



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

January 21,2025 | Day 021

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
AVANTEL	142.14	136.55	+4.09%
PTC	144.54	142.29	+1.58%
TANEJAERO	400.7	395.05	+1.43%
KRISHNADEF	730.5	726.8	+0.51%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
HIGHENE	577.0	617.45	-6.55%
TEMBO	699.65	736.45	-5.0%
APOLLO	144.27	151.28	-4.63%
MARINE	229.3	239.0	-4.06%
BDL	1280.4	1329.25	-3.68%

Defense Business and Industry

Pralay Missile Twin Launcher Makes Historic Debut at Republic Day



21-Jan-25

In a significant display of India's advancing military capabilities, the Republic Day Parade showcased the inaugural appearance of the twin launcher for the Pralay tactical ballistic missile, alongside the long-range Pinaka rocket system. The Pralay missile, with a range of 150 to 500 kilometers, is designed for conventional strikes and enhances India's deterrence, particularly against threats from Pakistan and China. The introduction of the twin launcher allows for rapid, successive strikes and signifies a leap in missile technology under the DRDO. Additionally, the Pinaka system highlights India's indigenous defense manufacturing success, already operational with the Army and having secured export orders. This parade not only boosts national pride but underscores India's commitment to self-reliance in defense, reflecting the progress achieved under the Make in India initiative and portraying a strong message of military preparedness on an international stage.

Indian Army Shifts to Cost-Effective Guided Pinaka System



21-Jan-25

The Indian Army is strategically pivoting towards the domestically developed Guided Pinaka rocket system, considering it a cost-effective alternative to expensive tactical missiles. With the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) expanding the Pinaka family, including a notable 300km variant, the

Army aims to enhance its operational capabilities for both conventional and potential tactical nuclear roles. Additionally, contracts worth over Rs 10,200 crore for advanced munitions, including high-explosive and area denial types, are set to be signed before the fiscal year ends, further modernizing the Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher system. This move aligns with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, promoting self-reliance in defense and boosting the indigenous manufacturing sector, while also enhancing the Army's operational readiness and strategic flexibility against adversaries.

Bangladesh Boosts Border Guard with Non-Lethal Weapons



21-Jan-25

Bangladesh is enhancing the capabilities of its Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) by equipping them with non-lethal weapons like sound grenades and tear gas. This decision aims to provide the BGB with more options during confrontations at the border, especially in light of tensions with India's Border Security Force (BSF), which already employs similar methods. The Home Advisor highlighted that the introduction of these non-lethal measures is a proactive step to manage border security effectively without escalating conflicts. This move reflects Bangladesh's commitment to maintaining order while addressing border incidents, indicating a shift towards a more strategic approach in managing border tensions with India.

India Develops Advanced Lightweight Torpedo to Boost Naval Power



21-Jan-25

India is advancing its naval capabilities with the development of the Advanced Light Weight Torpedo (ALWT), featuring a new 100 kW Mg-AgCl battery that increases its speed from 33 to 47 knots, enhancing

engagement with fast-moving submarines. Successfully completing user trials, the ALWT is ready for deployment from various platforms and incorporates advanced sonar technology and guidance systems. This initiative aligns with the Indian Navy's modernization efforts, including contracts for Air Independent Propulsion systems and Electronic Heavy Weight Torpedoes, significantly boosting the operational readiness and firepower of India's submarine fleet. Overall, these advancements underscore India's commitment to indigenous defense technology and enhanced maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.

PTC Industries Partners with AMIC Toho for Titanium Sponge Supply

📱 SHARE

21-Jan-25

PTC Industries has secured a long-term supply agreement for Titanium Sponge with AMIC Toho Titanium Metal Company Limited, announced at the Future Minerals Forum 2025 in Riyadh. This partnership ensures a consistent supply of crucial materials for the production of lightweight, high-strength aviation-grade titanium, enhancing PTC's capabilities in the aerospace sector. The collaboration emphasizes sustainability in titanium production and fosters technological exchange, potentially leading to innovative materials. This strategic move not only strengthens PTC's market position but also reflects India's growing role in global aerospace manufacturing, aligning with the country's defense and industrial goals.

GE-HAL F-414 Engine Deal Stalls Over \$500 Million Price Hike

📱 SHARE

21-Jan-25

Negotiations between General Electric (GE) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the local manufacturing of F-414 engines have hit a significant roadblock, with GE demanding an additional \$500 million to incorporate 80% Transfer of Technology (ToT), raising the total cost from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion. This price increase has delayed the finalization of the deal, but HAL remains optimistic about concluding the agreement before March 2025. The F-414 engines are crucial for India's Tejas MkII program, and achieving higher ToT would enhance India's self-reliance in defense production. Despite the challenges, HAL's commitment underscores a continued focus on advancing indigenous capabilities in jet engine technology.

