Defence Professionals News & Analysis

February 20,2025 | Day 051

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
AVANTEL	122.78	106.97	+14.78%
MTARTECH	1470.55	1288.8	+14.1%
CFF	455.0	416.8	+9.17%
SIKA	2497.9	2326.55	+7.36%
AZAD	1350.35	1263.35	+6.89%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
TEMBO	626.45	679.1	-7.75%
ASTRAMICRO	614.45	633.2	-2.96%
PREMEXPLN	371.85	380.1	-2.17%
BDL	1033.4	1048.3	-1.42%
MAZDOCK	2154.3	2180.1	-1.18%

Defense Business and Industry

Defence Ministry - BEL Sign ₹1220.12 Cr Deal for Coast Guard Radios

SHARE

20-Feb-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence has signed a significant contract worth ₹1220.12 crore with Bharat Electronics Limited for the procurement of 149 Software Defined Radios for the Indian Coast Guard. These advanced radios will enhance secure communication, operational capabilities, and interoperability with the Indian Navy, thereby strengthening maritime security and supporting the government's Blue Economy objectives. This initiative aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign, promoting domestic manufacturing of military-grade systems, generating employment, and developing expertise within the defense sector. Overall, this contract represents a strategic advancement in India's maritime defense framework, reflecting an ongoing commitment to bolstering national security.

HAL's IJT-36 Yashas Rebranded for Export with Weaponry Options

SHARE

20-Feb-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) showcased significant advancements at Aero India 2025, notably unveiling the rebranded IJT-36 Yashas and updates on the HLFT-42, emphasizing their dual roles as trainers and combat-ready platforms. The Yashas, addressing past technical challenges, is poised for production and will include a weaponized variant aimed at global markets, featuring advanced avionics and indigenous components. Meanwhile, the HLFT-42, evolving through feedback from the Indian Air Force, is designed for advanced training and light combat, potentially serving as a mothership for the CATS Warrior unmanned combat vehicle. Both aircraft reflect HAL's commitment to enhancing India's defense capabilities through innovation and self-reliance, while also addressing international demand for versatile military aircraft.

Army Chief Champions 100% Indigenous Production and Innovation

SHARE

20-Feb-25

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi emphasized India's ambition for 100% indigenous equipment production, highlighting advancements in drone technology and loitering munitions, with 40 domestic companies involved. He discussed the Agniveer scheme, which recruits young individuals for four years, enhancing military efficiency and promoting responsible citizenship. General Dwivedi also addressed the evolution of warfare, stressing the integration of AI and the necessity for access to rare earth minerals for defense capabilities. He noted the importance of data integration for predictive analysis and announced the development of a bilingual chatbot for better veteran communication, illustrating a comprehensive approach to modern defense challenges.

Kalyani and AM General Forge Historic LOI for Indian Artillery Supply

SHARE

20-Feb-25

In a significant milestone for India's defense industry, Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd (KSSL), a subsidiary of Bharat Forge Ltd, has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with AM General, USA, during the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) 2025 in Abu Dhabi, marking the first-ever supply of artillery cannons from an Indian manufacturer to the U.S. This agreement not

only underscores the strengthening defense cooperation between India and the United States but also highlights India's growing stature as a credible global player in defense manufacturing. KSSL aims to deliver advanced artillery systems, including mounted, towed, and ultra-light gun platforms in both 105mm and 155mm calibers, tailored to meet modern battlefield requirements. The collaboration builds upon a previous partnership established in 2024 for co-developing next-generation artillery systems, reinforcing India's Make in India initiative on an international scale. Baba Kalyani, Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Forge, emphasized the significance of this agreement as a testament to India's capabilities and the trust global defense leaders place in its industrial base. Meanwhile, AM General's Executive Vice President, John Chadbourne, remarked on the immense potential of this partnership for enhancing the U.S. military's artillery modernization efforts, which could involve integrating KSSL's cannons into mobile artillery units for rapid-response missions. This historic collaboration not only reflects the evolving dynamics of international defense relations but also positions India as a key supplier in the global defense ecosystem, showcasing its technological advancements and manufacturing excellence.

