



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

March 20, 2025 | Day 079

## Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
BHARATFORG	1194.3	1136.0	+5.13%
GRSE	1724.05	1641.35	+5.04%
LOKESHMACH	143.98	137.13	+5.0%
NIBE	846.55	806.25	+5.0%
KRISHNADEF	629.8	601.25	+4.75%

## Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
HBLPOWER	460.1	482.4	-4.62%
DATAPATTNS	1688.95	1714.05	-1.46%
SIKA	513.95	519.55	-1.08%
PTC	156.73	157.66	-0.59%
COCHINSHIP	1450.5	1456.7	-0.43%

## Defense Business and Industry

### CCS Greenlights ₹7,000 Crore Deal for 307 ATAGS Howitzers



20-Mar-25

In a significant development for India's defense modernization and self-reliance, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved a Rs 7,000 crore contract for the procurement of 307 Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS). This cutting-edge 155mm/52-caliber towed howitzer, indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), will enhance the Indian Army's long-range artillery capabilities, particularly along the borders with Pakistan and China. The deal is distributed between Bharat Forge, which secured 60% of the contract as the lowest bidder, and Tata Advanced Systems, receiving the remaining 40%. Besides its military implications, the ATAGS project is expected to generate around 20 lakh man-days of employment, thereby strengthening India's defense-industrial ecosystem. The ATAGS boasts an impressive range of 45-48 km, improved accuracy, and advanced automation to reduce crew fatigue and enhance response times, making it particularly effective for rapid deployment in challenging terrains, including high-altitude and border regions. This procurement not only represents a leap in India's artillery capabilities but also underscores the government's commitment to bolstering national security while promoting domestic manufacturing and job creation in the defense sector.

### DAC Greenlights Over Rs 54,000 Crore for Defense Upgrades



20-Mar-25

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), under Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved capital acquisition proposals exceeding Rs 54,000 crore to bolster India's military capabilities across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Key procurements include 1,350 HP engines for T-90 tanks to enhance mobility in high-altitude areas, advanced Varunastra anti-submarine torpedoes, and Airborne Early Warning & Control aircraft systems to improve aerial situational awareness. Additionally, the DAC is implementing reforms to expedite the procurement process, reducing timelines from 96 weeks to 24 weeks and enhancing accountability to prevent cost escalations. These initiatives represent a significant step towards modernizing India's defense forces, addressing bureaucratic inefficiencies, and ensuring timely delivery of critical military assets.

### Paras Defence Stock Soars 10% After ₹142 Crore Defence Contract



20-Mar-25

Paras Defence and Space Technologies Limited saw a significant surge in its share price, jumping nearly 10% following the announcement of a contract worth Rs. 142.31 crores from the DRDO to develop a Laser Source Module for anti-drone and anti-missile applications. With a robust order backlog of Rs. 850 crores and a 34% increase in revenue year-over-year, the company is positioned for steady growth. Additionally, Paras Defence is set to invest Rs. 12,000 crores in establishing an optics park in Maharashtra, enhancing its commitment to the 'Make in India' initiative, and generating over 2,000 jobs. This investment reflects a

broader strategy to foster technological self-sufficiency in critical sectors, while the stock shows bullish momentum for potential future gains, underscoring a positive outlook for India's defense capabilities.

## Dutch Minister Seeks Enhanced India Collaboration on Dual-Use Tech SHARE

20-Mar-25

The Dutch Defence Minister, Ruben Brekelmans, expressed a strong interest in enhancing collaboration with India on dual-use technologies such as drones, AI, and semiconductors, emphasizing the potential for a strategic partnership bolstered by mutual defense and security interests. He highlighted India's manufacturing scale as a critical asset for ramping up defense industries. Additionally, Brekelmans noted the Netherlands' commitment to strengthening maritime cooperation through regular exercises in the Indo-Pacific, reaffirming shared values with India. His remarks also underscored the importance of robust military capabilities to deter future aggression, particularly concerning Russia's actions in Europe, reflecting a commitment to enduring peace and security.

## Indian Army and Air Force Target ₹20,000 Crore BrahMos Deal SHARE

20-Mar-25

The Indian Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, is set to discuss a significant deal involving the procurement of BrahMos cruise missiles worth ₹20,000 crore, primarily for the Indian Army, which is expected to receive a larger share compared to the Air Force. The meeting will also focus on acquiring additional Varunastra ship-launched torpedoes and anti-aircraft missiles to bolster the Indian Navy's capabilities. Notably, India's emphasis on self-reliance in defense procurement is facilitating a strategic shift towards enhancing indigenous production and exports, with successful sales of BrahMos to the Philippines marking a key moment in its defense export strategy. This proactive approach not only strengthens India's military readiness but also establishes it as a competitive player in the global defense market, underscoring the importance of advanced weapons systems in national security.

## IAF Unveils Major Acquisitions Plan for 2025-26 to Boost Defense Capabilities SHARE

20-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to enhance its operational capabilities significantly by 2025-26, focusing on indigenous acquisitions, which include advanced aircraft like the TEJAS Light Combat Aircraft, helicopters, and 12 new Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems to address current surveillance gaps. With an investment of approximately ₹1,39,596.60 crore over the past five years, the IAF is committed to bolstering domestic defense manufacturing aligned with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. This includes the upgrade of existing Sukhoi Su-30MKI jets and the integration of modern technologies into new platforms, thereby reducing dependence on foreign systems. The IAF's strategic procurement reflects a proactive approach to countering regional threats, particularly from China and Pakistan, and reinforces India's stance on self-reliance in defense capabilities. The planned acquisitions illustrate a comprehensive strategy to modernize forces and ensure readiness against evolving security challenges.

## Punjab Enhances Defense with Real-Time Anti-Drone Trials in Tarn Taran SHARE

20-Mar-25

The Punjab government recently conducted real-time trials of advanced anti-drone technology in Tarn Taran district, aimed at combating cross-border drug smuggling and narco-terrorism. This initiative reflects a significant effort to bolster Punjab's defense capabilities against illegal activities, highlighting the state's commitment under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's leadership. The trials showcased systems with detection, identification, and neutralization capabilities, crucial for addressing the threat posed by drones in border areas. The government's proactive measures complement the Border Security Force's efforts, marking a decisive shift in tackling the longstanding issue of drug trafficking that has plagued Punjab. This initiative underscores the importance of integrating cutting-edge technology in regional security frameworks.

## Boeing and Indian Startup Team Up to Advance Autonomous Vessels SHARE

20-Mar-25

Boeing's Liquid Robotics has partnered with Indian startup Sagar Defence Engineering to co-develop autonomous surface vessels, building on the US-India

Roadmap for Defence Industrial Cooperation. This collaboration aims to enhance undersea domain awareness and establish a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) capacity for the Wave Glider ASV platform, reinforcing India's potential as a hub for MRO and defense innovation. The partnership is significant as it showcases the deepening US-India defense ties and the alignment of both countries' strategic visions, contributing to improved maritime security and advancing next-generation defense technologies. This initiative exemplifies India's growing role in the global defense ecosystem, particularly in autonomous systems.

