



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

February 21, 2025 | Day 052

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
MARINE	177.89	169.42	+5.0%
CFF	471.0	458.2	+2.79%
COCHINSHIP	1324.0	1299.45	+1.89%
SIKA	2530.0	2490.6	+1.58%
LT	3315.1	3275.8	+1.2%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
TEMBO	613.95	679.1	-9.59%
MTARTECH	1415.85	1470.55	-3.72%
DCXINDIA	262.3	269.35	-2.62%
IDEAFORGE	396.1	405.9	-2.41%
ZENTEC	1087.8	1114.45	-2.39%

Defense Business and Industry

India Eyes F-35 Acquisition as Interim Solution Amid AMCA Delays



21-Feb-25

India is considering acquiring 2-3 squadrons of F-35 Lightning II fighter jets from the U.S. as an interim solution while its indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program faces delays, with full operational capability of the AMCA expected by 2032-2033. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is pushing for stealth aircraft to maintain air superiority amid regional threats, particularly from China's advanced aerial capabilities, including the operationalization of the J-20 stealth fighter and possible sales of J-35 jets to Pakistan. The potential F-35 acquisition echoes India's previous government-to-government deals, like the Rafale purchase, and aims to address anticipated capability gaps. A detailed cost analysis indicates that while the F-35's initial acquisition might be lower than Rafale's, its long-term lifecycle costs could be substantially higher due to maintenance and operational expenses. The IAF's modernization strategy presents various scenarios, including potential partnerships with U.S. manufacturers or continuing reliance on indigenous development, all of which reflect India's commitment to strengthening its defense capabilities amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics. This strategic push not only highlights the urgency of modernizing India's air fleet but also underscores a broader trend of enhancing military cooperation with the United States, reinforcing India's position as a key player in regional security.

Russia Offers Customizable Su-57E to Boost India's Defense Strategy



21-Feb-25

Russia is strategically proposing the Su-57E fighter jet to India, offering complete technology transfer for customization, aligning with India's "Make in India" initiative and potential integration with the indigenous AMCA project. This collaboration could yield a cost-effective alternative to the F-35, with Rostec suggesting a price below \$80 million, leveraging India's manufacturing capabilities. Amidst regional military competition, especially with China, the Su-57E presents a timely solution for India's dwindling air force numbers, providing advanced features like AESA radars and artificial intelligence, while also enhancing self-reliance. However, India remains cautious, evaluating the offer against the backdrop of geopolitical shifts and its own defense objectives, particularly following previous withdrawals from joint projects with Russia.

Fighter Jet Engine Showdown: India's Path to Air Power Domination



21-Feb-25

India is focused on modernizing its Air Force and enhancing domestic defense production, illustrated by its plans to procure 114 multi-role fighter jets and develop advanced aircraft like the TEJAS MK-2 and AMCA. While India engages in negotiations with the U.S. for F-35 jets, concerns arise regarding costs and operational integration with existing systems. Simultaneously, collaborations with France and the UK for indigenous engine technology bolster India's self-reliance in defense. The AMCA program, expected to significantly reduce costs compared to foreign options, aims for operational readiness by 2036. Ultimately, India must balance immediate operational needs with

long-term strategic goals, ensuring its defense landscape remains resilient amid regional tensions.

Tata Advanced Systems Unveils Innovative Defense Solutions at IDEX 2025



21-Feb-25

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) showcased its advanced defense solutions, including the Light Armoured Multi-Role Vehicle (LAMV) 44, at the International Defence Exhibition (IDEX) and Naval Defence & Maritime Security Exhibition (NAVDEX) 2025 in Abu Dhabi. The LAMV 44, designed for versatility and robustness, features advanced protection and mobility, aligning with NATO standards and enhancing India's defense manufacturing image. TASL's participation underscores its commitment to the Make in India initiative, highlighting significant advancements in unmanned aerial systems and armored mobility solutions aimed at international markets. This event not only reinforces India's strategic partnerships in the Middle East but also emphasizes its growing capabilities in defense technology, positioning India as a competitive player in the global defense industry.

Construction of Third Fleet Support Ship Begins at L&T Shipyard



21-Feb-25

Construction has commenced on the third of five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) at L&T Shipyard, marking a significant advancement for the Indian Navy. The contract, signed with Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in August 2023, aims for delivery by mid-2027 and showcases effective public-private partnership in enhancing India's shipbuilding capacity. These 40,000-ton vessels will enable better replenishment of fleet ships at sea, improving operational reach and mobility, while also being equipped for humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions. This project aligns with the Indian government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives, reinforcing the domestic defense industry's growth and capabilities.