India Boosts Defense Self-Reliance with Indigenous TELs

📱 SHARE

21-Jan-25

India is making significant strides towards self-reliance in defense manufacturing by transitioning from Czech-made Tatra Transporter Erector Launchers (TELs) to indigenous alternatives, notably showcased by Ashok Leyland's 1212 heavy-duty vehicle during the Republic Day 2025 rehearsals. This shift, part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, demonstrates India's commitment to reducing foreign dependency while enhancing its capability in heavy vehicle production. The use of Ashok Leyland's TEL not only highlights India's manufacturing prowess but also symbolizes its ability to develop robust transport solutions for advanced missile systems like Pralay, BrahMos, and Prithvi, reinforcing the nation's strategic military capabilities in challenging terrains.

Indian Navy Pursues Local MALE UAVs to Boost Surveillance Capabilities

📱 SHARE

21-Jan-25

The Indian Navy is seeking to procure locally developed Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAVs to enhance its maritime surveillance and reduce reliance on the Boeing P-8I Poseidon aircraft. This strategic move aligns with the "Make in India" initiative, promoting self-reliance in defense manufacturing, while also addressing operational costs and maintenance demands. The Navy's requirement for about 155 MALE UAVs will complement existing capabilities and bolster its intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) operations. While the DRDO's Tapas UAV faces performance challenges, other local solutions like Adani Defence's Drishti 10 Starliner show potential, despite reliability issues during trials.

Q-Alpha Aerospace Unveils QAL-J10 Turbojet Engine for UCAVs

📱 SHARE

21-Jan-25

Bangalore-based Q-Alpha Aerospace is developing the QAL-J10, a revolutionary 10 kN turbojet engine for unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) and drones, which promises to enhance propulsion systems significantly. This engine integrates artificial intelligence for improved operational efficiency and features a digital twin system for real-time situational awareness. Designed for compatibility with advanced Turbine-Based Combined Cycle (TBCC) architecture, the QAL-J10 is expected to support future hypersonic applications, positioning it as a game-changer in the defense sector. This innovative approach demonstrates

India's commitment to advancing its aerospace capabilities and underscores the potential for significant advancements in unmanned aerial systems.

HJT-36 Sitara Makes a Strong Comeback at Aero India 2025



21-Jan-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is reintroducing the HJT-36 Sitara intermediate jet trainer at Aero India 2025 after a decade-long absence due to technical challenges. The aircraft, aimed at replacing the aging HJT-16 Kiran fleet, has overcome critical design issues, restoring optimism about its operational capabilities. Its return signifies HAL's commitment to indigenous defense manufacturing and offers a platform for showcasing improved performance to both domestic and international stakeholders. This comeback is a crucial step in addressing the training needs of the Indian Air Force and highlights India's advancements in aerospace solutions, reinforcing the nation's self-reliance in defense.

Nigeria and Botswana Withdraw from Tejas Talks Over HAL Capacity Issues



21-Jan-25

Nigeria and Botswana have reportedly backed out of negotiations to acquire India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, primarily due to concerns regarding Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) production capacity and delays in fulfilling Indian Air Force (IAF) orders. This withdrawal could hinder India's defense export ambitions, as both nations sought to modernize their air forces. While HAL faces challenges in balancing domestic demands and export opportunities, timely delivery and increased production capacity will be crucial for establishing a competitive position in the global defense market. This situation underscores the importance of addressing operational constraints to enhance India's standing as a defense exporter.

Dynamatic Technologies Unveils 80km GPS-Free Jet-Powered Munition



21-Jan-25

Dynamatic Technologies Ltd has developed a groundbreaking jet-powered loitering munition that operates independently of GPS, featuring an 80km range and utilizing optical waypoint guidance for navigation. This innovative system works in conjunction with the CHEEL VTOL drone, enhancing tactical operations by providing real-time situational awareness and precision targeting. The munition's resilience to

electronic warfare, enhanced stealth due to reduced electronic signatures, and autonomous capabilities are significant advancements in modern warfare technology. This development highlights India's growing defense capabilities, particularly in countering emerging threats with sophisticated and integrated systems that enhance operational effectiveness.

Indian Navy's LCA-Navy Trainer Aircraft Orders Delayed Until 2027



21-Jan-25

The Indian Navy's acquisition of 12 LCA-Navy Trainer aircraft has been delayed, primarily due to rigorous testing and the need for further modifications to ensure the aircraft's suitability for deck-based training. While three LCA-Navy aircraft are already in development, the final configuration for the trainer variant remains uncertain, pushing potential orders to 2027. This delay is linked to supply issues with the GE F-404 engine used in the aircraft, highlighting the Navy's commitment to operational readiness and pilot safety. Ultimately, this thorough validation process emphasizes the importance of equipping pilots with reliable aircraft for effective aircraft carrier operations.