## **Villupuram MP urges swift airstrip transfer for drone park development.**

 **SHARE**

20-Mar-25

Villupuram MP D Ravikumar has urged Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to expedite the transfer of the Ulundurpet airstrip for a proposed drone manufacturing park, emphasizing its strategic location for enhancing India's national security. The facility aims to serve as an advanced flight testing laboratory and flying training school, vital for bolstering the country's defense capabilities and technological advancement. Ravikumar highlighted that this initiative would not only strengthen India's defense preparedness but also create significant employment opportunities and boost Tamil Nadu's economy. The acquisition process is progressing, but technical hurdles remain, necessitating urgent intervention for timely infrastructure development.

## **Airbus Offers H125 as Alternative to Delayed Ka-226 for IAF**

 **SHARE**

20-Mar-25

Airbus is strategically positioning its H125 helicopter to potentially replace the delayed Kamov Ka-226 deal with Russia, as it seeks to strengthen its presence in India's military aviation sector. The company is set to establish a private assembly facility in Andhra Pradesh, promoting self-reliance and job creation in India's defense industry. While the H125 offers advanced capabilities, competition from HAL's Light Utility Helicopter and concerns about its single-engine design versus the twin-engine Ka-226 remain. The outcome of India's light helicopter procurement strategy will likely hinge on operational suitability, cost-effectiveness, and performance in demanding high-altitude conditions.

## **Surge in Indian Defense Stocks Linked to Germany's Budget Boost**

 **SHARE**

20-Mar-25

Shares of Indian defense and shipbuilding companies surged significantly, with some stocks rising up to 20%, following the German Parliament's approval of a substantial defense budget increase. This move is seen as a catalyst for India's defense sector, which is positioned to benefit from a potential \$800 billion opportunity in European defense spending. Analysts suggest the uptick in stock prices reflects a recovery sentiment in the defense sector, which had previously been underperforming. With India's focus on enhancing domestic manufacturing and exports of defense equipment, this moment presents a promising outlook for Indian defense firms amidst global military spending shifts.

## **BEL Wins ESC National Export Excellence Award 2025 for Defense Exports**

 **SHARE**

20-Mar-25

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna Defence PSU, received the ESC National Export Excellence Award 2025 in the Strategic/Defence Electronics category, highlighting its significant achievements in defense exports. In the fiscal year 2023-24, BEL experienced a remarkable 92% growth in sales, reaching USD 92.98 million, with an impressive export order book of USD 387 million. The company's products gained traction in various countries, including the USA, France, and Germany, indicating BEL's expanding global footprint. By establishing new overseas marketing offices, BEL aims to further penetrate markets in the Indian Ocean Region and foster partnerships with friendly foreign countries, showcasing its commitment to enhancing India's defense industry and export capabilities.

## **France to boost nuclear capabilities with new air base for Rafale F5s**

 **SHARE**

20-Mar-25

France is set to enhance its nuclear deterrent capabilities by developing the Luxeuil-Saint-Sauveur air base to accommodate the Rafale F5 fighter jets armed with hypersonic nuclear missiles by 2035, amid concerns over Russian threats. President Macron's announcement includes upgrading the base at a cost of approximately €1.5 billion and increasing defense spending to 3.5% of the budget. With this move, France aims to modernize its nuclear forces, ensuring it remains a pivotal player in European defense, particularly as Germany also increases its military

expenditures. This strategic development signifies France's commitment to strengthening its military readiness in a changing geopolitical landscape.

## Embraer's PDNT Project Soars with Successful Wing Tests



20-Mar-25

Embraer has successfully completed initial structural fatigue tests for the wing of its New Technologies Demonstration Platform (PDNT), which is supported by Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. This project emphasizes collaboration among industry, government, and academia to drive advancements in sustainable aviation and enhance Brazil's technological competitiveness. The static loading test validated innovative methodologies and materials, with further steps involving the manufacturing of the platform's fuselage and empennage. This initiative highlights Brazil's commitment to fostering research and innovation in aerospace, which can bolster its defense capabilities and industry growth, aligning with global trends in defense technology modernization.

## General Atomics Unveils Quadratrix Software for Enhanced Military Response



20-Mar-25

General Atomics has launched its Quadratrix Software Enterprise, integrating its software capabilities across various business lines to enhance all-domain military response and information dominance. This initiative aims to improve interoperability among its diverse product offerings, including unmanned aircraft, by leveraging advancements in autonomy, AI, and machine learning. The Quadratrix system will facilitate better command, control, and data fusion, providing military forces with real-time situational awareness essential for addressing complex threats. As a leading defense technology firm, General Atomics continues to push the boundaries of aerospace innovation, promising streamlined solutions for current and future customers while ensuring they remain competitive in the evolving defense landscape.

## EDGE Partners with CMN NAVAL to Boost Naval Innovation and Capabilities



20-Mar-25

UAE Defence giant EDGE has established a joint venture, AD NAVAL, with CMN NAVAL in Abu Dhabi to enhance naval capabilities, focusing on small to mid-size vessels like corvettes and OPVs, leveraging a €7 billion order pipeline. EDGE will hold a 51% stake,

facilitating integration of advanced autonomous and smart weapons technologies. This collaboration aims to bolster EDGE's presence in key markets, particularly in Africa, while fostering job creation and technological innovation in the UAE. The partnership underscores the commitment to advancing naval capabilities and positions both firms to set new industry benchmarks in maritime defense solutions.

## China's J-36 Fighter Jet Test Flight Signals Rising Military Ambitions



20-Mar-25

China's J-36 fighter jet, showcasing advanced features like a triple-engine configuration and stealth capabilities, recently completed a significant test flight. This aircraft is designed for enhanced maneuverability and could serve as a drone mothership, potentially carrying hypersonic missiles, and is speculated to have nuclear capabilities. With its large fuel capacity, the J-36 is positioned for extended operations in East Asia, reflecting China's ambitions to bolster its military might amid rising regional tensions. The development of such a sophisticated aircraft underscores the need for India to continue advancing its own defense technologies and strategies to maintain regional stability and security in the face of evolving threats.

## Philippines Boosts Defense with BrahMos Missile Acquisition



20-Mar-25

The Philippines has acquired three batteries of BrahMos missiles for approximately \$375 million, significantly enhancing its coastal defense capabilities against potential threats, particularly from China. This advanced missile system, known for its speed and precision, will be primarily operated by the Philippine Marine Corps, with training already conducted for personnel integration. The acquisition not only strengthens military ties between India and the Philippines but also promotes regional security cooperation in the face of China's assertiveness in the South China Sea. This strategic partnership reflects both nations' commitment to upholding international law and establishing a rules-based order in the region.