Mahindra Joins Forces with Anduril to Boost India's Defense Tech



21-Feb-25

Mahindra Group has partnered with US-based Anduril Industries to develop advanced military technologies, particularly focusing on Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) and Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (CUAS). This strategic collaboration aligns with India's ambition to enhance its defense capabilities amidst evolving security threats, especially concerning

drone warfare. The move, announced shortly after high-profile bilateral meetings between Indian and US leaders, signifies deepening defense ties and a commitment to leveraging innovative technologies for national security. This partnership not only showcases India's growing defense industrial base but also emphasizes the importance of autonomy in safeguarding against emerging threats in the region.

Defence Ministry Secures ₹697.35 Cr Deal for 1,868 Forklift Trucks



21-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 equipment is vital for enhancing operational effectiveness by streamlining logistics and reducing the need for manual handling of supplies. The initiative not only modernizes India's defense capabilities but also supports the Make in India campaign, boosting indigenous manufacturing and creating employment opportunities within the MSME sector. This strategic move underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense and strengthens domestic industry while fortifying national security.

India's Make in India: A Strategic Shift in Defense Manufacturing



21-Feb-25

India's Make in India initiative for defense manufacturing is gaining recognition as it aligns with global trends, particularly in Europe and the U.S. According to Maggie Feldman-Piltch, this initiative not only emphasizes the importance of indigenous production but also highlights the necessity of international collaborations to enhance India's defense technology sector. Despite being the largest defense equipment importer, India's potential for growth in local manufacturing remains substantial. The focus on balancing defense production amidst global discussions positions India strategically as it seeks to bolster its defense capabilities while fostering partnerships that can lead to technological advancements and self-reliance in defense production.

Celebrating 30 Years: Tejas MkII and India's Aerospace Progress



21-Feb-25

India is set to celebrate a historic milestone in its aerospace journey with the rollout of the Tejas MkII in 2025, 30 years after the first LCA Tejas prototype was

unveiled. The Tejas MkII, a 4.5-generation multi-role fighter, features advanced technologies like AESA radar and enhanced avionics, significantly boosting the Indian Air Force's (IAF) combat capabilities and operational versatility. This development underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense production and innovation, reducing dependence on foreign imports. The journey from the original Tejas to the MkII reflects India's resolve to establish itself as a global leader in defense technology, ensuring the security of its skies for future generations.

GE and GTRE Team Up for Next-Gen Engine for AMCA Fighter SHARE

21-Feb-25

At Aero India 2025, GE Aerospace announced plans to collaborate with India's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) on developing a successor to the F414-GE-INS6 engine, which will power the first 40 units of the AMCA MkI. This engine is vital for the Indian Air Force's fifth-generation fighter program, providing essential features like stealth and supercruise capability. GE aims to create a more powerful engine for the AMCA MkII, potentially exceeding 110 kN thrust, while ensuring minimal design changes for the airframe. The shared intellectual property rights will enhance mutual benefits, showcasing India's growing defense capabilities through strategic partnerships in advanced aerospace technologies.

M1 Interceptor Unveiled: Project Kusha Enhances India's Air Defense SHARE

21-Feb-25

India's Project Kusha made significant strides at Aero India 2025 with the unveiling of the M1 interceptor missile, which features advanced tracking capabilities and an impressive range of 120 km. This initiative aims to bolster India's air defense with a three-tier interceptor system (M1, M2, M3), enhancing operational capabilities against diverse aerial threats. Notably, the M1 will integrate with the Russian S-400 system, optimizing defense operations through shared radar data, promising a high single-shot kill probability of 90%. Set for operational deployment by 2028-29, Project Kusha reflects India's commitment to strengthening indigenous defense capabilities while diminishing reliance on foreign systems, significantly advancing its strategic defense framework.

India's TEDBF Program Advances Toward Key Design Review in 2025 SHARE

21-Feb-25

India's TEDBF program is progressing towards its Preliminary Design Review (PDR), expected to be completed by June 2025, marking a pivotal step in developing a carrier-capable twin-engine multirole fighter to replace the MiG-29K. The design showcases advanced features such as a delta wing, canards, and the General Electric F414 engines, supporting carrier operations on INS Vikrant and planned INS Vishal. The successful PDR will enable the transition to the Critical Design Review, with the aim of securing Cabinet Committee on Security approval by 2027 and targeting a first flight by 2030. This initiative reinforces India's commitment to self-reliance in aerospace technology and enhancing naval operational capabilities.