L&T and BAE Hagglunds Unveil BvS10 Sindhu for High-Altitude Mobility



21-Jan-25

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and BAE Hagglunds have introduced the BvS10 Beowulf, known as Sindhu in India, to enhance military mobility in high-altitude regions like Ladakh. This articulated all-terrain vehicle (AATV) is designed for extreme conditions, featuring a modular design for various missions, exceptional maneuverability, and protection against small arms fire. The BvS10 Sindhu represents a significant advancement in India's defense capabilities, ensuring operational effectiveness in challenging terrains. Its introduction highlights India's commitment to modernizing its armed forces and strengthening its strategic capabilities in difficult environments, reinforcing national security.

Indian Army Boosts Mobility with ₹1,561 Crore T-72 Tank Deal



21-Jan-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth Rs 1,560.52 crore with the Heavy Vehicles Factory for 47 T-72 Bridge Laying Tanks for the Indian Army. This critical equipment enhances battlefield mobility by allowing Mechanised Forces to launch

bridges during operations, thereby improving offensive capabilities. Emphasizing the 'Make in India' initiative, this project not only strengthens indigenous defense production but also contributes to the economy by creating employment opportunities. The focus on indigenously designed and manufactured systems reflects India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities and self-reliance in the military sector.

DRDO Achieves Milestone with Successful Scramjet Engine Test SHARE

21-Jan-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted a groundbreaking ground test of an Active Cooled Scramjet Combustor, demonstrating stable combustion for 120 seconds, a first for India. This achievement marks a significant step towards developing next-generation hypersonic missiles, capable of exceeding Mach 5 and bypassing existing air defense systems. The indigenous advancements include the development of a unique endothermic scramjet fuel and a state-of-the-art Thermal Barrier Coating, enhancing operational performance under extreme conditions. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh commended the efforts of DRDO and its industry partners, emphasizing the importance of these developments in bolstering India's defense capabilities in an increasingly competitive global landscape.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

Japan and India Forge Stronger Ties Through Innovation Exchange SHARE

21-Jan-25

Japan and India have reaffirmed their strategic partnership, highlighting shared values and responsibilities for international peace during recent bilateral meetings. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya discussed plans for the Japan-India Year of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STIY25) from April 2025 to March 2026, commemorating their long-standing cooperation in science and technology. They emphasized the importance of enhancing collaboration in various sectors, including security and economic cooperation, while acknowledging their cultural ties rooted in history. The discussions also reflect a broader commitment to bolster defense cooperation amid rising geopolitical challenges in the Indo-Pacific region,

showcasing the evolving and deepening India-Japan relations that aim to strengthen regional stability.

French Defense Minister: Europe Must Boost Defense Autonomy SHARE

21-Jan-25

Recent comments from French officials highlight a growing concern in Europe regarding its reliance on the United States for defense, particularly amidst shifting U.S. strategic priorities under President Trump. French Defense Minister Sebastien Lecornu criticized the idea of increasing arms purchases from the U.S., advocating instead for European defense autonomy. President Macron echoed this sentiment, urging Europe to "wake up" and enhance its defense spending to better address evolving threats and reduce dependence on American military support, especially in the context of the Ukraine conflict. Both leaders emphasize the need for Europe to develop its own defense capabilities and consider strategic autonomy as essential to its security. This discussion underscores a pivotal moment for Europe to reassess its defense strategies and bolster its military readiness in an increasingly unpredictable geopolitical landscape.

India and France Unite to Enhance Maritime Security in IOR SHARE

21-Jan-25

India and France have committed to enhancing maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), addressing threats such as piracy, maritime terrorism, and environmental challenges. This collaboration was formalized during the 7th India-France Maritime Cooperation Dialogue in New Delhi, where both nations emphasized mutual respect for international law and territorial integrity. They plan to strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms, improve information exchange, and promote sustainable marine biodiversity as part of their ongoing strategic partnership. This initiative not only bolsters regional stability but also highlights the importance of multilateral efforts in securing vital sea lanes essential for trade and economic growth.

Quad Nations Affirm Strong Commitment to Indo-Pacific Stability SHARE

21-Jan-25

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong confirmed the Quad's "iron-clad" commitment to cooperation in the Indo-Pacific during a meeting with her Indian and Japanese counterparts in Washington. The gathering, coinciding with preparations for President-elect Trump's

inauguration, underscores the collective resolve among Australia, India, Japan, and the U.S. to address concerns about China's rising influence. Wong emphasized the importance of the U.S. alliance for Australia's defense and economic prosperity and highlighted the AUKUS defense technology partnership aimed at enhancing deterrence capabilities. This strategic dialogue reflects a united front among Quad nations to ensure regional stability and security in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

Bangladesh Calls for Dialogue to Ease Border Tensions with India SHARE

21-Jan-25

The Government of Bangladesh has urged for dialogue to address rising border tensions with India after recent clashes in Chapainawabganj, which left several injured. The conflicts, reportedly over wheat harvesting and tree cutting, intensified after Indian Border Security Force (BSF) began erecting barbed-wire fencing near the border, prompting diplomatic interventions from both nations. While Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs called for peaceful resolution in line with existing agreements, India's Ministry of External Affairs also engaged in discussions. This scenario underscores the importance of diplomatic channels in managing border issues, as both nations aim to maintain stability and cooperation in the region.