## Indian Army Enhances Mobility with ₹197.35 Cr Ashok Leyland Deal



20-Mar-25

The Indian Army has signed a ₹197.35 crore contract with Ashok Leyland Defence Systems for 500 pre-fabricated short chassis buses, aimed at enhancing mobility and logistical capabilities in challenging



terrains along the northern and northeastern borders. Designed for rugged environments, these buses feature advanced technology, a robust engine, and reinforced structures to ensure reliability in high-altitude operations. The acquisition is part of the Army's modernization efforts to improve operational efficiency and sustain troop presence in strategically vital areas. This development underscores India's commitment to fortifying its defense infrastructure in the face of challenging geopolitical circumstances.

## HAL Launches 8th Tejas Trainer and First MK1A, Showcasing Progress SHARE

20-Mar-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has made significant strides in India's indigenous aerospace program by unveiling the 8th Tejas Trainer alongside the first Tejas MK1A variant. This development confirms HAL's production milestones, with nine trainers completed and a tenth nearing completion, demonstrating its commitment to enhancing India's defense capabilities through indigenous manufacturing. The Tejas Trainer, essential for pilot training with combat capabilities, complements the advanced MK1A variant, which features improved avionics and radar systems. This progress aligns with the Indian Air Force's modernization goals, highlighting HAL's ramped-up production capacity and the integral role of the Tejas program in bolstering India's aerial defense readiness.

## Tata Advanced Systems Expands WhAP Deal with Morocco, New Variants Ahead SHARE

20-Mar-25

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has secured a significant export deal with Morocco for its Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP), supplying 150 units and establishing local production through Tata Advanced Systems Maroc. The partnership, supported by India's DRDO, aims to develop new variants, including 105mm and 120mm cannon configurations and a medical variant, enhancing Morocco's armoured capabilities and positioning it as a potential defense manufacturing hub in Africa. The WhAP's success over competitors like China's Type-08 and the planned integration of indigenous solutions highlight India's growing influence in the global defense market, aligning with the Make in India initiative and fostering local employment and technology transfer.

## Indian Navy Boosts Fighter Fleet with Dedicated Aerial Refuellers SHARE

20-Mar-25

The Indian Navy plans to enhance its operational capabilities by acquiring dedicated aerial refuellers to support its expanding fleet of fighter jets, projected to grow from 45 to nearly 150 over the next two decades. With the intent to issue a Request for Information (RFI) soon, this initiative aims to reduce reliance on the Indian Air Force for mid-air refuelling, addressing the Navy's need for operational independence amid increasing maritime responsibilities. The planned refuellers will bolster anti-submarine warfare and surveillance operations, ensuring sustained missions across the Indian Ocean Region. Potential candidates for the refuellers include the Airbus A330 MRTT and Boeing KC-46 Pegasus, demonstrating India's commitment to enhancing its naval aviation capabilities.

## Tejas MkII Trials Shift to Chitradurga Aeronautical Test Range SHARE

20-Mar-25

India's Tejas MkII program is set to advance significantly as developmental trials will be conducted at the Chitradurga Aeronautical Test Range in Karnataka, marking a strategic shift from HAL Bangalore Airport. This facility, designed for rigorous aircraft evaluation, will facilitate rapid testing and high sortie rates, essential for meeting the operational clearance deadline by 2028. The program aims to manufacture four Tejas MkII aircraft for extensive trials, including airframe performance and weapons systems integration, optimizing the aircraft's capabilities to replace aging platforms like the Mirage 2000 and MiG-29. The relocation enhances testing efficiency and aligns with India's ambitious defense modernization goals.

## Gridbots Technologies Aces High-Altitude Trials of HITMAN System SHARE

20-Mar-25

Gridbots Technologies, an Ahmedabad-based defense startup, has successfully completed high-altitude trials of its indigenous HITMAN system, showcasing advanced capabilities that significantly enhance operational efficiency and precision for military forces. The system features Level 5 autonomy, enabling independent operation in complex environments, and includes an AWS KATANA autonomous weapon station compatible with various weaponry. With long-range surveillance capabilities and robust firepower, the

HITMAN system is designed to cater to diverse combat scenarios, thereby reducing risks to personnel while ensuring effective threat neutralization. This development highlights India's commitment to advancing its indigenous defense technology and addresses evolving military needs in modern warfare.

## DG Propulsion Targets 90% Indigenous Content in J40 Turbojet



20-Mar-25

DG Propulsion, a Delhi-based startup, is making strides in India's defense sector by targeting over 90% indigenous content in its DG J40 turbojet engine, currently at 30-35%. Supported by a Ministry of Defence grant, this initiative aims to bolster self-reliance and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers. The DG J40, designed for UAVs, boasts a thrust capacity of 40 kgf and is critical for advancing India's surveillance and combat capabilities. This effort aligns with the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, promoting innovation and strengthening the domestic defense manufacturing ecosystem, which is vital for national security and technological independence.

## Agni-1P: India's Strategic Edge Against Maritime Threats



20-Mar-25

India's Agni-1P missile has emerged as a significant advancement in anti-ship ballistic missile capabilities, confirmed by Avinash Chander, former DRDO Chief. With a range of 1,000 to 2,000 km, it is designed to engage moving maritime targets such as warships and aircraft carriers, positioning India strategically amidst growing naval threats in the Indian Ocean. The Agni-1P's advanced guidance systems and agility differentiate it from traditional ballistic missiles, allowing for precise targeting. This development not only enhances India's maritime defense capabilities but also reflects its commitment to maintaining strategic deterrence in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape, countering adversaries' expanding naval presence.

## Sandeep Metal Craft Boosts Fuze Production to Meet Global Demand



20-Mar-25

Sandeep Metal Craft Private Limited (SMPL), India's largest fuze manufacturer, has doubled its production capacity to meet soaring international demand, particularly from countries like the USA, Italy, Germany, and Brazil. This expansion is a testament to SMPL's reputation for high-quality, precision-engineered fuze

systems, including the versatile FUZE 447 and the dual-mode FUZE 213 MK5 (M-3). With hundreds of thousands of orders, SMPL is solidifying its status as a global leader in precision munitions, adhering to stringent international standards. This growth not only highlights India's capabilities in defense manufacturing but also its strategic importance in global military supply chains, showcasing India's commitment to supporting international defense needs.

## IAF Backs Proposal to Place AMCA Engine Development Under PMO



20-Mar-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is supporting a proposal to bring the development of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) engine under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for better oversight and timely execution of the critical 110kN thrust engine program, pivotal for the AMCA's production by 2035. With four countries offering varying terms on Intellectual Property Rights, Technology Transfer, and workshare percentages, high-level oversight is deemed essential to navigate these complexities and ensure strategic autonomy. The PMO's involvement could streamline negotiations, expedite resource allocation, and address the challenges posed by geopolitical dynamics, ultimately reinforcing India's self-reliance in defense capabilities.