France's Naval Group Criticizes Germany's Submarine Tech Exports SHARE

21-Feb-25

France's Naval Group has publicly criticized Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems for its strategy of transferring submarine technology to nations like Turkey and South Korea, which has nurtured new competitors in the global market. This rift highlights diverging philosophies within Europe's defense industry, as Naval Group prioritizes technological sovereignty, while TKMS embraces export-driven growth. The rising capabilities of Turkey and South Korea threaten to undermine European dominance in submarine manufacturing, particularly in lucrative markets across Southeast Asia and beyond. The ongoing tensions reflect deeper challenges in fostering intra-European cooperation amidst a rapidly evolving and competitive global defense landscape.

Kalyani Strategic Systems Launches Versatile RC 0912 Chassis at IDEX 2025 SHARE

21-Feb-25

Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd. (KSSL) made a significant impact at IDEX Abu Dhabi 2025 by unveiling the RC 0912 Rolling Chassis, a military-grade platform designed for versatility and durability in various defense applications. This modular chassis can be configured for multiple roles, such as troop transport, ambulances, logistics vehicles, and reconnaissance, showcasing KSSL's commitment to innovative, customer-focused defense solutions. Vice Chairman Amit Kalyani emphasized the chassis's ability to meet the dynamic needs of modern defense forces with agility, reflecting

India's growing capabilities in the global defense manufacturing sector and its focus on enhancing operational efficiency through advanced technology integration.

Indian Army Enhances Smerch MLRS with Cope Cage for Drone Defense



21-Feb-25

The Indian Army's Eastern Command has introduced an upgraded Smerch Multi Launch Rocket System (MLRS) featuring the Cope Cage for enhanced protection against modern threats, particularly kamikaze and FPV drones. This marks a significant step in improving the survivability of heavy artillery in an era where unmanned aerial vehicles pose a major risk on the battlefield. The Cope Cage, previously used on tanks, adds a crucial layer of defense by disrupting the flight paths of incoming projectiles, ensuring the Smerch MLRS can effectively operate in drone-dominant environments. This integration reflects the Indian Army's proactive approach to counter emerging threats and modernize its artillery capabilities.

RudraM-III Trials Successful; Inflight Testing Set for This Year



21-Feb-25

The Indian defense sector has achieved a notable milestone with the successful completion of captive trials for the RudraM-III missile system, integrated with the Su-30 MKI fighter jet, paving the way for inflight testing later this year. This advanced anti-radiation missile, weighing approximately 1.6 tons, has a striking range of around 600 km, far exceeding its predecessors, RudraM-I and RudraM-II. Developed by the DRDO, the RudraM-III enhances the Indian Armed Forces' strategic flexibility by targeting high-value enemy assets, thereby reinforcing India's indigenous missile capabilities and operational reach, which is vital in contested environments and crucial for national defense.

Defense Policy and Budgeting

Xi Jinping's Orders Aim to Elevate China's Military Power



21-Feb-25

Chinese President Xi Jinping has issued new orders to enhance the combat readiness of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), emphasizing a transformation into a world-class military amid rising tensions with the

US and territorial disputes over Taiwan and the South China Sea. The revised military regulations focus on standardizing operations and personnel management, bolstering preparations for warfare. This move indicates China's aggressive military stance, which poses challenges to regional stability, especially for India. As China continues to assert its claims, India's proactive defense strategies and closer ties with allies remain crucial in countering potential threats and ensuring national security.

Kiren Rijiju: Rs 42,000 Crore Investment to Transform Arunachal Highway



21-Feb-25

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju announced a transformative investment of Rs 42,000 crore for the Arunachal Frontier Highway, aimed at enhancing connectivity in border areas along the India-China boundary. The 1,400-kilometer project will not only link 12 districts but also feature essential infrastructure like tunnels and bridges, marking a significant milestone for development in Arunachal Pradesh. Emphasizing the importance of peace for progress, Rijiju highlighted the government's commitment to infrastructure as part of a broader strategy to bolster the region's socio-economic fabric. Governor K T Parnaik and Chief Minister Pema Khandu echoed sentiments on sustainable development and cultural preservation, indicating a unified approach towards the state's growth.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Jaishankar and Wang Yi Discuss Ties and Kailash Mansarovar Yatra



21-Feb-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Johannesburg, focusing on improving bilateral ties and addressing key issues such as the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and flight connectivity. The discussions highlighted the importance of managing peace and tranquility in border areas, which remains a critical aspect of India-China relations. The two sides agreed to resume the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage in 2025, aiming to enhance people-to-people connections as they commemorate 75 years of diplomatic relations. This meeting reflects ongoing diplomatic efforts to stabilize ties amid regional challenges and underscores India's proactive approach in seeking constructive dialogue with China while fostering mutual trust.