US Military to Assess Cyprus Base Amid Rising Regional Tensions SHARE

21-Jan-25

A U.S. military assessment team is set to evaluate Cyprus's defense infrastructure, enhancing cooperation and interoperability amid rising geopolitical tensions in the region. This initiative aligns with Cyprus's strategy to modernize its defense capabilities and is closely monitored by Turkey, which has historical grievances concerning Cyprus. The assessment will focus on potential upgrades to landing facilities for large-scale evacuations, reflecting Cyprus's strategic importance in the volatile Middle East. Strengthening U.S.-Cyprus relations underscores a broader defense strategy that enhances regional stability and reflects India's interests in promoting partnerships that counterbalance Turkey's influence in the area.

Trump: Russia-Ukraine War Wouldn't Have Happened Under My Watch SHARE

21-Jan-25

Former US President Donald Trump claimed that the Russia-Ukraine war would not have occurred if he were

in office, asserting he would resolve the conflict swiftly. He criticized NATO for its defense spending, suggesting member countries pay 5% of their GDP, which sparked backlash from German politicians who found his remarks excessive and baseless. Trump emphasized that the US has contributed significantly more to Ukraine's support compared to NATO, arguing that European nations should bear more responsibility. This highlights ongoing tensions regarding defense commitments within NATO and the varying perceptions of threat among its member states.

Ukraine Looks to India for Support in Peace Efforts with Russia SHARE

21-Jan-25

Ukraine is seeking India's support in its peace efforts as it engages with the new US administration under President Trump. Andriy Yermak, Ukraine's presidential advisor, highlighted India's global influence and expressed appreciation for Prime Minister Modi's previous engagement, particularly regarding the humanitarian crisis involving displaced Ukrainian children. Yermak emphasized India's potential role in facilitating dialogue with Russia, citing Modi's emotional visit to a memorial for displaced children. As Ukraine pushes for a comprehensive resolution to the ongoing conflict, it recognizes India's diplomatic weight and history of assistance, showcasing India's emerging role as a key player in international peace initiatives.

Trump Doubts Longevity of Gaza Ceasefire Despite Negotiation SHARE

21-Jan-25

Former President Donald Trump expressed skepticism about the longevity of a ceasefire deal in Gaza, despite his involvement in its negotiation. He claimed that Hamas has been "weakened" following the conflict that erupted after their attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and described Gaza as a "massive demolition site" with potential for "fantastic" reconstruction. While Trump highlighted his support for Israel, President Biden remained optimistic about the ceasefire's implementation. This divergence in tone reflects differing approaches to Middle Eastern diplomacy, emphasizing the complexities of achieving lasting peace in the region amidst ongoing tensions.

Putin Open to Dialogue with New US Administration on Ukraine SHARE

21-Jan-25

Putin expressed a willingness to engage in dialogue with the new U.S. administration regarding the Ukraine

conflict, coinciding with Trump's indication of wanting to prioritize peace talks. Trump suggested that a resolution is vital to prevent Russia from facing significant repercussions and recalled past summits with Putin, hoping for a path to negotiation. This development points to a potential thaw in U.S.-Russia relations, marking a significant shift that could influence global geopolitical dynamics. While Trump's approach leans towards diplomacy, the effectiveness of such negotiations remains uncertain, particularly considering the complex realities on the ground in Ukraine.

Concerns Rise Over Trump's Tough Stance on Dhaka's Yunus Government



21-Jan-25

With Donald Trump's return to the presidency, analysts in Bangladesh express concerns about potential shifts in US policy towards the Yunus-led interim government, particularly regarding its treatment of minorities like Hindus. Trump's condemnation of violence against these groups and his call for a stronger India-US partnership indicate a tough stance ahead for Dhaka, especially given its ties to China's Belt and Road Initiative. The US, a major source of development aid and export markets for Bangladesh, may limit new investments, as existing investors exhibit caution. Bangladesh's government is advised to closely monitor US policy developments to navigate these challenges effectively.

Israeli Forces Conduct Major Raid in Jenin, Four Palestinians Killed



21-Jan-25

Israeli military forces launched a significant raid in Jenin, West Bank, resulting in the deaths of at least four Palestinians amid ongoing tensions linked to Iranian-backed militant groups. Prime Minister Netanyahu declared this operation a part of a broader campaign against such groups, emphasizing Israel's commitment to security and settlement protection in the region. The action follows a recent ceasefire in Gaza and highlights escalating violence, including attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians. The situation underscores complex geopolitical dynamics as Israel continues to assert its military presence while facing international scrutiny over its settlements in occupied territories.