Defence Ministry signs ₹697.35 crore deal for 1,868 Rough Terrain Fork Lift Trucks. SHARE

20-Feb-25

The Ministry of Defence has signed contracts worth ₹697.35 crore with ACE Ltd and JCB India Ltd for the procurement of 1,868 Rough Terrain Fork Lift Trucks (RTFLT) for the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy. This essential equipment will enhance operational efficiency by supporting logistics and reducing manual handling of supplies. The procurement, categorized as a Buy (Indian) initiative, aims to bolster domestic defense manufacturing capabilities and generate employment, particularly within the MSME sector, aligning with the Aatmnirbhar Bharat initiative. This move marks a significant step towards modernizing India's defense infrastructure while promoting indigenous industries.

Govt to launch tri-services expo to boost indigenous defense tech SHARE

20-Feb-25

The Indian government is set to institutionalize a tri-services defense industry exposition to promote indigenous technologies and foster business partnerships, marking a shift from separate air and land shows. This annual flagship event will consolidate land, air, and naval systems, making attendance more accessible for stakeholders, especially given the space and traffic constraints faced by the AeroIndia event at Yelahanka air base. The decision aims to enhance India's defense export capabilities and support a more cohesive approach to showcasing its defense innovations, ultimately reflecting a commitment to strengthening the domestic defense industry and boosting international cooperation.

India's Defense Industry Set for Major Growth and Innovation SHARE

20-Feb-25

India's defense industry is on the brink of significant expansion, as emphasized by the Defense Secretary at a recent conclave. The government aims to build a "technologically advanced" and "combat-ready force" to navigate modern warfare complexities, aligning with the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative for strategic self-reliance. With the defense budget projected to increase by 9.5% to ₹6.81 lakh crore by 2025-26, a robust industrial ecosystem involving PSUs, licensed firms, and MSMEs is crucial. The focus will be on reducing barriers for new players and encouraging disruptive technologies, marking a proactive approach to modernize and reform India's defense capabilities.

Thales to Hire 550 Engineers, Boost Local Sourcing in India SHARE

20-Feb-25

Thales plans to significantly expand its presence in India by hiring over 550 engineers as part of a global recruitment drive, aiming to double its engineering workforce in the country. The company intends to localize 60% of its solutions, aligning with India's "Make in India" initiative, which promotes domestic manufacturing and exports. Thales is focusing on integrating AI into its offerings while developing in-country capabilities that support both local needs and international markets. This commitment not only enhances India's defense capabilities but also positions the nation as a key player in global aerospace and defense sectors, showcasing the potential of Indian talent and innovation.

India and France Collaborate on Advanced Defense Technologies SHARE

20-Feb-25

India and France are collaborating on various defense projects, including enhancements to Rafale's RBE2 radar and the development of the Advanced Medium

Combat Aircraft (AMCA) with a new high-thrust engine, underscoring India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology. Bharat Electronics Limited has delivered its 7,000th module for the Rafale radar, furthering local manufacturing efforts. Additionally, Safran and HAL are co-developing the Aravalli helicopter engine, while the HAMMER missile system is being produced in India. These initiatives reflect a deepening strategic partnership aimed at advancing India's defense capabilities through technology transfer and local production, enhancing both national security and defense industrial growth.

Indian Navy's TEDBF Fighter Set for Design Review by 2026 SHARE

20-Feb-25

The Indian Navy's Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF) program is progressing well, targeting a Critical Design Review by 2026 and government approval by 2027, aimed at replacing the aging MiG-29K fleet. The TEDBF, a "fifth-generation minus" fighter, will feature advanced technologies, a twin-engine configuration for enhanced operational range, and capabilities for automated takeoff and landing. With a budget of approximately $1.68 billion, the project aims for prototype readiness by 2038. This initiative reflects India's commitment to bolstering its maritime security with indigenous capabilities while ensuring the naval forces remain adept and versatile in various operational environments.

HAL Boosts Tejas Mk1A Production Plans for 97 Jet Order SHARE

20-Feb-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is expediting preparations for a potential order of 97 Tejas Mk1A fighter jets from the Indian Air Force (IAF), aiming to increase production to 30 jets annually. This follows a previous commitment to purchase 83 Tejas Mk1A aircraft, enhancing India's self-reliance in defense manufacturing. HAL is actively collaborating with suppliers to secure timely materials and has received assurances from General Electric on engine supply stability by 2027. The anticipated contract, valued at over 67,000 crore (approximately $8.07 billion USD), aligns with the government's "Make in India" initiative and reflects a significant boost to the IAF's operational capabilities.