Australia Alerts Airlines of Possible Chinese Navy Drills in Tasman Sea

Sea  [SHARE](#)

21-Feb-25

Australia has issued warnings to airlines regarding a potential live-fire exercise by Chinese warships in the Tasman Sea, leading to flight diversions. The Chinese navy's activity, including the frigate Hengyang and cruiser Zunyi, reflects its expanding reach and capabilities, raising concerns among Australian and New Zealand officials about airspace safety. Prime Minister Albanese confirmed that the exercise was conducted legally in international waters, yet emphasized the need for better communication from China about such operations. This incident highlights the tension in regional security dynamics, particularly as Australia navigates its strategic interests amid growing Chinese assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific.

Jaishankar and Lavrov Discuss India-Russia Ties Amid Ukraine Crisis

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21-Feb-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Johannesburg, discussing the ongoing Ukraine conflict and reaffirming the India-Russia partnership, which includes significant economic, defense, and energy cooperation. Jaishankar expressed satisfaction with their discussions on bilateral ties amid global pressures regarding the Ukraine war, emphasizing India's commitment to dialogue and diplomacy. His engagements with other leaders at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting further highlighted India's proactive stance in international diplomacy. This meeting underscores India's strategic balancing act, maintaining robust relations with Russia while navigating complex global geopolitical dynamics.

Rubio: Trump-Putin meeting hinges on Ukraine conflict progress


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21-Feb-25

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio indicated that any potential meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin hinges on progress in resolving the Ukraine war. During a discussion with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Rubio emphasized that meetings of such significance are contingent upon achieving some measurable outcomes. He expressed optimism that if a meeting does occur, it could signify Trump's role as a peacemaker, reflecting a strategic approach to international diplomacy aimed at stabilizing the region. This perspective underscores the importance of

dialogue in navigating complex geopolitical conflicts, particularly in the context of U.S.-Russia relations.

Trump Warns of Imminent World War III Amidst Global Tensions

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21-Feb-25

US President Donald Trump warned that the world could be on the brink of World War III, criticizing the Biden administration's policies and asserting a need for peace to avoid further casualties. He thanked Saudi Arabia for facilitating US-Russia talks on Ukraine, labeling these negotiations as crucial for peace. Trump also criticized Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, calling him a "dictator without elections" and suggesting a failure in leadership during the conflict. His comments highlight a broader concern over global stability, emphasizing the importance of strategic diplomacy while ensuring the US remains a formidable deterrent against potential threats, which is an essential principle for nations like India in navigating geopolitical dynamics.

U.S. Commander in Panama to Counter Chinese Influence Amid Tensions

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21-Feb-25

The U.S. has sent a commander to Panama to address concerns over Chinese investments in the Panama Canal, which it views as a potential national security threat. Panama's President, Jose Raul Mulino, has denied U.S. claims of Chinese interference, criticizing them as falsehoods that could jeopardize Sino-Panamanian relations. The U.S. fears that Chinese control over nearby ports could disrupt American military operations and trade. This situation highlights the growing geopolitical rivalry between the U.S. and China, particularly in Latin America, as both nations vie for influence while Panama strives to maintain its sovereignty amidst external pressures.

Trump Frustrated with Zelenskyy's Stance on Peace Talks

 [SHARE](#)

21-Feb-25

US NSA Mike Waltz has expressed that former President Trump is frustrated with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy's unwillingness to engage in peace negotiations, likening the ongoing conflict to "World War I-style trench warfare." Waltz emphasized that the rhetoric from Kyiv and Zelenskyy's reluctance to negotiate are significant points of contention, urging European allies to enhance their defense contributions amidst financial strains on American taxpayers. Tensions escalated when Trump labeled Zelenskyy a

"dictator without elections," prompting a sharp rebuke from the Ukrainian leader, highlighting the growing diplomatic rift between Trump and Kyiv as they navigate the complexities of the war. This situation underscores the challenges of coalition-building in times of conflict.

