal police chowki in Gurdaspur, Punjab, marking the second explosion in the state this week, following a similar incident at the Islamabad police station in Amritsar. Investigations are underway, with forensic teams deployed to determine the cause, although initial reports suggest no injuries and uncertainty about the blast's occurrence. Punjab's Director General of Police has emphasized the importance of leveraging both technical and human intelligence to identify and apprehend those responsible for these attacks, highlighting a proactive approach to maintaining security and addressing rising tensions in the region. The frequency of these incidents underscores ongoing security challenges in Punjab.

Amit Shah pledges resources for a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir.



20-Dec-24

Union Home Minister Amit Shah emphasized the government's commitment to achieving a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir during a high-level security review meeting, pledging full resource allocation to implement the area domination and zero terror plans. He highlighted the significant decline in terrorist activities and the unprecedented electoral participation of local citizens as signs of faith in democracy. Shah directed security agencies to maintain coordinated efforts to eradicate terrorism, reflecting the Modi government's zero tolerance approach. This meeting underscores a strategic focus on innovative methods to combat terrorism and restore normalcy in the region, reinforcing India's national security priorities and governmental resolve.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

MARCOS Commando from Rajasthan Dies in Mumbai Boat Collision



20-Dec-24

A tragic incident occurred on December 18 when MARCOS commando Mahendra Singh Shekhawat from Rajasthan lost his life in a collision involving a Navy patrol speedboat and a passenger ferry near Butcher

Island in the Arabian Sea. Shekhawat, a decorated officer just two months away from retirement, leaves behind a grieving family, including two young daughters. The Indian Navy has initiated a Board of Inquiry to investigate the accident, which resulted in the deaths of 13 individuals, including four naval personnel and nine civilians. This incident underscores the risks faced by naval forces in fulfilling their duties and highlights the need for rigorous safety protocols during operations.

President Murmu Honors College of Defence Management with Colours SHARE

20-Dec-24

On December 20, 2024, President Smt. Droupadi Murmu awarded the Presidents Colours to the College of Defence Management (CDM) in Secunderabad, signifying a significant achievement in military education. This prestigious recognition highlights CDM's crucial role in training senior leaders of the Indian Armed Forces, enhancing their managerial and strategic capabilities in modern warfare. The President emphasized the importance of integrating emerging technologies into military operations and inaugurated a national flag at the institute, symbolizing India's unity and strength. CDM, established in 1970, continues to evolve its curriculum and foster global partnerships, reinforcing its status as a cornerstone of India's defense education framework.

Miscellaneous

Putin Claims Russia is Now the World's Fourth-Largest Economy SHARE

20-Dec-24

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia has become the fourth-largest economy globally, following China, the US, and India, with a projected growth rate of 3.6% for 2023. He emphasized that despite sanctions from the Ukraine conflict, the economy shows resilience, with an 8% growth over two years, although inflation is a concern at 9.3%. Putin's remarks reflect an attempt to assert Russia's economic stability amidst external pressures while cautioning against complacency in the face of global economic shifts. This positioning highlights the competitive landscape in which India also asserts its economic strength, suggesting a strategic geopolitical rivalry as nations adapt to changing economic realities.

India's Remittances Equal Pakistan, Bangladesh Budgets Combined SHARE

20-Dec-24

India remains the world's largest recipient of remittances, with \$129 billion received in 2024, nearly matching the combined annual budgets of Pakistan and Bangladesh. This significant inflow has increased by 57% over the past decade, surpassing foreign direct investment and exceeding India's defense budget by over \$55 billion. Remittances reflect the resilience of the Indian economy and its expatriate community's contributions, highlighting India's robust economic security. This financial support is crucial not just for development but also enhances India's strategic position in the region, underpinning its defense capabilities and overall geopolitical stability.

Modi and King Charles III Discuss Strengthening India-UK Ties SHARE

20-Dec-24

Prime Minister Modi recently engaged in a conversation with King Charles III, reaffirming the commitment to enhance India-UK ties within their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both leaders highlighted historical connections and discussed outcomes from the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, focusing on advancing cooperation in the Commonwealth. They also addressed pressing issues such as climate change, with Modi commending King Charles's environmental advocacy and sharing India's ambitious renewable energy and emission reduction initiatives. This dialogue underscores India's proactive approach to strengthening bilateral relations and its leadership role in global sustainability efforts.

Garcetti Urges Fair Trade and Lower Tariffs with India SHARE

20-Dec-24

Eric Garcetti has emphasized the need for lower tariffs and fair trade practices between the U.S. and India, acknowledging India's progress in reducing trade barriers but highlighting ongoing inefficiencies. His call comes amidst heightened scrutiny over trade policies, particularly in relation to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's previous criticisms of India's tariffs. Garcetti advocates for "honest conversations" to facilitate deeper negotiations. This dialogue is crucial as it could lead to more robust economic ties, benefiting both nations while addressing concerns about trade imbalances, ultimately promoting a stronger partnership in the Indo-Pacific region.

Navy Chief Reviews Vessel Safety Protocols in Mumbai Today



20-Dec-24

Admiral Tripathi, the Chief of the Indian Navy, is set to review safety and security protocols in Mumbai, focusing on enhancements following a recent maritime collision incident. This includes evaluating recommendations from a special task force he established to improve safety measures across naval commands, aimed at preventing future accidents. A Board of Inquiry has been initiated to investigate the collision, with initial findings indicating the passenger ferry was overloaded beyond its permitted capacity. In response, authorities have mandated life jackets for all ferry passengers, reflecting a proactive approach to maritime safety and emphasizing the Navy's commitment to safeguarding lives at sea.