Revolutionizing Defense Training: ADE's AI-Powered Simulators SHARE

20-Feb-25

The Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of India's DRDO is advancing the field of simulation technology with the development of AI-enabled high-fidelity simulators. These advanced systems enhance training and testing by replicating real-world scenarios with remarkable accuracy, using AI to dynamically generate complex situations, provide intelligent feedback, and reduce reliance on human operators. This innovation is particularly crucial for India's defense and aerospace sectors, allowing for more efficient and safer training and validation of systems, including UAVs and missile systems. By integrating AI, ADE aims to ensure that Indian forces remain at the forefront of technological advancements in defense readiness and operational effectiveness.

GE Vernova to Pioneer Electric Propulsion for India's Future LPDs SHARE

20-Feb-25

General Electric (GE) Vernova is establishing a land-based test facility in Hyderabad to develop an Integrated Full Electric Power and Propulsion (IFEP) system for India's future Landing Platform Docks (LPDs). This advanced electric propulsion technology enhances vessel design flexibility, maintenance efficiency, and operational sustainability, allowing integration of future technologies, including clean energy sources. The IFEP solutions also improve power management and fuel efficiency for naval missions. This initiative underscores India’s commitment to modernizing its naval capabilities, aligning with the strategic goal of enhancing maritime security and operational readiness in an evolving geopolitical landscape.

UTTAM Radar Tracks LCA Mk-1 at 140km, Enhancing IAF's Edge SHARE

20-Feb-25

The UTTAM Radar, developed by DRDO, successfully tracked the LCA Mk-1 at 140 kilometers, demonstrating its advanced capabilities against aircraft with small Radar Cross Sections (RCS). This performance suggests that the radar could potentially detect larger adversaries like the F-16 and JF-17 at even greater ranges, enhancing the Indian Air Force's situational awareness and combat effectiveness. The UTTAM Radar's ability to engage smaller targets not only underscores its technological advancement but also provides a significant strategic advantage in real-world

engagements, thereby bolstering India's air defense capabilities amidst regional threats. This positions the IAF favorably in terms of operational readiness and tactical superiority.

Drones Tech Lab Launches Raptor UAV for IAF Mi-17s SHARE

20-Feb-25

Drones Tech Lab has gained recognition for its Raptor UAV, recently showcased at Aero India 2025, after winning the iDEX ADITI Edition 1.0 challenge by the Ministry of Defence. The Raptor, a helicopter-launched drone compatible with IAF Mi-17s, enhances operational reach for ISR roles beyond 40 km, equipped with advanced EO/IR targeting and human-in-the-loop control for real-time decision-making. Its design allows easy integration with existing helicopter infrastructure, promising significant tactical flexibility and operational efficacy in diverse environments. This innovation underscores India's commitment to advancing its defense capabilities through domestic technology development, bolstering the IAF's strategic position in an evolving security landscape.

Cochin Shipyard Seeks Global Partnerships to Boost Shipbuilding Capacity SHARE

20-Feb-25

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) is pursuing joint ventures with global shipbuilding giants, particularly from South Korea, to enhance its capabilities and meet rising global demand for modern vessels. With an order book exceeding ₹22,000 crore and aspirations to rank among the top shipbuilding nations by 2030, CSL plans to establish advanced block fabrication facilities and expand its International Ship Repair Facility. This strategic move aligns with India's Maritime India Vision 2030, enhancing national maritime strength while promoting eco-friendly vessel construction. CSL's investment in an Autonomous Surface Vessel further positions India as a contender in autonomous maritime technology, underscoring its commitment to innovation and sustainability in the defense sector.

Mahindra and Anduril Team Up for Cutting-Edge Defense Tech SHARE

20-Feb-25

Mahindra Group has partnered with U.S.-based Anduril Industries to develop next-generation autonomous defense solutions, focusing on Autonomous Maritime Systems and AI-enabled Counter Unmanned Aerial System technologies. This collaboration aims to enhance regional security by creating advanced, rapidly deployable autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) for surveillance and reconnaissance, as well as CUAS platforms to combat drone threats. With an emphasis on integrating various sensor technologies into a unified command and control architecture, this strategic alliance positions India at the forefront of technological innovation in defense, addressing emerging threats effectively while showcasing Mahindra's engineering prowess and commitment to national security.