India and US Aim to Deepen Ties for Defense and Trade Growth SHARE

21-Feb-25

India's Minister Piyush Goyal emphasized the importance of the strategic partnership with the US, highlighting the strong friendship between Prime Minister Modi and President Trump as crucial for collaboration across sectors like defense and trade. Goyal expressed optimism about finalizing a major trade agreement by 2025 that aims to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. He noted the complementary nature of the two economies and encouraged Indian industries to seize this opportunity to enhance competitiveness and quality. This approach not only aims to bolster economic ties but also addresses concerns regarding non-transparent trading practices, ensuring mutual benefits for both nations in the long run.

Kharge: Modi Govt Endangers India's Security with China Incursions SHARE

21-Feb-25

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge criticized the Modi government for allegedly compromising India's national security and territorial integrity by allowing China to construct 90 new villages along the Arunachal Pradesh border. He claimed that the government's focus has shifted to public relations stunts rather than addressing real security concerns. Kharge highlighted that only a fraction of the funds from the Vibrant Villages Programme, launched to bolster border infrastructure, has been utilized, questioning the government's commitment to safeguarding India's sovereignty. This criticism reflects ongoing tensions with China, emphasizing the need for robust defense strategies to counter such incursions effectively.

Military Operations

India and Pakistan to hold Brigadier-level talks at J&K LoC SHARE

21-Feb-25

India and Pakistan are set to hold a Brigadier-level flag meeting near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district to address the recent surge in ceasefire violations and tensions. This meeting comes after a series of incidents, including the injury of Indian soldiers from cross-border firing and the death of two soldiers due to an IED blast attributed to terrorists. The Indian Army has been actively retaliating to provocations, aiming for a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and infiltration. Both nations seek to de-escalate tensions and maintain peace in a region historically marred by conflict. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent security review meetings emphasize India's commitment to dismantling terrorist networks and ensuring regional stability, highlighting a proactive approach amidst rising terrorist activities following recent elections in the Union Territory.

Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Arrives in Vietnam SHARE

21-Feb-25

The First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy, comprising INS Tir and ICGS Veera, arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, on February 20, 2025, to bolster maritime ties between India and Vietnam. The visit includes cross-training activities, community interactions, and bilateral exercises aimed at enhancing interoperability and sharing best practices. This engagement is part of India's broader strategy to strengthen regional maritime security under the SAGAR initiative. The longstanding strategic partnership between the two nations, highlighted by the recent visit of the Vietnamese PM to India, underscores a commitment to mutual defense and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Former Hizbul Mujahideen Terrorist Captured After 18 Years on the Run

Run  SHARE

21-Feb-25

After an extensive 18-year manhunt, former Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Anwari Ali Chouhan was arrested in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. Chouhan, who initially joined the terrorist group in 2001 and surrendered in 2007, evaded capture by frequently changing locations and remained wanted for involvement in two significant terror-related incidents, including a grenade attack that resulted in casualties. His arrest on February 20, 2025, underscores the persistent challenges faced by Indian security forces in counter-terrorism efforts, but it also highlights their determination and effectiveness in ultimately bringing long-sought militants to justice. This successful operation reflects the robustness of law enforcement strategies and the ongoing commitment to maintaining peace and security in the region, reinforcing India's stance against militancy.

Security Forces Capture 16 Insurgents and Seize 23 Weapons in Manipur

21-Feb-25

In a series of coordinated operations between February 19-20 in Manipur, the Indian Army, Assam Rifles, and Manipur Police successfully apprehended 16 individuals linked to insurgent groups and seized a substantial cache of 23 weapons, including AK-series rifles and ammunition. Operations spanned multiple districts, including Imphal West and Bishnupur, showcasing the effectiveness of intelligence-based strategies in counter-insurgency efforts. The recovered arms and apprehended suspects highlight ongoing security challenges but also reflect the proactive stance of the Indian defense forces in maintaining law and order. These operations underscore India's commitment to combatting insurgency and ensuring regional stability in Manipur.