Russia Intercepts 55 Ukrainian Drones Amid Escalating Conflict



21-Jan-25

Russia's defense ministry reported that it successfully intercepted and downed 55 Ukrainian drones overnight across six regions, including Voronezh, where debris from the drones ignited a fire at a fuel depot. The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has intensified, with both sides vying for an advantage as geopolitical dynamics shift, particularly with potential changes in U.S. foreign policy under Donald Trump's re-election campaign. This situation highlights the significant role of drone warfare in modern conflicts and underscores the evolving military capabilities of both nations, indicating that air defense systems remain crucial in safeguarding territories amidst escalating hostilities.

Army and IAF Unite for Enhanced Air Defence Operations



21-Jan-25

The Indian Army and Air Force are advancing towards a unified air defence strategy by integrating the Akashteer system with the Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS), enhancing operational capabilities and situational awareness. This integration aims to streamline air defence processes and reduce risks of friendly fire. The successful execution of Exercise Devil Strike showcased the joint forces' operational preparedness and logistic efficiency in complex scenarios. The push for jointness is essential for bolstering India's military readiness, ensuring a swift and cohesive response to aerial threats while maintaining the safety of friendly units in contested airspace, ultimately enhancing national security.

Military Operations

Indian Air Force to Dazzle with 47 Aircraft at Republic Day



21-Jan-25

The Indian Air Force is gearing up for a spectacular flypast featuring 47 aircraft during the 76th Republic Day celebrations at Kartavya Path, highlighting India's military prowess. The event will also showcase a rich cultural display with 31 tableaux from various states and the participation of a 160-member marching contingent from Indonesia, reflecting India's diplomatic ties. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will commence the festivities with a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial. This celebration not only honors 75 years of the Indian Constitution but also emphasizes the nation's commitment to cultural diversity and defense readiness.

Ukraine Arrests Generals for Failing to Defend Kharkiv Against Russia



21-Jan-25

Ukraine's State Investigation Bureau has arrested two generals and a colonel for negligence in failing to defend against a Russian offensive in Kharkiv, which began in May 2024. The military's initial response allowed Russian forces to advance significantly, prompting President Zelenskyy to take drastic measures, including firing military commanders. Meanwhile, Russian forces claimed control over additional settlements in Ukraine's Donetsk region, highlighting ongoing tensions and territorial disputes. This situation raises concerns about military readiness and leadership accountability within Ukraine's armed forces as they strive to counter Russian advances, underscoring the critical need for strategic reforms and effective command structures in the face of persistent conflict.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Soldier Killed in Jammu and Kashmir Encounter with Terrorists



21-Jan-25

In a recent encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, Sepoy Pangala Kartheek of the 22 Rashtriya Rifles was killed while sustaining injuries during the operation. Security forces had launched a cordon and search operation after detecting gunfire from a militant hideout and maintained vigilance through the night as they intensified their search for suspected terrorists. This incident underscores the persistent challenges faced by Indian security forces in combating terrorism in the region, highlighting their commitment to ensuring national security despite the risks involved. As investigations continue, the determination of the forces in the face of such threats reaffirms India's resolve to maintain stability and safety in Kashmir.

NIA Investigates Gurugram Blasts Linked to Organized Crime



21-Jan-25

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the investigation into two crude bomb explosions outside nightclubs in Gurugram, which occurred on December 10, 2024. The blasts were linked to gangster Rohit Godara, an associate of Canada-based terrorist Goldy Brar, who is implicated in smuggling arms and orchestrating killings. Following the blasts, several

arrests were made, including that of a suspect named Sachin. The NIA's involvement underscores the escalating threat posed by transnational organized crime and terrorism, prompting a robust response from Indian security agencies to address these security challenges effectively. The case highlights the proactive measures taken by India to combat domestic and international terrorism.

Pro-Khalistan Protests Disrupt UK Screening of 'Emergency' Film



21-Jan-25

Protests by Sikh groups in the UK disrupted the screening of the film "Emergency," directed by Kangana Ranaut, during its opening weekend. Critics labeled the biopic of former PM Indira Gandhi as anti-Sikh, leading to cancellations in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, as well as disruptions in Harrow. The Sikh Press Association highlighted the protests, which were driven by pro-Khalistan extremists who sought to halt the film's showing. Ranaut expressed her disappointment over the film's reception among Sikhs both in Punjab and abroad while thanking her supporters. This incident underscores ongoing tensions regarding historical narratives and their depiction, especially concerning India's sensitive political history.

Assam STF nabs another associate of ABT terror group in crackdown.



21-Jan-25

The Assam Police Special Task Force (STF) has made significant progress in counter-terrorism efforts by arresting 14 associates of the Bangladesh-based Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), which has ties to Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent. These arrests are part of Operation Praghat, targeting individuals attempting to establish sleeper cells and promote extremist ideologies across India, particularly against Hindu leaders. The STF's proactive measures have successfully thwarted potential terror plots, underscoring India's commitment to national security and stability. This operation highlights the importance of intelligence-led policing and inter-state cooperation in addressing growing radicalization and terrorism in the region.