Tonbo Imaging's WaveStrike DEW Wins Global Contracts Post Aero India 2025 SHARE

20-Feb-25

Bengaluru-based Tonbo Imaging has made a significant impact in the global defense market with its WaveStrike high-power microwave (HPM) directed energy weapon, unveiled at Aero India 2025. This innovative system, designed to neutralize hostile UAVs, has secured international contracts, signaling India's growing prowess in the defense industry. The WaveStrike integrates advanced technologies for precise targeting and rapid deployment, essential for countering modern electronic warfare, particularly against swarm drone attacks. With four units set for testing by foreign militaries, Tonbo Imaging is poised to capitalize on its performance and potentially secure additional orders, reinforcing India's position as a key player in cutting-edge defense technology.

Indian Navy Begins Steel Cutting for Third Fleet Support Ship SHARE

20-Feb-25

The Indian Navy has commenced the steel cutting of the third of five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli, with delivery expected to start in mid-2027. This initiative, highlighting the effective public-private partnership, aims to enhance the Navy's blue water capabilities by enabling replenishment of ships at sea, thus extending operational reach. Additionally, these FSS will support humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions. The project, featuring indigenous design and manufacturing, aligns with the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives, significantly boosting the Indian shipbuilding industry and fortifying national defense capabilities.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India Army Chief Raises Alarm Over Pakistan's Influence in Bangladesh SHARE

20-Feb-25

India Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi expressed concerns over the presence of Pakistan Army and ISI officials in Bangladesh, particularly near the strategically important Chickens Neck area. He emphasized the need to prevent anti-India elements from using Bangladeshi territory to launch terrorist activities. While acknowledging the strong military relationship with Bangladesh, General Dwivedi highlighted that Pakistan's agenda extends beyond Kashmir, primarily focused on fostering an anti-India sentiment. He humorously remarked on Pakistan's fixation with Kashmir, indicating that this singular agenda serves to unify its internal factions. Overall, the remarks underline India's vigilance towards border security and the geopolitical dynamics in the region.

Ukrainian Spy Chief Optimistic About 2025 Ceasefire, Yet Skepticism Remains SHARE

20-Feb-25

Ukrainian military intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov expressed optimism about a potential ceasefire with Russia in 2025, citing the presence of necessary components for peace. However, many Ukrainian officials are skeptical, fearing that a ceasefire could allow Russia to regroup and increase its aggression. The recent diplomatic engagement, particularly following Donald Trump's return to the White House, has raised concerns that any agreements may sidestep European security interests, potentially empowering Russia further. This situation highlights the delicate balance in international diplomacy, where swift negotiations could inadvertently undermine long-term stability in the region.

Trudeau Stands Firm on Ukraine Support Amid Trump Criticism SHARE

20-Feb-25

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reaffirmed Canada's unwavering support for Ukraine, highlighting the war's broader implications for global stability and the importance of upholding a rules-based international order. Trudeau criticized Russian aggression, stating that Ukraine's struggle is essential for preserving global peace. This comes amid US President Donald Trump's criticism of American financial support for Ukraine, questioning its effectiveness and suggesting that European contributions are more justified. Trudeau emphasized Canada's commitment alongside allies to defend Ukraine, underscoring the necessity of collective action against violations of international norms, which is crucial for maintaining global security and stability.

Australia and New Zealand Keep Watch on Chinese Warships Off Coast SHARE

20-Feb-25

Australia and New Zealand are monitoring three Chinese warships, including a frigate and a cruiser, which have traveled unusually far south along Australia's east coast. Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles stated these ships are operating in international waters, reinforcing that they are entitled to their presence while Australia maintains vigilance. This deployment is perceived as part of China's broader naval power projection strategy, with experts suggesting increased Chinese activity in the Pacific and Indian Ocean. Despite recent tensions, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese emphasized the importance of adhering to international law and the necessity of close monitoring, reflecting ongoing geopolitical complexities in the region.