## India's Next-Gen SSN Submarine Design Set for Mid-2029 Completion



20-Mar-25

India's next-generation nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN) program is progressing well, with design completion expected by mid-2029. This initiative marks a significant enhancement in India's naval capabilities, focusing on stealth and hydrodynamic efficiency, featuring advanced propulsion systems and sonar technologies. The new SSNs will have a submerged displacement between 7,000 and 10,000 tons, aligning with global standards for modern submarines. Construction of the first two submarines will begin around 2030, following thorough testing and trials, further strengthening India's strategic maritime posture and ensuring its readiness in contemporary naval warfare scenarios.

## MDL Launches Indigenous AIP for Scorpene Submarines to Boost Endurance

🔗 SHARE

20-Mar-25

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has initiated the production of India's first indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system for Scorpene-class submarines, enhancing their underwater endurance and operational range. This AIP system, developed by DRDO in collaboration with industry partners, will be integrated into the submarines during maintenance, with INS Kalvari receiving the upgrade first in 2025. This advancement underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology, providing a viable alternative to imported systems and enhancing the Indian Navy's capabilities in a strategically vital region. The successful integration of AIP will significantly boost maritime security amid evolving regional challenges.

## DRDO Starts Limited Production of AD-1 Missile for Enhanced BMD

🔗 SHARE

20-Mar-25

India's DRDO has commenced limited production of the AD-1 missile, enhancing its Ballistic Missile Defence Phase-II program aimed at bolstering national security against threats from countries like China and Pakistan. The AD-1 is a dual-role interceptor capable of targeting both ballistic missiles and enemy aircraft at various altitudes, showcasing significant improvements over earlier systems. Its advanced technology, including a two-stage solid rocket motor and sophisticated guidance systems, enables interception of long-range threats, including hypersonic missiles. This development underscores India's commitment to indigenization and strategic autonomy, reinforcing a multi-layered defense architecture to protect critical infrastructure and military assets.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

## Defence Ministry Halves Procurement Timelines for Faster Induction

🔗 SHARE

20-Mar-25

The Indian Defence Ministry has approved a proposal to cut procurement timelines by half, aiming for faster induction of systems into the armed forces, as part of the new Defence Acquisition Procedure set for 2025. This initiative, driven by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, seeks to streamline various processes such as the

Acceptance of Necessity and Request for Proposals, while introducing accountability for meeting deadlines. The changes address long-standing delays in procurement, particularly in areas like evaluation trials and cost negotiations. This strategic move is expected to enhance operational readiness and modernize India's defense capabilities, ensuring the armed forces are better equipped to deal with contemporary challenges.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

## Philippines Seeks to Expand "Squad" Alliance to Include India and South Korea

🔗 SHARE

20-Mar-25

The Philippines is actively seeking to expand its informal "Squad" alliance, currently comprised of Australia, Japan, the U.S., and now potentially India and South Korea, to enhance collective security against China's assertive claims in the South China Sea. As tensions escalate with Beijing over territorial disputes, the Philippines aims to bolster its deterrence capabilities through military collaboration and intelligence sharing with potential new partners. Philippine Armed Forces Chief General Brawner emphasized the necessity of this alliance, citing a common adversary in China. This initiative not only strengthens regional security dynamics but also aligns with India's growing role in the Indo-Pacific, reinforcing its strategic partnerships.

## Indian Navy Vigilant Against Chinese Activities in Indian Ocean

🔗 SHARE

20-Mar-25

The Indian Navy, under Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, is closely monitoring the increasing presence of Chinese dual-purpose vessels in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), asserting its commitment to maintaining maritime security and trade facilitation. During the Raisina Dialogue-2025, Admiral Tripathi highlighted the strategic challenges posed by China, including military activities disguised as civilian operations and illegal fishing practices. He emphasized the need for collective efforts among Quad partners to ensure regional stability and readiness for emerging threats. The Navy's proactive stance involves monitoring activities and informing Chinese vessels when they engage in unauthorized actions, indicating a robust approach towards safeguarding national interests in the face of China's assertiveness, underscoring India's responsibility in preserving peace in the IOR.

## New Zealand PM Luxon Tours India's INS Surat in Mumbai



20-Mar-25

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon visited the indigenously built Indian Navy destroyer INS Surat at Mumbai's Naval Dockyard on March 20, 2025, accompanied by Rear Admiral Garin Golding, Chief of the Royal New Zealand Navy. The visit highlighted the advanced capabilities of INS Surat, commissioned on January 15, 2025, and built under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, with over 75% indigenous content. This occasion coincided with the Royal New Zealand Navy Ship HMNZS Te Kaha's visit, emphasizing efforts to strengthen bilateral relations through strategic naval engagements and planned Maritime Partnership Exercises. The visit underscores India's commitment to enhancing cooperation with partner nations, particularly in maritime security, while showcasing its growing defense capabilities and indigenous shipbuilding excellence.

## Kremlin hints at possible US-Russia talks this weekend or next.



20-Mar-25

The Kremlin announced that US-Russia talks may occur on Sunday or early next week, coinciding with US discussions with Ukraine in Saudi Arabia. While President Trump has engaged with both Putin and Zelensky, the exact timing of the talks remains uncertain. US National Security Advisor Mike Waltz indicated that technical teams from both countries would discuss implementing a partial ceasefire in Ukraine, although Putin has only agreed to a limited halt on strikes. This backdrop illustrates the complexity of diplomatic negotiations, highlighting the challenges of achieving a more comprehensive peace in the region while balancing geopolitical interests.

## Hanwha's Stake in Austal Highlights Geopolitical Tensions



20-Mar-25

South Korea's Hanwha has taken a 9.9% stake in Australian shipbuilder Austal amid cautious geopolitical dynamics influenced by U.S. nationalism. This strategic move reflects the complexities of foreign investments in defense industries, especially with stringent U.S. regulations on ownership of key assets. Austal, primarily serving the Australian navy, faces challenges from existing shareholders and potential regulatory hurdles that could hinder any increased stake by Hanwha. The situation underscores the delicate balance between fostering international defense

partnerships and national security concerns, particularly for strategic defense capabilities in the Pacific region.

## US Indo-Pacific Commander Discusses Defense Ties with India



20-Mar-25

Admiral Samuel J. Paparo, the commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command, held high-level discussions in India to bolster military ties and explore the renewal of a 10-year defense framework between the US and India. His visit coincided with the Raisina Dialogue, where he emphasized the importance of defense partnerships, particularly within the Quad nations. Discussions also highlighted the integration of AI and unmanned systems in military readiness. The US-India Major Defence Partnership, designated a cornerstone of global peace, is set for renewal next year, reinforcing India's strategic position in the Indo-Pacific region amidst rising geopolitical tensions.