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Trump Appoints Acting Defense Secretary Amid Confirmation Delay SHARE

21-Jan-25

President Trump has appointed Robert Salesses as acting defense secretary due to the delay in Senate confirmation for Pete Hegseth. Salesses, a retired Marine, will oversee key military functions alongside other acting officials for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Trump's administration plans to focus on military priorities, including potential troop deployments to the US-Mexico border. This reshuffling emphasizes the need for leadership continuity at the Pentagon amidst ongoing security and operational demands. The appointments reflect a commitment to maintain military readiness while navigating political processes.

Miscellaneous

Jaishankar Delivers Modi's Letter at Trump's Inauguration SHARE

21-Jan-25

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar represented Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump, carrying a letter from Modi, highlighting the strong diplomatic ties between India and the U.S. This event marked a historic moment, as it was the first time international leaders were invited to such an inauguration, with Jaishankar seated prominently alongside leaders from Australia and Japan, reflecting the importance of the Quad alliance. Jaishankar expressed his pride in representing India at this significant ceremony and participated in a prayer service prior to the event. This underscores India's commitment to deepening engagement with the U.S. and solidifying partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly amidst evolving geopolitical dynamics.

India-Kazakhstan Alliance: A Boost for Energy Security and Tech SHARE

21-Jan-25

India is strategically partnering with Kazakhstan to enhance its rare earth supply chain, crucial for the country's transition to renewable energy and reducing dependence on China. With Kazakhstan holding significant reserves and India lacking advanced

extraction technologies, this collaboration promises to stabilize supply and bolster energy security. India is also expanding its supplier base through agreements with other nations, including Argentina. The proposed India-Central Asia Rare Earths Forum aims to foster cooperation and address logistical challenges, while emphasizing the critical role of these materials in industries such as defense and technology, positioning Central Asia as a key player in the global minerals market.

CCTE Proposes Innovative Fuel Tech to Boost India's Thorium Energy SHARE

21-Jan-25

US startup Clean Core Thorium Energy (CCTE) aims to advance India's nuclear energy strategy by proposing a new fuel technology that combines thorium with enriched uranium, potentially enhancing cleaner electricity generation. Currently, India relies heavily on coal for energy, with nuclear power constituting less than 2% of its generation capacity. By collaborating with state-run NTPC and Larsen & Toubro, CCTE's innovation could streamline India's three-stage thorium utilization program, as initial tests have demonstrated significantly higher irradiation levels than conventional reactors. This development has piqued interest from India's Department of Atomic Energy, pending necessary regulatory approvals, marking a promising step towards energy security and reduced carbon emissions.

BluJ Aero Showcases Eco-Friendly VTOL Aircraft at Urban Air Mobility Expo 2025 SHARE

21-Jan-25

BluJ Aero, founded in May 2022, is showcasing its hydrogen-electric VTOL aircraft at the Urban Air Mobility Expo 2025, aiming to transform transportation with eco-friendly technology. Their aircraft promises zero emissions, a heavy payload capacity, and the ability to operate from local vertiports, enhancing accessibility and reducing infrastructure costs. The expo serves as a significant platform for discussing sustainability and the economic potential of urban air mobility in India, highlighting its role in improving logistics and reducing travel times. This innovation aligns with India's commitment to sustainable development and reflects the nation's proactive approach in adopting advanced technologies for future urban transport solutions.

Trump Launches External Revenue Service to Target Foreign Tariffs



21-Jan-25

Former President Trump has announced the establishment of the External Revenue Service (ERS) to collect tariffs and duties from foreign countries, aiming to enhance U.S. trade protections and generate revenue from imports, particularly targeting nations like China, Brazil, and India. This move aligns with his strategy to revitalize American manufacturing but has faced criticism for potentially increasing taxes on American families while benefitting the wealthy. Concerns are also raised regarding the ERS's overlap with existing agencies like Customs and Border Protection, potentially contradicting Trump's goal of reducing government size. This announcement reflects a broader trend of protectionism that could impact U.S.-India trade relations.

Trump Claims U.S. Should Reclaim Panama Canal from China



21-Jan-25

In a controversial inaugural address, President Donald Trump announced plans for the U.S. to "take back" the Panama Canal, which was handed over to Panama in 1999. He accused the Panamanian government of unfairly charging U.S. ships and suggested that China is operating the canal. Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino refuted Trump's claims, asserting that the canal is under Panama's control and emphasizing the need for dialogue. This situation highlights underlying tensions regarding U.S. influence in the region and raises concerns about potential military implications, as Trump's remarks have provoked national pride and economic stability considerations for Panama, which generated significant revenue from the canal.

Sarla Aviation Launches Shunya, an Electric Air Taxi Prototype



21-Jan-25

Sarla Aviation has unveiled its electric air taxi prototype, Shunya, at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, which can carry up to six passengers and has a payload capacity of 680 kg. Designed for short urban trips, it can reach speeds of 250 km/h and has a flying range of 160 km, aiming to tackle urban congestion and pollution. The initiative aligns with India's sustainable urban mobility vision, with plans to launch in Bangalore by 2028 and expand to other major cities. Additionally, the start-up's commitment to a free air ambulance service enhances rapid medical response capabilities,

demonstrating India's growing potential in the global aerospace industry.