NIA charges two aides of Khalistani terrorist in murder plot

21-Feb-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has charged two aides of Canada-based Khalistani terrorist Arsh Dala in connection with a terror-gangster syndicate

case. The chargesheet, filed in a Delhi court, involves Neeraj Pandit and Anil Singh, who were alleged to be in contact with Dala and participated in the conspiracy to murder Jasveer Deeghot in Haryana. While Anil was arrested on September 5, 2024, Neeraj remains at large. This action underscores India's commitment to combatting cross-border terrorism and organized crime linked to Khalistani elements, reinforcing the need for vigilant counter-terrorism efforts.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Kaspersky blocks 900 million phishing attempts in 2024, a 26% rise.

21-Feb-25

In 2024, Kaspersky reported blocking nearly 900 million phishing attempts, a 26% increase from the previous year, with cybercriminals exploiting popular brands like Booking and TikTok to steal credentials and distribute malware. The surge in phishing attempts during the holiday season highlighted the evolving tactics of attackers, who utilized AI to create convincing fake websites. Additionally, corporate mailboxes faced significant spam, with 47% of emails classified as unsolicited, underscoring the growing threat to both financial security and personal identity. Kaspersky emphasizes the necessity of vigilance and robust cybersecurity measures to combat these persistent threats.

Low cybersecurity investment threatens Asia-Pacific finance sector

21-Feb-25

Experts warn that low investments in cybersecurity are leaving Asia-Pacific's financial sector vulnerable, with attack rates notably higher than the global average. The RBI's introduction of a dedicated "bank.in" domain aims to bolster security against phishing, although migration phases heighten risks. The rise in attacks, particularly phishing and data breaches, is attributed to a talent shortage in cybersecurity and the evolving tactics of hackers. As organizations grapple with increasing threats, there is a pressing need for enhanced cybersecurity measures and local talent development, highlighted by Check Point Software's plans to expand R&D in Bengaluru. This situation underscores the necessity for proactive defenses over reliance on insurance.

Miscellaneous

Kash Patel Set to Make History as First Indian-Descent FBI Director

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21-Feb-25

Kash Patel is poised to become the first Indian-descent Director of the FBI following his expected confirmation by the Republican-led Senate. As an ally of former President Trump, Patel aims to restore public trust in the agency, focusing on transparency and accountability amidst criticism regarding the FBI's perceived politicization. His nomination faced opposition from Democrats and a few Republicans, yet received substantial backing from the GOP. Patel's commitment to enforcing justice fairly and his stance on holding officials accountable resonate with Trump's agenda for law enforcement reform, reflecting an effort to rebuild the FBI's reputation after years of scrutiny linked to political investigations. This historic appointment underscores the growing influence of individuals of Indian descent in prominent positions within the U.S. government.

BGB Chief Dismisses Minority Attack Reports Amid BSF Talks

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21-Feb-25

Recent high-level talks between the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) focused on border fencing, security, and the safety of minorities following the regime change in Bangladesh. The BSF is advancing a single-row fence despite objections from the BGB, which has called for a joint inspection. While the BGB downplayed reports of attacks on minorities, indicating a peaceful Durga Puja celebration, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs highlighted serious incidents affecting the Hindu community. Both sides agreed on combating trans-border crimes and improving coordination, with the next round of talks scheduled for July in Dhaka. This ongoing dialogue underscores the importance of maintaining security and addressing mutual concerns along the dynamic Indo-Bangladesh border, reflecting India's commitment to regional stability and cooperation.

India Investigates USAID Funding Over Election Interference Concerns

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21-Feb-25

India has raised concerns over the alleged interference by the United States Agency for International

Development (USAID) in its electoral processes, particularly regarding a reported \$21 million allocated for voter turnout initiatives. The Ministry of External Affairs is investigating these claims, emphasizing the troubling nature of foreign involvement in India's internal affairs. Former US President Donald Trump criticized this funding during the FII Priority Summit, suggesting it aimed to influence election outcomes in India and questioned the rationale behind such financial assistance. He noted the high tariffs in India and the substantial funding directed towards other countries like Bangladesh and Nepal. This situation underscores the growing scrutiny over foreign influence in democracies and highlights India's stance on maintaining sovereignty in its electoral integrity.

Jaishankar: G20's Unity Vital for Global Progress Amid Challenges

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21-Feb-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of the G20's ability to harmonize diverse viewpoints to advance the global agenda amid a complex geopolitical landscape during his visit to South Africa. He noted challenges stemming from the Covid pandemic, conflicts, and financial pressures, alongside new issues like supply chain vulnerabilities and the weaponization of trade. Jaishankar highlighted the geopolitical implications of progress in areas such as artificial intelligence and green technologies. He advocated for finding common ground to strengthen the G20, underscoring India's commitment to issues like maritime security and UN reforms, which are crucial for a multipolar world order.