Taiwan detects 36 Chinese aircraft and 8 vessels near its borders. SHARE

20-Feb-25

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense reported the detection of 36 sorties of Chinese aircraft and 8 naval vessels near its territory, with 29 sorties crossing the median line into Taiwan's Air Defence Identification Zone. This military activity reinforces Taiwan's stance on its sovereignty amidst China's ongoing claims over the island. The MND emphasized that the Taiwan Strait is not under Chinese sovereignty, asserting that military actions by China highlight its role as a destabilizing force in the region. This situation underscores the complex geopolitical dynamics in the Taiwan Strait, where Taiwan's commitment to maintaining independence is increasingly tested by China's assertiveness.

India and Russia Sign Logistics Pact to Strengthen Defense Ties SHARE

20-Feb-25

India and Russia have strengthened their strategic partnership by signing the Reciprocal Exchange of

Logistics Agreement (RELOS), enhancing military cooperation through improved logistical support for joint operations and exercises. This five-year pact allows access to each nation's military facilities, facilitating operations in both peacetime and wartime, and notably expands India's operational reach in the Arctic, supporting its economic stakes there. The RELOS agreement complements India's existing logistics pacts with other nations and reinforces interoperability, especially crucial given India's reliance on Russian military hardware. This collaboration reflects a mutual intent to maintain a multipolar world order amid growing geopolitical competition.

Military Operations

Army Chief Empowers Corps Commanders to Tackle China Border Issues

SHARE

20-Feb-25

Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi announced the empowerment of Corps Commanders along the China border to resolve issues at their level and prevent violence. He emphasized the importance of bilateral talks in addressing misunderstandings and enhancing military presence, particularly regarding infrastructure and troop management. Recent agreements on patrolling in the Depsang Plains and Demchok reflect progress in disengagement efforts following earlier tensions. The ongoing dialogue, including the Special Representatives meetings, aims to establish strategic guidance for future troop management and confidence-building measures, underscoring India's proactive approach in ensuring security and stability along the Line of Actual Control.

Army Chief: India Prepared for Aggression if Provoked by Pakistan

SHARE

20-Feb-25

India's Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi asserted India's assertiveness towards Pakistan since 2014, suggesting potential aggression in response to provocations. He highlighted the positive effects of revoking Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, significantly reducing local terrorism and recruitment. General Dwivedi emphasized a strong national identity among Kashmiris post-abrogation, noting enhanced cooperation among security forces to transform the region from "terrorism to tourism." He criticized Pakistan's rigid narrative on Kashmir, suggesting they are trapped in their own rhetoric. This reflects India's strategic intent to secure its territorial integrity and promote stability in Jammu and Kashmir, reinforcing a clear message of determination against external threats.

Iran Showcases New Weapons in Military Drills, Heightening Regional Tensions

SHARE

20-Feb-25

Iran recently showcased a range of new domestically developed weapons, including missiles, drones, and air defense systems, during military drills by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). Key unveilings featured the BM-450 ballistic missile, various drones such as the Mohajer-10, and kamikaze UAVs. Additionally, Iran reported dismantling infiltration networks linked to the U.S. and Israel, enhancing its security measures. This event underscores Iran's ongoing efforts to bolster its military capabilities amid regional tensions, signaling its intent to remain assertive in defense and technological advancements, which may heighten security concerns for neighboring countries, including India.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Campaign Against Naxals Intensifies After Four Killed in Encounter

SHARE

20-Feb-25

Four Naxalites, including three women, were killed in an encounter with Madhya Pradesh's Hawk Force and local police in Balaghat district. The operation took place in Supkhar Forest Range, where the forces recovered weapons including an INSAS rifle, a Self-Loading Rifle, and a .303 rifle. Superintendent of Police Nagendra Singh stated that the campaign to eliminate Naxalism in the state is ongoing, with a target to eradicate it by 2026. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav praised the police's efforts, emphasizing the government's commitment to supporting anti-Naxal operations. This incident highlights the Indian government's determination to combat left-wing extremism through coordinated efforts and resource allocation, contributing to national security and stability in the region.