Trump Takes Office as 47th President, Promises Major Policy Shifts



21-Jan-25

Donald Trump has been sworn in as the 47th President of the United States, where he addressed a "crisis of trust" and pledged to prioritize sovereignty, safety, and justice. He plans to take immediate action through executive orders to address immigration, energy policy, and dismantle Biden-era regulations. His confrontational tone criticized the previous administration while presenting his return as a pivotal moment for the Republican Party, which now has unified control of Washington. Trump's intention to withdraw from international agreements like the Paris accord and eliminate diversity initiatives marks a significant shift in U.S. policy, reflecting his commitment to reshape American governance in alignment with his agenda.

JD Vance Takes Office as 50th Vice President of the U.S.



21-Jan-25

JD Vance has been sworn in as the 50th Vice President of the United States, with the oath administered by Chief Justice John Roberts. Vance, who previously served as a U.S. Senator from Ohio and authored the bestselling memoir "Hillbilly Elegy," brings a diverse background that includes a challenging upbringing in Middletown, Ohio, and military service in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Iraq War. His political agenda focuses on populist policies aimed at revitalizing American manufacturing and supporting working-class families, reflecting a commitment to addressing economic challenges faced by many Americans. This leadership change signals potential shifts in U.S. domestic and foreign policy, which may impact international relations, including with nations like India.

Hamas Confirms Hostage Release This Saturday as Ceasefire Progresses



21-Jan-25

Hamas has confirmed the scheduled release of hostages on Saturday as part of a ceasefire deal with Israel, aimed at concluding a 15-month conflict in Gaza. The organization stated that over 90 hostages would be released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, following a phased approach to the ceasefire that commenced last Sunday. This deal has garnered significant global attention, with the ongoing hostage

situation being a critical focus. The ceasefire aims to facilitate a gradual Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza, highlighting a complex negotiation landscape that underscores the need for sustained diplomatic efforts towards lasting peace in the region.

Govt launches Sanchar Saathi app to combat telecom fraud directly from call logs.



21-Jan-25

The Indian government launched the Sanchar Saathi mobile app on January 17, 2025, aimed at empowering citizens to report telecom fraud, track lost devices, and verify mobile connections in their name. This user-friendly app enhances telecom security, addressing issues like identity theft and unauthorized SIM usage. Experts emphasize that while the initiative is commendable, India must pursue broader cybersecurity measures, including public-private partnerships and advanced technologies, to effectively combat cyber fraud. Overall, the Sanchar Saathi app represents a significant step towards building a secure digital environment, fostering consumer trust, and promoting responsible digital practices in India.

Trump Cancels Biden's AI Safety Order, Sparking Innovation Debate



21-Jan-25

US President Donald Trump has revoked a 2023 executive order by Joe Biden aimed at mitigating risks associated with artificial intelligence (AI), which mandated safety tests for AI systems with national security implications. This move aligns with the Republican Party's platform advocating for AI development free from restrictive regulations. Concurrently, the US Commerce Department imposed new restrictions on AI chip exports, drawing industry criticism, while Biden initiated support for energy demands in AI data centers. The debate centers on balancing innovation and safety, highlighting the need for clear frameworks in the rapidly evolving AI landscape, especially as India develops its own AI capabilities to enhance national security and economic growth.

Russian Envoy Celebrates NSA Doval's 80th, Strengthening Ties



21-Jan-25

Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov celebrated National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's 80th birthday, highlighting his significant role in bolstering the India-Russia partnership. The recent India-Malaysia Security

Dialogue, co-chaired by Doval, marked a crucial advancement in security cooperation, focusing on counter-terrorism, cyber security, and defense industries. This institutionalized dialogue emerged from a commitment made during Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to India, elevating their relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Such engagements reflect India's proactive approach in strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing regional security cooperation, showcasing India's strategic importance on the global stage.

India's Satellite Spectrum Policy Aims to Boost Telecom Competition



21-Jan-25

India's recent decision to allocate satellite spectrum administratively, rather than via auction, aims to enhance consumer choice in the telecom market, despite concerns from Reliance Jio's Mukesh Ambani about competition from Elon Musk's Starlink. Telecoms Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia emphasized the need for technological evolution amid fierce competition among providers in a market expected to grow to \$1.9 billion by 2030. While Starlink and Amazon's applications for licenses are under review, the government is also focusing on reviving Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to regain market share. This strategy highlights India's commitment to fostering innovation and competitiveness in the flourishing telecom sector.

BHEL Set to Gain Strategic PSU Status, Off Divestment List



21-Jan-25

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) may be removed from India's divestment list and classified as a strategic public sector unit (PSU), aligning with a parliamentary committee's recommendations. This shift acknowledges BHEL's crucial role in enhancing local manufacturing, particularly in defense and renewable energy, supporting India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. By retaining strategic assets like BHEL, the government aims to strengthen its technological and manufacturing capabilities while promoting self-reliance. This reevaluation underscores a balanced approach to investment and divestment, ensuring that critical sectors continue to thrive and contribute to national interests.