## China's Seabed Mapping: A Strategic Challenge for India



20-Mar-25

China's increasing deep-sea research activities are raising concerns for India, Japan, and the US, as these initiatives may serve military purposes beyond mere scientific exploration. Chinese research vessels, like the Xiang Yang Hong 01, are mapping critical areas in the Indian Ocean, potentially enhancing China's submarine warfare capabilities. India has previously taken measures to protect its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) but faces challenges as Chinese vessels intensify their presence. With geopolitical ambitions intertwined with economic interests, China's actions signal a strategic expansion in maritime influence, prompting regional powers to remain vigilant and consider collaborative responses to counter these developments.

## Russian Warplane Breaches South Korea's Air Defense Zone



20-Mar-25

A Russian military plane intruded into South Korea's air defense identification zone without prior notice, prompting an official complaint from Seoul to Moscow. This incident marks the eighth such incursion by Russian warplanes since March, highlighting ongoing tensions in the region. Notably, Russia does not acknowledge South Korea's air defense zone, which raises concerns about regional security and sovereignty. Such actions could strain diplomatic relations further, emphasizing the need for South Korea



to bolster its defense strategies to safeguard its airspace and assert its territorial integrity amidst increasing military assertiveness from Russia.

## India's EAM Highlights Focus on Trade Pacts with Trusted Allies



20-Mar-25

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the country's dedication to securing free trade agreements with reliable partners, notably the EU, UK, and US, while highlighting the increasing influence of national security on business decisions in the digital age. He warned against the "weaponisation" of trade, urging nations to collaborate with trustworthy allies to mitigate risks associated with economic policies like tariffs and sanctions. Additionally, he called for robust regulations concerning data management and artificial intelligence to enhance security in global trade interactions. This strategic approach positions India as a proactive player in navigating today's complex geopolitical landscape, where trust and security are paramount.

## India-Philippines Strengthen Ties in Energy, Security, and AI



20-Mar-25

India and the Philippines are deepening their cooperation across energy, maritime security, and artificial intelligence, as highlighted by Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Manalo during his visit for the Raisina Dialogue 2025. The bilateral trade has surged to approximately \$3.5 billion, with discussions underway for a Preferential Trade Agreement focusing on sectors like automotive and pharmaceuticals. Manalo's invitation for Indian businesses to source nickel from the Philippines underscores a strategic shift to diversify supply chains and reduce dependency on China. This partnership reflects a robust commitment to enhancing India-ASEAN ties, fostering economic growth, and promoting regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

## Jaishankar and Liechtenstein's FM Discuss TEPA and Ukraine Issues



20-Mar-25

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with Liechtenstein's Foreign Minister to discuss progress on the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), which aims to enhance trade relations with EFTA nations, promising significant tariff reductions and a \$100 billion investment in India over 15 years, potentially creating one million jobs. The TEPA's modern approach includes commitments to human

rights and sustainable development, reflecting India's proactive diplomacy. Additionally, they addressed the ongoing Ukraine conflict, with Jaishankar underscoring the importance of dialogue and peaceful resolutions, aligning with India's broader diplomatic stance. This meeting highlights India's commitment to strengthening partnerships with European nations amidst a complex geopolitical landscape.

## India Urges Immediate Release of Hostages Amid Gaza Crisis



20-Mar-25

India has expressed deep concern over the escalating situation in Gaza, emphasizing the urgent need for the release of hostages and the continuation of humanitarian assistance to the affected population. The Ministry of External Affairs highlighted the gravity of the conflict as Israel resumed air strikes, resulting in significant casualties. With over 400 reported killed, India is advocating for a sustainable flow of humanitarian aid to alleviate the suffering in the region. This stance reflects India's commitment to humanitarian principles while navigating the complexities of international geopolitics, reinforcing its role as a responsible global player concerned with peace and stability in conflict zones.

## iDEX-SIBAT Conference Boosts India-Israel Defense Collaboration



20-Mar-25

The recent #iDEX-SIBAT Round Table Conference in Hyderabad marked a significant advancement in India-Israel defense collaboration, with discussions led by Israeli delegation head Mr. Shlomo Eytan Levy focusing on joint ventures, technology transfers, and co-development opportunities. The conference highlighted Hyderabad's emergence as a defense innovation hub and showcased India's private sector capabilities through visits to key companies like HELA Systems and Astra Microwave Products. This partnership aims to modernize India's armed forces and reduce import reliance while leveraging Israel's advanced defense technologies, creating a mutually beneficial framework for enhanced bilateral ties in defense manufacturing and innovation, particularly in unmanned systems and missile defense.

## Military Operations

### India, France Launch Joint Carrier Strike Drills in Arabian Sea SHARE

20-Mar-25

The Indian and French navies have commenced the 23rd edition of the Varuna exercise, featuring advanced naval drills in the Arabian Sea from March 19 to 22, 2025. The exercise involves key assets like India's INS Vikrant and France's Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier, focusing on enhancing interoperability and operational synergy through complex maneuvers across aerial, surface, and underwater domains. Notably, the drills will include air defense exercises and anti-submarine warfare operations, alongside replenishment-at-sea logistics to improve situational awareness. This collaboration underscores the deep-rooted military partnership between India and France, reflecting their commitment to maintaining a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific region amidst evolving challenges, thereby strengthening regional security and stability.

### Trump vows to 'annihilate' Houthi rebels amid Yemen airstrikes. SHARE

20-Mar-25

U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to "completely annihilate" Yemen's Houthi rebels amid ongoing airstrikes targeting their strongholds, particularly in Sanaa and Saada. As strikes intensified, Trump condemned Iran for allegedly arming the Houthis and called for an immediate halt to military supplies. The conflict has seen increasing attacks from the Houthis on merchant vessels, complicating humanitarian efforts, with reports of aid misappropriation by the rebels. This situation underscores the regional instability fueled by Iranian support for the Houthis, raising concerns about humanitarian impacts and the long-term geopolitical ramifications in the region, particularly for U.S. interests.

### Israel's Advanced Air Defense System Intercepts Missile from Yemen SHARE

20-Mar-25

The Israeli military successfully intercepted a missile launched from Yemen, highlighting its advanced multilayered air defense system developed with U.S. collaboration. This system features various components, including the Arrow for long-range threats

and David's Sling for medium-range missiles, boasting a high success rate in intercepting rockets. Israel is also developing a cost-effective laser interception system, Iron Beam, which could revolutionize air defense operations. While the current systems are effective, the introduction of laser technology promises significant operational cost reductions, enhancing Israel's defensive capabilities against regional threats, particularly from groups like the Houthis and Hezbollah.