Israel Denies Genocide Claims, Highlights Water Aid in Gaza



20-Dec-24

Israel has refuted claims made by Human Rights Watch that it is committing acts of genocide by denying clean water to Palestinians in Gaza, asserting that it has facilitated significant water supply and infrastructure repairs. The Israeli Unit for the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) highlighted its efforts to ensure access to water, including the operation of a desalination plant and the maintenance of water lines supplying over the daily requirement for conflict zones. COGAT labeled the accusations as "libellous" and emphasized that it operates in accordance with international law, seeking to improve the living standards of Palestinians despite ongoing conflicts.

Manipur Reinstates Foreign Entry Restrictions for Security



20-Dec-24

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has reimposed the Protected Area Permit in Manipur due to security concerns linked to the influx of foreigners from neighboring countries. This measure is part of broader restrictions also affecting Nagaland and Mizoram, aimed at closely monitoring the movement of foreign visitors in these northeastern states. The decision underscores India's commitment to maintaining security and sovereignty in border regions, particularly in light of geopolitical dynamics and potential threats. By enforcing these curbs, India strengthens its border management and ensures that regional stability is prioritized, reflecting a proactive approach to safeguarding national interests.

Kwatra and Campbell Meet Indian Astronauts to Boost Space Ties



20-Dec-24

Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra and Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell met with Indian astronauts training at NASA's Johnson Space Center to enhance US-India collaboration in space exploration. Discussions focused on a joint effort to the International Space Station, with a Joint Statement of Intent signed between ISRO and NASA in January 2024 to deepen their partnership. This underscores India's growing prominence in space technology and international partnerships, enhancing its strategic capabilities. The collaboration highlights the potential for advancements in human spaceflight and innovation, strengthening the bilateral relationship between India and the US in critical domains.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
MTARTECH	1670.05	1777.0	1653.05	1722.2	1697001	5.83	53.89	1723.51	1795.86
DATAPATNS	2487.0	2592.8	2471.0	2567.75	473554	3.22	54.2	2545.79	2726.75
ZENTEC	2448.0	2590.0	2323.25	2493.05	1593381	2.85	82.89	2057.26	1439.59
DCXINDIA	327.45	344.0	324.9	329.8	1003595	0.72	51.54	328.79	333.32
BDL	1229.9	1276.0	1168.9	1239.25	1614304	0.6	61.0	1192.78	1202.74
ROSSELLIND	77.0	80.0	75.0	76.99	44725	0.47	30.59	83.25	370.42
LMW	17540.0	17742.0	17301.45	17524.85	12127	-0.56	65.36	16785.09	16101.33
HIGHENE	651.0	667.95	644.05	644.1	3739	-1.35	48.51	645.71	715.43
SIKA	2535.6	2680.0	2535.6	2557.05	1747	-1.35	45.28	2617.31	2482.26
BHARATFORG	1297.8	1315.7	1274.35	1278.9	1495889	-1.46	32.8	1341.36	1449.28
CFE	696.0	701.0	680.0	680.0	10600	-2.13	49.73	696.11	615.14
LT	3716.35	3725.0	3607.1	3629.85	2796593	-2.33	40.52	3792.39	3617.4
KRISHNADEF	760.0	770.0	736.1	747.45	21000	-2.41	59.13	692.81	640.37
BEL	298.0	302.1	289.35	290.85	14964677	-2.56	38.01	308.18	277.06
APOLLO	96.69	98.0	93.56	94.15	1147541	-2.68	39.16	98.07	105.41
TANEJAERO	452.5	452.5	432.0	432.0	13466	-2.83	42.46	454.55	491.64
IDEAFORGE	601.05	608.0	585.8	587.25	123215	-2.88	41.06	605.84	695.23
AVANTEL	164.89	166.5	159.45	160.24	571627	-2.9	45.25	163.51	-
ADANIENT	2429.0	2453.85	2333.0	2344.95	1337016	-3.08	34.71	2443.73	3011.9
PARAS	1041.0	1043.45	990.0	1005.4	164352	-3.13	38.62	1084.07	1027.48
COCHINSHIP	1561.0	1570.0	1476.75	1493.55	305700	-3.49	41.37	1595.4	1699.7
HBLPOWER	676.9	682.9	648.0	652.65	2102883	-3.53	53.92	650.74	559.98
MIDHANI	358.1	360.0	343.0	345.0	304102	-3.56	41.55	363.1	410.2
LOKESHMACH	350.45	352.0	332.95	337.0	45301	-3.59	39.87	357.86	390.1
NIBE	1772.0	1824.0	1690.8	1707.95	23207	-3.61	42.57	1775.56	1738.04
MARINE	314.0	319.9	295.1	297.95	1073430	-3.67	60.01	282.05	189.88
AZAD	1748.95	1748.95	1650.0	1659.1	101696	-4.33	45.05	1747.36	1536.17
PTC	154.51	154.7	143.32	147.44	3230521	-4.36	23.41	169.56	201.73
SOLARINDS	10275.0	10320.0	9731.0	9787.6	63347	-4.37	35.95	10525.5	10025.79
HAL	4385.0	4420.0	4175.0	4190.2	1598164	-4.44	33.71	4516.5	4418.78
TEMBO	798.0	847.0	777.55	781.55	54937	-4.51	60.89	749.16	370.81
BEML	4285.75	4309.5	4051.0	4073.8	203036	-4.86	42.1	4288.92	3938.81
GRSE	1661.75	1667.5	1560.2	1572.2	442865	-4.99	41.49	1694.41	1564.07
ASTRAMICRO	844.85	845.05	790.15	797.3	275772	-5.41	47.83	804.73	798.39
MAZDOCK	5090.0	5143.95	4701.0	4724.1	2673135	-6.25	50.98	4778.12	3787.52
PREMEXPLN	577.4	581.9	530.8	536.25	467877	-7.12	58.33	489.99	518.78