India Ranks Fourth in Global Firepower Index 2025 Amidst Rising Strength

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21-Feb-25

In the Global Firepower Index 2025, India ranks as the world's fourth-largest military power, with a defense budget of \$75 billion, reflecting its commitment to military modernization and self-reliance. This budget, constituting 13.45% of total government spending, enhances India's strategic capabilities, technological advancements, and combat readiness. The index highlights India's strong manpower, financial resources, and potential industrial output, while Pakistan's military strength has declined, dropping to twelfth place. With geopolitical uncertainties, India's focus on advanced weaponry and indigenous defense manufacturing is vital for maintaining its military edge and bolstering

national security in an increasingly complex global environment.

Pakistan Railways to Launch Freight Service to Boost Trade with Russia



21-Feb-25

Pakistan Railways is set to launch a freight train service to Russia, enhancing trade between the two nations and transit countries. The service, starting from the Qasim and Pakistan International Container Terminals, will facilitate the direct export of oil, natural gas, and industrial goods from Russia to Pakistan, while enabling Pakistani textiles and agricultural products to reach Central Asia and Russia. This initiative follows a June 2024 MoU aimed at establishing a cost-effective trade route. APTMA's ambitious target of \$50 billion in textile exports within five years underscores the potential benefits of this service, which could boost regional connectivity and economic cooperation.

India's Expanding Role in AI Governance and Cybersecurity



21-Feb-25

India's role in global security discussions has significantly expanded, particularly in AI governance and cybersecurity, as highlighted by Maggie Feldman-Piltch at the Munich Security Conference. As the largest democracy, India is positioned to address rising geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific, where it faces unique challenges due to diverse governance and logistics. The country's proactive stance in shaping digital public infrastructure and ethical AI regulations underscores its commitment to navigating intricate defense collaborations. This growing presence not only enhances India's strategic relevance but also reflects its capacity to engage with major powers amid an increasingly multipolar world.

India's Insurance Sector: Embracing Technology for Growth and Inclusion



21-Feb-25

The Indian insurance sector faces significant challenges, including low penetration and outdated systems, but it is poised for growth, with predictions of a 7.1% increase in premiums from 2024 to 2028, surpassing global averages. The adoption of technology, like AI and IoT, is crucial for improving efficiency and customer experience. Collaboration across the insurance ecosystem is essential for innovation, enabling insurers to transition to digital

platforms and address skill shortages. By focusing on sustainability, inclusivity, and personalized services, the insurance industry can create a robust safety net, ensuring increased coverage and financial inclusion for the vast majority of the population.

Former MLA Convicted for Serious Threat Against Parliament



21-Feb-25

A Delhi court convicted former Madhya Pradesh MLA Kishore Samrite for threatening to blow up the Indian Parliament in September 2022, although he was acquitted of explosive possession charges. The court found that while the substance sent in a parcel was harmless, the threat expressed in his letter was explicit and serious, aimed at pressuring the government to meet his demands. Convicted under IPC Section 506 for making threats, Samrite faces a maximum sentence of seven years, with sentencing arguments scheduled for February 27. This case underscores the judicial system's role in addressing threats against national institutions, highlighting the importance of maintaining security and public order.

Australia to Enhance India's Gaganyaan Mission with Support



21-Feb-25

Australia is set to play a pivotal role in India's inaugural Gaganyaan mission, particularly in astronaut recovery operations, as both nations deepen their space partnership. This collaboration was highlighted during the PRISM 2.0 webinar, which focused on addressing regulatory challenges and fostering innovation in the space sector. Australia's support includes tracking and recovery operations via its Cocos (Keeling) Islands ground station, ensuring search and rescue capabilities for the crew. The ongoing strengthening of ties, underpinned by strategic agreements and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Space Agency and ISRO, signifies a robust commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation in space exploration and technology.