India Labels Pakistan as a Global Terrorism Hub at UN Security Council

SHARE

20-Feb-25

India has condemned Pakistan as a global hub for terrorism, citing its harboring of over 20 UN-listed

terrorist entities and support for cross-border terrorism. At the UN Security Council, India's Permanent Representative highlighted the contradiction in Pakistan's claims of fighting terror while it has perpetrated attacks through groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed. He emphasized Pakistan's illegal occupation of parts of Jammu and Kashmir, contrasting with the region's recent democratic elections demonstrating allegiance to India. The dialogue underscored the persistent issue of misinformation from Pakistan, which distracts from its own role in fostering terrorism while attempting to shift focus to Kashmir. This stance reinforces India's commitment to countering terror and maintaining its sovereignty.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Critical Alert: Update Google Chrome Now to Avoid Data Breaches SHARE

20-Feb-25

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has issued a critical security alert for Google Chrome users across macOS, Windows, and Linux due to severe vulnerabilities that could lead to unauthorized access and data breaches. Users of outdated versions of Chrome are particularly vulnerable to cyberattacks, which may result in identity theft and financial fraud. CERT-In urges all users to promptly update their browsers to mitigate these risks and recommends best practices such as enabling automatic updates and using strong passwords. This incident underscores the importance of cybersecurity in protecting sensitive information amidst evolving digital threats.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Indian Army's Vital Role in Nation-Building: Gen. Dwivedi SHARE

20-Feb-25

General Upendra Dwivedi, the Chief of Army Staff, emphasized the Indian Army's dual role in nation-building and defense, advocating for a more integrated approach with civil society. He highlighted the army's readiness to respond swiftly in emergencies, underscoring its commitment to national aspirations, such as hosting the 2036 Summer Olympics. Gen Dwivedi linked the army's contributions to India's broader goals of economic growth and human development, asserting that security is vital for infrastructure and prosperity. His transformative vision positions the Indian Army as a crucial player in fostering national unity and development, reflecting a proactive and supportive stance towards the country's progress.

Army Chief Reaffirms Apolitical Stance Amidst Political Remarks SHARE

20-Feb-25

Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi emphasized that the army should remain apolitical, responding to Rahul Gandhi's remarks regarding Chinese incursions. He clarified that the Indian Army has not ventured into disputed territories but has become more assertive in its positioning along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). General Dwivedi noted that both India and China have been stockpiling resources and infrastructure in these areas as troop levels increase. The Defence Minister refuted Gandhi's claims, affirming that the Army Chief's comments related to traditional patrolling disturbances, which have since been addressed through diplomatic engagement, including recent talks with Chinese officials.

Miscellaneous

Trump Labels Zelensky a "Dictator," Undermining US Support for Ukraine SHARE

20-Feb-25

US President Donald Trump has intensified his criticism of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, labeling him a "dictator" amidst growing concerns over Zelensky's leadership as Ukraine faces increased Russian aggression. Trump's rhetoric is seen as undermining decades of US support for Ukraine while simultaneously echoing Kremlin narratives, which could destabilize diplomatic efforts aimed at peace. Despite a drop in Zelensky's popularity, he maintains over 50% trust among Ukrainians, with political analysts suggesting that external criticism may paradoxically unite the nation behind him. As Zelensky navigates this challenging landscape, he must strengthen his case for continued support from the US while addressing domestic political rivalries and public sentiment, emphasizing Ukraine's resilience against external pressures.

US Becomes 5th Largest Oil Supplier to India Amid Russian Shift SHARE

20-Feb-25

India's oil imports from the United States surged in January, positioning the U.S. as the fifth largest oil supplier to India, with imports rising to 218,400 barrels per day. In contrast, Russian oil imports increased by 4.3%, reaching 1.58 million barrels per day, though this may decline due to U.S. sanctions affecting delivery logistics. Indian refiners are now pivoting towards non-Russian oil sources, as the share of Middle Eastern oil imports rose to a 27-month high of 53%. This shift reflects India's strategic move to diversify its energy supply and bolster economic ties with the U.S., indicating a proactive response to geopolitical pressures.

Indian Students Launch Nanosatellite to Boost Astronaut Health in Space SHARE

20-Feb-25

Indian students have launched RVSAT-1, a nanosatellite designed to study the growth of gut bacteria in microgravity, aiming to improve astronaut health during long space missions. This experiment not only focuses on advancing space medicine but also seeks applications on Earth, such as improving waste recycling systems and addressing antibiotic resistance. The design of RVSAT-1 involved miniaturizing complex laboratory equipment to withstand the harsh space environment, ensuring the reliability of data collection. Understanding microbial behavior in space can lead to significant insights, enhancing both astronaut well-being and terrestrial fermentation processes, showcasing India's commitment to pioneering space research through ISRO and academic collaboration.