### Israeli Airstrikes in Gaza Claim 85 Lives Amid Renewed Conflict SHARE

20-Mar-25

Israeli airstrikes in Gaza have resulted in Palestinian casualties, predominantly claimed to be women and children, as hostilities resumed following the breakdown of a ceasefire. The Israeli military intensified operations, aiming to regain control over regions held by Hamas, while Hamas retaliated with rocket attacks on Israel. The ongoing conflict has led to nearly 49,000 Palestinian deaths, with claims of around 20,000 militants among them, although the humanitarian crisis remains dire. Israel's strategy appears focused on dismantling Hamas' infrastructure while facing international scrutiny over the disproportionate impact on civilians, highlighting the urgent need for a renewed diplomatic effort towards lasting peace.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### Defence Secretary: Countering Evolving Terrorism Requires Tech Collaboration SHARE

20-Mar-25

India's Defence Secretary, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, emphasized the evolving challenges of terrorism during the 14th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting on Counter-Terrorism. He highlighted India's commitment to a zero-tolerance policy and the necessity for collaborative, technology-driven approaches to counter threats like cyber tools and unmanned systems used by terrorists. The newly assumed chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus EWG on Counter-Terrorism will focus on enhancing regional cooperation, improving interoperability among armed forces, and building capacity through practical exercises over the next three years. This initiative reaffirms India's strategic role in ensuring regional security and stability, reinforcing its Act East Policy and commitment to ASEAN's unity.

## NIA raids 12 sites in Jammu to combat terrorist infiltration. SHARE

20-Mar-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted searches at 12 locations across Jammu related to a terrorist infiltration case involving the proscribed outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). The operation is part of a broader strategy to counter terrorism in India, targeting overground workers who facilitate terrorist activities by providing logistical support. This proactive approach underscores India's commitment to national security and the need to dismantle networks aiding infiltration through the International Border and the Line of Control. Strengthening intelligence and counter-terrorism efforts remains crucial in safeguarding the region against such threats, reflecting the government's resolve to maintain stability and security.

## 22 Naxals Neutralized in Chhattisgarh Counter-Insurgency Operation SHARE

20-Mar-25

In a significant counter-insurgency operation in Chhattisgarh, security forces, including the BSF and the state police's District Reserve Guard, killed 22 Naxalites during encounters in Bijapur and Kanker districts. While 18 were neutralized in Bijapur, four more were gunned down in Kanker, where intermittent firing continued at the time of reporting. The operation, aimed at dismantling the CPI (Maoist) stronghold, is a testament to India's commitment to maintaining internal security and combating left-wing extremism. Tragically, a police jawan lost his life in the Bijapur encounter, highlighting the ongoing risks faced by security personnel in these operations.

## Pak Police Report 69 TTP Terrorists Killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa SHARE

20-Mar-25

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, police reported the killing of 69 terrorists linked to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) from January 1 to March 15, amid a rising trend in terror activities since the TTP ended its ceasefire in November 2022. The police faced significant casualties, losing 26 personnel, with numerous attacks on police installations noted during this period. The TTP continues to exploit weapons left by the US after its withdrawal from Afghanistan, contributing to instability in the region. This situation underscores the ongoing security challenges Pakistan faces and illustrates the persistent threat from militant groups.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### BEL Engineer Arrested for Leaking Sensitive Data to Pakistan SHARE

20-Mar-25

In a concerning espionage incident, two employees from Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and the Kanpur Ordnance Factory were arrested for allegedly leaking sensitive defense information to Pakistani operatives. Deep Raj Chandra, a senior engineer at BEL, reportedly passed classified data related to communications, radars, and security measures in exchange for cryptocurrency payments. Meanwhile, an employee from the Kanpur Ordnance Factory was also detained for sharing sensitive information, which included details about the Karwar Naval Base. The arrests highlight ongoing vulnerabilities within India's defense establishments, emphasizing the need for robust internal security measures to safeguard sensitive information and maintain national security. The collaborative effort among Indian intelligence agencies underscores vigilance against espionage threats, crucial for India's defense preparedness.

### China's J-35A Data Leak: India Gains Strategic Advantage Over Pakistan SHARE

20-Mar-25

China's Ministry of State Security has confirmed the espionage case of Liu, a former defense engineer sentenced to death for leaking classified information on the FC-31 stealth fighter to foreign intelligence. This breach not only jeopardizes China's military secrets but has strategic implications for Pakistan, the intended first international buyer, potentially diminishing its defense capabilities. Importantly, this leak allows India to gain insights into the FC-31, enabling the Indian Air Force to develop countermeasures proactively. As such, this incident underscores how internal security failures in rival nations can inadvertently bolster India's defense preparedness and strategic advantage in the region.

## Mil Personnel & Veterans

### Tiger Division Empowers Border Communities with Assistive Devices



20-Mar-25

The Tiger Division of the Indian Army recently organized a Special Equipment Distribution Camp at Miran Sahib Military Station, providing assistive devices to 193 senior citizens and specially-abled individuals in RS Pura border areas, in partnership with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India. This initiative underscores the Army's commitment to community welfare, enhancing mobility and independence for those with disabilities through devices such as motorized tricycles, wheelchairs, and hearing aids. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the meaningful impact on their lives, highlighting the Army's role in not just national security but also social responsibility, fostering unity and inclusivity within communities.

## Miscellaneous

### Colonel's family to protest for accountability of accused police officers



20-Mar-25

The family of Colonel Pushpinder Bath, who was allegedly assaulted by Punjab Police personnel over a parking dispute, is set to launch an indefinite protest demanding the naming of the accused officers in a new FIR. The incident, reminiscent of a 1992 assault on an Army officer, has sparked outrage within the defense community and raised concerns about police conduct towards military personnel. Retired Army officials have questioned the motives behind the robbery of the Colonel's ID card and mobile phone during the assault, suggesting a possible security threat. The Punjab Police have suspended 12 officers involved and initiated an inquiry, but the Army's response has been scrutinized for its perceived lack of urgency. This incident highlights the ongoing tensions between police and military forces in Punjab and the need for accountability.

### Maharashtra uncovers birth certificate scam involving 52 Bangladeshi infiltrators.



20-Mar-25

A major birth certificate scam involving 52 Bangladeshi infiltrators has been uncovered in Maharashtra, where they fraudulently obtained certificates using fake documents. Senior BJP leader Kirit Somaiya has filed six FIRs and claims the issue is part of a larger crisis, with over 1.3 lakh fraudulent certificates issued statewide. He has called for immediate action against corrupt officials and an overhaul of the registration system. The Maharashtra government has established a Special Investigation Team to investigate the matter, emphasizing the need for vigilance against illegal immigration. This incident highlights the challenges India faces in securing its borders and maintaining the integrity of its citizenship processes.

### AFMS and NIMHANS Join Forces to Boost Mental Health Support



20-Mar-25

The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) to enhance mental health support for defense personnel. This collaboration aims to conduct research and specialized training to address mental health issues like PTSD, anxiety, and depression among Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and their families. Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin emphasized the significance of mental health, stating it is as crucial as physical health, while Dr. Pratima Murthy from NIMHANS highlighted the honor in contributing expertise to the defense sector. This initiative marks a pivotal step in prioritizing mental health within the Armed Forces, potentially setting a nationwide benchmark for similar efforts.