Republic Day 2025: National School Band Competition Finale in Delhi



21-Jan-25

The grand finale of the National School Band Competition 2024-25, part of the Republic Day Celebrations (RDC) 2025, will take place at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi, on January 24 & 25, 2025. A total of 16 school bands, representing four zones, will compete, aiming to foster patriotism and

unity among children. The event, organized jointly by the Ministries of Defence and Education, has drawn participation from over 700 teams, showcasing significant enthusiasm for holistic education and national pride. This initiative not only promotes cultural values but also strengthens the bond between the youth and their country, highlighting India's commitment to nurturing a sense of belonging and pride.

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Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
AVANTEL	137.8	148.75	137.5	142.14	3047044	4.09	42.61	147.51	-
PTC	144.5	145.43	142.24	144.54	2024016	1.58	47.36	142.3	197.02
TANEJAERO	396.0	404.8	385.0	400.7	30132	1.43	43.08	414.27	492.13
KRISHNADEF	735.0	760.0	720.1	730.5	62250	0.51	48.14	756.0	682.17
ROSSELLIND	73.25	73.25	71.1	71.88	15859	0.0	34.75	75.05	338.05
CFE	662.0	679.95	659.0	659.0	11600	-0.3	44.56	682.13	641.38
LMW	16491.4	16516.3	16205.15	16365.8	819	-0.42	46.3	16624.05	16324.07
PREMEXPLN	484.0	493.4	470.0	482.75	53883	-0.45	47.48	500.61	540.35
BHARATFORG	1223.3	1234.35	1199.55	1201.65	986443	-1.28	35.86	1252.97	1461.07
LT	3612.75	3643.3	3528.1	3541.1	2576596	-1.44	43.77	3582.53	3612.12
IDEAFORGE	578.0	586.0	569.0	572.0	58590	-1.54	43.64	590.18	680.67
LOKESHMACH	318.45	329.9	313.6	315.45	26397	-1.61	46.47	315.41	389.38
SOLARINDS	9750.0	9769.9	9512.0	9581.85	51492	-1.71	45.62	9674.47	10183.46
MTARTECH	1701.0	1718.85	1670.0	1682.9	53291	-1.72	50.5	1676.52	1786.09
COCHINSHIP	1551.9	1582.0	1500.0	1508.3	683166	-1.84	50.57	1496.5	1764.97
NIBE	1594.2	1610.0	1550.0	1566.65	14954	-2.0	40.2	1630.58	1759.29
BEL	285.8	286.9	278.25	279.0	13020489	-2.38	45.37	283.22	285.66
ADANIENT	2441.75	2441.75	2373.65	2384.3	1206512	-2.39	45.14	2451.6	2936.08
HBLPOWER	569.85	580.95	547.0	551.85	1153220	-2.39	39.15	591.06	572.37
ASTRAMICRO	781.9	788.3	759.1	763.1	160158	-2.4	46.78	769.68	818.05
SIKA	2524.8	2524.8	2410.1	2416.3	1044	-2.53	43.35	2489.42	2590.17
DCXINDIA	367.9	378.0	354.5	356.55	756163	-2.61	51.31	360.27	340.14
GRSE	1600.0	1631.0	1540.0	1548.85	723457	-2.68	49.27	1549.38	1644.67
DATAPATNS	2359.25	2389.45	2279.0	2296.05	103497	-2.69	46.22	2347.29	2712.47
ZENTEC	2220.0	2227.0	2112.45	2144.9	392981	-2.78	41.01	2381.21	1594.58
AZAD	1689.9	1720.0	1624.05	1634.55	107561	-3.07	44.27	1714.53	1580.0
BEML	3795.35	3814.45	3653.5	3673.25	176993	-3.12	40.18	3848.2	4021.57
HAL	4210.0	4233.35	4037.05	4050.8	2319540	-3.26	45.48	4086.8	4510.78
MIDHANI	343.5	345.1	330.1	331.45	177735	-3.4	47.34	332.69	404.08
MAZDOCK	2460.0	2490.0	2333.35	2351.85	3319166	-3.55	54.39	2249.66	2027.26
PARAS	1099.95	1119.95	1055.0	1060.2	136898	-3.61	52.9	1023.98	1064.65
BDL	1335.25	1340.85	1272.5	1280.4	1218981	-3.68	59.82	1181.48	1236.07
MARINE	238.8	241.95	228.0	229.3	98444	-4.06	38.21	251.13	206.43
APOLLO	151.2	157.0	142.11	144.27	21772584	-4.63	66.53	123.6	106.89
TEMBO	742.95	742.95	699.65	699.65	114167	-5.0	40.04	794.75	425.29
HIGHENE	649.0	649.0	562.1	577.0	14668	-6.55	36.74	613.34	719.26