IIT Madras Startup Waterfly Technologies Launches Electric Seaglidors



21-Feb-25

Waterfly Technologies, a startup from IIT Madras, is innovating coastal transport with electric seaglidors, which utilize ground effect technology for efficient travel. These seaglidors can achieve speeds up to 500 km/h, with a range of 500 km, and are designed for both regional routes and potential intercontinental

travel by 2029. The company aims to develop a 100 kg prototype by April 2025 and is seeking certification from the Indian Register of Shipping by 2026, with military applications in mind. This advancement promises a sustainable alternative to traditional travel, attracting interest from various industries due to lower operational costs and a reduced carbon footprint.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
MARINE	174.85	177.89	170.5	177.89	225336	5.0	39.53	190.63	217.91
CFE	459.8	500.0	459.8	471.0	33600	2.79	35.14	535.24	655.06
COCHINSHIP	1299.0	1337.0	1273.15	1324.0	1106478	1.89	44.4	1361.43	1786.71
SIKA	2499.95	2647.35	2499.9	2530.0	6650	1.58	57.11	2341.29	2638.18
LT	3275.8	3324.9	3270.9	3315.1	1706850	1.2	45.03	3338.43	3582.35
HIGHENE	494.5	494.5	477.0	480.1	3214	1.14	34.72	506.44	683.1
ROSSELLIND	62.75	62.75	60.33	60.98	16217	1.08	31.35	65.98	295.44
PTC	149.42	153.04	148.56	151.34	2254219	0.92	61.03	141.21	188.15
AZAD	1355.0	1378.75	1329.3	1358.05	227309	0.57	43.29	1412.07	1595.03
TANEJAERO	311.15	312.0	297.1	307.55	20073	0.51	35.93	334.52	480.32
BEML	2625.0	2729.8	2618.85	2634.2	391868	0.37	26.87	3119.55	3992.57
MIDHANI	273.25	280.0	268.1	271.15	343634	-0.37	38.29	291.55	388.74
LMW	14578.5	14686.0	14347.6	14425.8	3350	-0.55	33.2	15050.7	16118.66
PARAS	910.2	944.7	887.35	894.0	198731	-0.82	38.92	981.22	1098.27
SOLARINDS	8860.0	8994.0	8751.0	8850.5	70395	-0.95	42.2	9234.31	10249.62
LOKESHMACH	184.0	188.0	178.0	180.45	30465	-1.04	20.28	247.89	367.03
NIBE	1063.75	1077.0	1002.0	1035.6	22410	-1.06	28.2	1310.1	1734.82
AVANTEL	123.25	127.66	120.26	121.36	2056485	-1.16	45.77	123.54	-
HAL	3408.3	3475.6	3355.05	3368.5	1456123	-1.17	35.6	3631.11	4498.7
ASTRAMICRO	617.05	632.0	600.1	606.8	174987	-1.25	32.7	676.31	819.36
DATAPATNS	1569.95	1689.95	1538.05	1553.6	945626	-1.43	30.64	1840.37	2595.54
PREMEXPLN	370.0	384.7	365.0	366.2	146543	-1.52	37.48	407.36	538.2
BEL	259.5	262.5	254.4	256.1	16594628	-1.59	42.88	267.77	290.08
MAZDOCK	2145.8	2219.85	2106.0	2119.45	3003528	-1.62	44.66	2221.11	2159.6
KRISHNADEF	614.0	639.0	587.25	605.45	23000	-1.9	43.02	640.96	709.22
BHARATFORG	1083.0	1098.2	1053.55	1058.95	564026	-2.07	27.85	1130.94	1451.11
GRSE	1344.0	1397.0	1312.0	1319.2	1016652	-2.1	38.88	1451.04	1708.92
ADANIENT	2190.45	2199.6	2116.85	2133.1	1540308	-2.11	36.16	2262.72	2840.44
APOLLO	118.0	122.88	114.55	115.75	7675958	-2.14	45.34	122.48	108.81
BDL	1033.4	1069.55	1005.4	1009.6	935246	-2.3	34.4	1159.0	1264.68
HBLPOWER	489.1	500.75	475.15	478.3	985321	-2.35	38.73	527.88	576.85
ZENTEC	1108.5	1142.85	1065.3	1087.8	1168665	-2.39	25.91	1472.21	1657.3
IDEAFORGE	405.55	416.75	395.0	396.1	116542	-2.41	31.41	430.52	651.13
DCXINDIA	269.35	275.3	259.55	262.3	532175	-2.62	33.71	297.04	338.4
MTARTECH	1470.0	1479.45	1404.05	1415.85	220350	-3.72	44.49	1472.13	1741.34
TEMBO	0.0	613.95	613.95	613.95	27800	-9.59	41.36	659.37	466.73