### Garden Reach Shares Soar 32% Amid Strong Defense Sector Performance



20-Mar-25

Shares of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd have surged 32% recently, driven by a strong performance in the defense sector, as the company announced a MoU for supplying modular steel bridges in Nagaland. The stock has seen a remarkable 128% gain over the past year. Analysts highlight a bullish outlook, with potential upward resistance at Rs 1,800 - Rs 2,000, while cautioning about volatility. With technical indicators showing a healthy momentum,



GRSE appears to be a promising investment, reflecting the growing confidence in India's defense manufacturing capabilities and the company's strategic developments.

## DGP Launches Investigation into Arrest of Army Havildar in Jamshedpur



20-Mar-25

The arrest of Army Havildar Suraj Rai in Jamshedpur has ignited public outcry, prompting Jharkhand DGP Anurag Gupta to initiate a thorough investigation. The incident, which involved alleged police misconduct during a dispute, raised concerns about the proper legal protocols for handling serving military personnel. The All India Ex-Servicemen Service Council has protested, demanding the dismissal of charges against Rai and accountability for the involved officers. This incident underscores the importance of respecting military protocols and highlights the ongoing need for collaboration between civilian law enforcement and the armed forces to prevent similar situations in the future.

## Indian Navy's Green Commitment Highlighted by Admiral Tripathi



20-Mar-25

At the Raisina Dialogue 2025, Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Australian Chief of Joint Operations Vice Admiral Justin Jones highlighted their commitment to international maritime laws and environmental sustainability. Admiral Tripathi emphasized the Indian Navy's dedication to adopting cleaner technologies and reducing pollution through the phased-out use of older equipment, aligning with global standards. Both leaders underscored the importance of compliance with legal frameworks governing naval operations, reinforcing their navies' roles in promoting sustainable practices. This collaboration not only aims to enhance operational efficiency but also signals India's proactive approach towards environmental stewardship in maritime operations.

## Google's \$32B Wiz Acquisition: A Game-Changer for Cloud Security



20-Mar-25

Google has announced its acquisition of cybersecurity startup Wiz for \$32 billion, marking its largest deal to date and a significant move to bolster its cloud-computing services. This acquisition, aimed at addressing the increasing complexities of multi-cloud environments and enhancing cloud security, aligns with trends in AI and cybersecurity. Wiz, which has experienced rapid growth, will remain accessible across

various cloud platforms, including AWS and Microsoft Azure. As Google Cloud seeks to compete more effectively with Microsoft, the deal is expected to reinvigorate its revenue growth, although it will face regulatory scrutiny before completion.

## Embraer Showcases Commitment at Avalon Airshow 2025 with E190-E2 and Defense Innovations



20-Mar-25

Embraer will showcase its long-standing commitment to Australia at the Avalon International Airshow 2025, highlighting the growth of its fleet with the delivery of eight E190-E2s to Virgin Australia. The E190-E2 offers significant advancements in fuel efficiency and sustainability, with capabilities to use up to 50% sustainable aviation fuel, supporting the industry's net-zero emissions goal by 2050. Additionally, Embraer will present its defense portfolio, including the KC-390 Millennium, which has garnered interest from several nations for its reliability and operational success. This reinforces Embraer's strategic importance in both commercial and defense aviation sectors in Australia and beyond.

## Commonwealth Secretary-Select Shirley Botchwey to Visit India



20-Mar-25

Commonwealth Secretary-Select Shirley Botchwey is set to visit India ahead of her official role as the 7th Secretary General of the Commonwealth, starting April 1, 2025. During her visit, she will meet with India's External Affairs Minister to discuss key issues affecting Commonwealth nations, including governance, economic development, and climate resilience. This engagement signifies India's proactive role within the Commonwealth framework and highlights the importance of collaboration among member states. Botchwey's commitment to these discussions could enhance India's strategic partnerships and bolster its influence in addressing regional and global challenges faced by Commonwealth countries.

## Trump Administration Releases 80,000 JFK Assassination Files



20-Mar-25

The Trump Administration has declassified approximately 80,000 pages of documents related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, emphasizing transparency and rebuilding trust with the public. These records, some previously redacted, can be accessed online or at the National Archives.

Although prior releases have occurred, including during Biden's presidency, no new evidence has emerged to alter the conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. This release reflects ongoing public interest and the desire for transparency in government actions, reinforcing the notion that historical truths should be accessible to the citizens they impact.

## Jaishankar and Georgian FM Explore Enhanced Bilateral Ties SHARE

20-Mar-25

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Georgian Foreign Minister Ilia Darchiashvili discussed enhancing bilateral cooperation, emphasizing their strategic partnership. The meeting highlighted Georgia's potential as a destination for Indian students and tourists and its role as a crucial link between Europe and Asia, particularly through the Middle Corridor initiative. The ministers underscored the importance of mutual investments and infrastructure development while addressing global trade barriers and economic policy challenges. Their dialogue reflects a shared vision for promoting educational exchanges and tourism, which are essential for strengthening people-to-people connections and fostering economic growth amid an evolving geopolitical landscape, showcasing India's proactive diplomatic engagement.

## U.S. Secretary of State Condemns Violence Against Minorities in Bangladesh SHARE

20-Mar-25

The U.S. Secretary of State condemned violence against minorities in Bangladesh, responding to concerns raised by U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard about the treatment of these groups. The interim Bangladeshi government rejected Gabbard's remarks, deeming them misleading and politically motivated, while asserting its commitment to combat extremism and promote inclusivity. Recent allegations of communal violence have increased, attributed by the government to political rather than religious tensions. This situation highlights the complexities of Bangladesh's political landscape, where the safety of minority groups remains a contentious and sensitive issue amid ongoing societal challenges.

## PM Modi Heads to Thailand for Strategic BIMSTEC Summit SHARE

20-Mar-25

Prime Minister Modi's upcoming visit to Thailand for the BIMSTEC Summit highlights India's commitment to regional cooperation with member states including

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The summit, under Thailand's chairmanship, aims to foster a "Prosperous, Resilient, and Open" region by 2030, focusing on security, disaster management, and economic development. This gathering follows a period of political instability in Thailand, and bilateral meetings on the sidelines, particularly with Bangladesh's interim leader, could address recent tensions. Overall, the summit presents a strategic opportunity for India to reinforce its influence in Southeast Asia and advance collaborative efforts through BIMSTEC initiatives.