Trump Critiques Biden's $21M India Voter Turnout Funding SHARE

20-Feb-25

U.S. President Donald Trump criticized the Former Predisdent Biden administration's allocation of $21 million for voter turnout initiatives in India, questioning why taxpayer dollars were being spent abroad while domestic issues remain. He likened this funding to allegations of foreign interference in U.S. elections and emphasized the disparity in reactions to foreign spending, particularly compared to Russia's minimal expenditure in the 2016 elections. Trump also pointed to India's robust economy and high tariffs on U.S. goods, suggesting that such initiatives may be politically motivated rather than genuinely supportive of democracy, reflecting broader concerns about U.S. foreign spending priorities.

Chandrayaan-4 to Feature 5 Modules, Paving Way for Lunar Exploration SHARE

20-Feb-25

India's Chandrayaan-4 mission, slated for 2025, will consist of five modules launched in two stacks due to its mass of approximately 9,200 kg, aiming for a soft landing near the Moon's south pole to collect samples. The mission will involve complex docking procedures in Earth and lunar orbits, showcasing advancements in technology crucial for future manned lunar explorations by 2040. Additionally, the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX), a collaborative effort with Japan, will enhance capabilities to explore lunar polar regions, utilizing sophisticated instruments for detailed studies. This strategic initiative underscores India's commitment to establishing itself as a leader in space exploration, particularly in lunar missions.

Tesla Set to Launch in India by April, Boosting EV Growth SHARE

20-Feb-25

Tesla is poised to enter the Indian automobile market by April, overcoming previous hurdles such as regulatory barriers and high import duties. Following a productive meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Elon Musk, Tesla plans to establish showrooms in Delhi and Mumbai while hiring for key positions. Initially focusing on importing vehicles from its Berlin plant, Tesla may consider local manufacturing if sales justify the investment, with expectations to source components from Indian suppliers exceeding $1 billion by 2025. This venture is likely to accelerate India's EV growth through advanced technology and competitive pricing, aligning with the government's push for innovation and global partnerships in the automotive sector.

India's NISAR Project: A Cost-Effective Model for Space Innovation SHARE

20-Feb-25

Former ISRO chairman S Somanath highlighted India's cost-effectiveness in space missions, particularly the NISAR project, which is significantly cheaper than its US counterpart, costing five times less for similar work. He emphasized the need for increased private sector involvement to elevate India's contribution to the global space economy from 2% to 10%. Somanath advocated for a shift in perception about the exclusivity of space programs, urging private investment in areas like space

exploration. He noted that while India excels in high-end manufacturing, government support is crucial for technology development in domains where private investment is lacking, facilitating a future transition of public technological advancements to private enterprises.

Sri Lankan Navy detains 10 Tamil Nadu fishermen, families urge aid. SHARE

20-Feb-25

The Sri Lankan Navy has recently arrested 10 fishermen from Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, for allegedly trespassing into its territorial waters, inciting protests from local fishing communities who demand government intervention. This incident adds to a troubling trend, with multiple arrests occurring in recent weeks, highlighting the risks fishermen face in the Palk Bay area, including potential violence from the Sri Lankan Navy. Fishermen's associations are advocating for urgent diplomatic measures from the Indian government to secure the release of their detained members and to establish a bilateral agreement with Sri Lanka to prevent future incidents, underscoring the need for protective measures for coastal livelihoods.

India's Aviation Sector Requires 20,000 New Pilots Soon SHARE

20-Feb-25

India's Civil Aviation Minister, K Rammohan Naidu, highlighted the need for at least 20,000 pilots in the coming years due to the rapid growth of the country's aviation market, which has seen the number of airports double to 157 over the last decade. As India prepares to welcome 1,700 new aircraft into its fleet, the launch of the Electronic Personnel License (EPL) for pilots enhances accessibility and efficiency of licenses, positioning India as a leader in aviation innovation. This initiative aligns with the government's Digital India mission and aims to improve safety and global interoperability, reflecting India's commitment to modern aviation governance and technological advancements.