## Fresh Violence Triggers Shutdown in Churachandpur, Manipur SHARE

20-Mar-25

A fresh shutdown was imposed in Churachandpur, Manipur, following violent clashes between the Hmar and Zomi tribes, prompting appeals for peace from local MLAs and tribal organizations. The unrest, which has resulted in significant casualties and displacement since May 2023, escalated after an altercation involving a tribal leader. A peace settlement was briefly reached, but tensions reignited when a Zomi flag was targeted. The joint peace committee formed by community leaders aims to foster dialogue and prevent further violence. Amidst calls for communal harmony, the medical community also urged respect for healthcare institutions, emphasizing the need for stability and cooperation among diverse groups in the region.

## Two Arrested in Karnataka for Pro-Pakistan Slogans in Washroom SHARE

20-Mar-25

Two men in Karnataka were arrested for allegedly writing pro-Pakistan slogans in a factory washroom, reportedly in retaliation for mockery from colleagues following India's victory over Pakistan in the ICC Champions Trophy. The accused, Haimad Hussain and Sadiq, both contracted workers, expressed their anger and were subsequently removed from their positions by the company. The incident highlights underlying tensions related to national pride and the impact of sports rivalries on personal conduct. Such actions can be viewed as detrimental to social harmony and are rightly addressed by law enforcement, reinforcing the importance of unity and respect among citizens in India.

## Seven Amritpal aides transferred to Punjab for security investigations. SHARE

20-Mar-25

Seven aides of radical preacher Amritpal Singh are being transferred from Dibrugarh Central Jail in Assam to Punjab under strict security, following their detention under the National Security Act (NSA) for activities threatening public order. Authorities are ensuring their legal transfer, with Punjab Police seeking transit remand for further investigations related to a 2023 attack on a police station. The crackdown on Singh and his associates reflects India's commitment to maintaining national security and public order amidst rising radical sentiments. This situation underscores the government's proactive measures in tackling potential threats and reinforces the need for vigilance in law enforcement.

## Trump optimistic about India lowering tariffs on US goods SHARE

20-Mar-25

US President Donald Trump expressed optimism that India would be lowering its tariffs on American goods, suggesting a substantial reduction is likely. He indicated that if no agreement is reached, the US would impose tariffs equivalent to those charged by India

starting April 2. This scenario highlights ongoing trade negotiations between the two nations, reflecting India's potential willingness to enhance economic cooperation. As India continues to strengthen its strategic partnerships, a reduction in tariffs could foster greater bilateral trade and investment, ultimately contributing to regional stability and economic growth.

## Indian student detained in US for opposing Israel's policy SHARE

20-Mar-25

An Indian postdoctoral student, Badar Khan Suri, was detained in the US amid a crackdown on student activists opposing American foreign policy, following allegations against him related to his Palestinian heritage and his advocacy for Palestinian rights. His detention was compared to that of Ranjani Srinivasan, another Indian student who self-deported after her visa was revoked due to ties with Hamas. The Georgetown University community has expressed concern over Suri's treatment, emphasizing his legal visa status and lack of criminal charges. This situation raises significant questions about academic freedom and the implications of US immigration policies on international scholars.

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# Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
BHARATFORG	1147.0	1202.0	1147.0	1194.3	2766980	5.13	65.49	1070.58	1413.89
GRSE	1710.0	1782.9	1648.0	1724.05	11603199	5.04	72.82	1352.75	1720.36
LOKESHMACH	143.98	143.98	143.98	143.98	17045	5.0	29.69	156.61	344.08
NIBE	846.55	846.55	830.0	846.55	8485	5.0	33.35	941.2	1682.87
KRISHNADEF	642.0	650.0	616.05	629.8	68750	4.75	55.9	575.99	714.1
PARAS	975.0	1047.7	975.0	994.7	1181914	4.28	59.55	903.87	1106.37
ASTRAMICRO	673.0	695.0	662.65	688.15	348202	4.15	61.55	625.37	805.61
BDL	1210.0	1254.0	1189.0	1247.0	2499898	4.09	66.67	1077.68	1247.0
TANEJAERO	315.6	317.5	308.0	310.95	68353	2.83	50.63	293.74	467.77
BEL	294.81	297.78	291.1	297.05	27889890	2.43	68.05	269.36	290.25
HAL	3789.0	3848.0	3704.15	3818.95	2956442	2.09	64.39	3408.53	4387.97
HIGHENE	473.5	492.0	473.5	481.0	29315	2.09	49.72	469.07	654.84
CFE	433.8	433.8	433.8	433.8	3600	2.0	41.9	434.1	651.46
ZENTEC	1285.95	1320.0	1235.0	1292.9	658907	1.94	49.62	1158.1	1675.41
LMW	15975.0	16250.0	15813.9	16097.3	2991	1.85	62.81	14951.4	15995.7
MTARTECH	1324.0	1344.0	1308.05	1318.85	188441	1.82	46.46	1320.32	1686.93
PREMEXPLN	379.95	398.9	365.15	378.1	680415	1.79	54.54	346.88	525.53
SOLARINDS	10325.0	10446.4	10221.15	10424.45	92377	1.1	73.36	9412.91	10273.11
LT	3335.25	3358.9	3276.9	3351.05	2434722	0.95	58.22	3237.36	3556.8
ADANIENT	2348.0	2348.0	2299.0	2339.3	2587051	0.89	61.43	2205.69	2758.55
AVANTEL	117.99	120.4	116.06	116.89	802318	0.72	49.25	114.7	-
MARINE	182.0	183.06	173.0	174.91	276793	0.32	51.5	162.33	222.98
MAZDOCK	2670.35	2762.9	2551.8	2633.1	8617711	0.3	73.42	2259.58	2232.08
BEML	2760.05	2830.0	2699.0	2743.85	487347	0.06	50.05	2575.7	3855.16
DCXINDIA	243.0	246.2	237.5	239.33	847007	0.03	42.19	241.34	331.51
AZAD	1397.95	1422.0	1363.0	1389.5	240826	-0.01	53.97	1308.98	1586.21
IDEAFORGE	385.05	393.05	378.2	382.95	759929	-0.25	49.88	363.45	622.9
ROSSELLIND	59.2	61.0	56.0	57.98	33384	-0.26	42.46	58.96	260.66
MIDHANI	287.0	296.5	280.35	283.37	1604118	-0.38	54.76	262.49	372.48
APOLLO	119.43	120.5	115.5	118.0	5845075	-0.41	51.32	115.43	109.47
COCHINSHIP	1474.0	1494.95	1412.05	1450.5	2784245	-0.43	64.33	1307.75	1756.69
PTC	158.54	160.52	155.71	156.73	3131504	-0.59	62.45	150.71	182.13
SIKA	524.9	525.0	508.15	513.95	15546	-1.08	56.1	496.6	528.51
DATAPAT'NS	1744.0	1764.0	1681.5	1688.95	1487691	-1.46	51.4	1567.25	2475.66
HBLPOWER	474.1	477.0	459.05	460.1	3011299	-4.62	48.64	449.38	570.43