IN-SPACe launches Rs 500 crore fund to empower space startups SHARE

20-Feb-25

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) has launched a Rs 500 crore Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) to bolster domestic space startups and reduce reliance on imports. This initiative aims to provide up to 60% funding on project costs for startups and MSMEs, enhancing technological capabilities and fostering public-private partnerships in the space sector. The TAF will support the transition of innovative space technologies into commercially viable products while also offering technical guidance and mentoring. This move is expected to strengthen India's global standing in the space industry, stimulate job creation, and drive economic growth through advanced space technology development.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
AVANTEL	114.89	124.9	108.2	122.78	6465359	14.78	46.86	123.89	-
MTARTECH	1288.75	1510.25	1280.05	1470.55	1606167	14.1	48.3	1478.0	1743.21
CFF	420.0	461.85	419.0	455.0	23800	9.17	31.13	540.83	654.78
SIKA	2387.5	2499.0	2352.0	2497.9	3192	7.36	55.83	2316.44	2635.52
AZAD	1259.9	1357.9	1237.7	1350.35	321856	6.89	42.66	1415.35	1594.61
KRISHNADEF	584.0	625.0	580.0	617.15	23000	5.53	44.44	643.84	708.23
MARINE	163.2	169.42	160.0	169.42	97857	5.0	33.82	191.8	217.48
ZENTEC	1095.0	1148.45	1081.0	1114.45	2960822	4.23	26.59	1504.95	1656.31
IDEAFORGE	387.0	411.5	386.15	405.9	188188	3.64	33.38	436.13	652.5
LOKESHMACH	178.0	185.55	177.9	182.35	53502	2.99	20.59	252.88	368.19
BEL	252.0	260.95	250.25	260.25	18922988	2.7	45.0	268.11	289.93
MIDHANI	264.1	273.7	261.4	272.15	315433	2.45	38.65	293.34	389.43
TANEJAERO	302.95	311.55	298.1	306.0	33088	2.41	35.24	337.83	480.94
DCXINDIA	265.0	272.7	261.4	269.35	442060	2.03	35.7	299.71	338.62
DATAPATTNS	1542.0	1619.0	1517.6	1576.1	554844	2.02	31.45	1861.69	2602.02
PTC	147.0	151.0	146.16	149.96	2022166	1.85	59.64	140.59	188.44
SOLARINDS	8723.5	8962.0	8700.0	8935.65	74941	1.73	43.68	9257.24	10248.94
HAL	3355.0	3424.0	3320.5	3408.55	1492723	1.33	36.85	3646.22	4501.09
PARAS	892.95	914.0	877.45	901.4	121223	1.02	39.67	987.31	1097.28
NIBE	1030.65	1093.15	1030.0	1046.65	34077	0.53	28.63	1325.44	1736.76
BHARATFORG	1091.0	1103.45	1067.95	1081.35	1894343	0.49	31.29	1137.86	1452.88
LMW	14493.75	14615.15	14301.0	14506.05	1863	0.48	34.3	15076.82	16128.66
HBLPOWER	485.0	492.85	475.05	489.8	1175991	0.17	40.71	529.03	577.06
COCHINSHIP	1293.0	1317.6	1276.0	1299.45	757395	0.02	41.02	1365.4	1786.26
LT	3260.05	3285.45	3247.75	3275.8	1236693	-0.0	41.16	3345.56	3582.15
ADANIENT	2180.8	2216.35	2156.8	2179.0	1086670	-0.08	39.21	2269.05	2843.61
APOLLO	117.93	123.05	115.83	118.28	6873141	-0.15	47.23	122.87	108.74
GRSE	1340.0	1374.4	1318.5	1347.55	934356	-0.31	40.81	1457.78	1706.83
ROSSELLIND	61.3	61.3	59.51	60.33	38406	-0.74	28.69	66.36	297.46
BEML	2633.0	2690.0	2612.0	2624.55	513806	-1.03	26.29	3160.51	3995.4
HIGHENE	497.8	497.8	468.0	478.4	8885	-1.14	32.96	510.07	684.6
MAZDOCK	2134.7	2181.8	2110.3	2154.3	2789656	-1.18	46.51	2226.56	2154.54
BDL	1040.0	1054.8	1030.7	1033.4	733736	-1.42	36.27	1168.75	1264.31
PREMEXPLN	379.5	380.8	367.3	371.85	160504	-2.17	38.52	409.72	538.62
ASTRAMICRO	633.2	638.15	612.0	614.45	150137	-2.96	33.77	681.46	819.5
TEMBO	0.0	626.45	626.45	626.45	39985	-7.75	42.64	660.0	466.79