



Defence Professionals News & Analysis

March 25,2025 | Day 084

Top Gainers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
SIKA	623.8	520.1	+19.94%
LOKESHMACH	166.65	158.72	+5.0%
NIBE	979.9	933.25	+5.0%
CFF	457.0	451.25	+1.27%
TANEJAERO	346.0	342.75	+0.95%

Top Losers

Stock	Close	Prev	Change
AVANTEL	113.71	121.22	-6.2%
PREMEXPLN	356.7	378.4	-5.73%
MTARTECH	1363.7	1441.6	-5.4%
IDEAFORGE	371.5	391.15	-5.02%
MARINE	170.54	179.52	-5.0%

Defense Business and Industry

BrahMos Missile's New Variant Hits Targets Over 800 Km Away



25-Mar-25

India is enhancing its military capabilities with the acquisition of the latest variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, which boasts a striking range of over 800 km. This acquisition, involving around 250 missiles, reflects India's commitment to modern warfare by allowing safe, deep strikes on high-value targets across both western and northern fronts. As India pushes for indigenization, the BrahMos program showcases its transition from a reliance on foreign technology to self-sufficiency, with successful exports marking its entry into the global defense market. Additionally, the development of the BrahMos Next Generation promises to further revolutionize air combat capabilities.

Private Sector Participation Crucial for India's Defense Self-Reliance



25-Mar-25

India is emphasizing the need for self-reliance in defense capabilities by encouraging greater participation from the private sector, as highlighted by Lt. Gen. Karanbir Singh Brar during a seminar for NCC cadets. The initiative aims to provide insights into business opportunities in defense and promote innovation through programs like Innovations for Defence Excellence (IDEX). The existing defense inventory requires maintenance, presenting additional opportunities for local industries, particularly in manufacturing hubs such as Coimbatore and Tiruchi.

Moreover, policies are being formulated to facilitate startups and private companies in this sector, showcasing the government's commitment to bolstering indigenous defense production and innovation.

Boeing's F-47 Faces Tough Export Competition in Fighter Jet Race



25-Mar-25

Boeing's F-47, a sixth-generation fighter jet under the U.S. Next Generation Air Dominance program, faces export challenges due to increasing global competition, including initiatives from allies like Europe's FCAS and Japan's GCAP, which aim for self-sufficiency in defense capabilities. Meanwhile, the U.S. Navy is set to award a contract for its next-generation F/A-XX fighter, crucial for countering China's assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific, amidst intense competition from Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and Lockheed Martin. The F/A-XX aims to integrate advanced stealth and uncrewed combat capabilities but may lead to a fragmented market where Boeing's F-47 struggles for international sales, echoing the complexities of the fifth-generation era. The race underscores the pressing need for the U.S. to maintain technological superiority while navigating a landscape rich with emerging competitors like China and Russia.

HAL Advances Assembly of First Tejas MkII Aircraft Ahead of Schedule



25-Mar-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is progressing rapidly towards completing the first Tejas MkII aircraft, with more than 60% of its assembly finished, aiming for readiness by October 2025. The aircraft will undergo rigorous ground testing before its expected maiden flight by March 2026, which aligns with the Indian Air Force's modernization goals amidst regional security

concerns. Additionally, the Tejas MkII will feature a modern software architecture that allows for regular updates, significantly enhancing its operational capabilities and ensuring it remains adaptable to evolving threats. This flexible approach to software enhancements positions the Tejas MkII competitively in the modern aerial combat landscape, promising improved performance and mission readiness for the IAF.

SCD Secures Major Orders for Mini Blackbird Infrared Detectors SHARE

25-Mar-25

SCD, a prominent player in defense technology, has secured significant orders for its Mini Blackbird 1280 HFM infrared detector from North American clients, indicating a robust demand for advanced surveillance solutions. This compact, lightweight detector enhances operational endurance for tactical platforms and is capable of precise target identification in challenging conditions. With advanced features like a high frame rate, low power consumption, and simplified integration, the Mini Blackbird supports various defense applications, enabling forces to maintain tactical superiority. This order underscores SCD's commitment to innovation in infrared detection technology, positioning it well to meet the growing needs of modern defense systems.

Bell Unveils IFR-Ready 505 Helicopter for U.S. Army Training SHARE

25-Mar-25

Bell is proposing an IFR-capable variant of its 505 Jet Ranger X helicopter to meet the U.S. Army's need for a rotary-wing training refresh under the Flight School Next initiative. This single-engine helicopter aims to enhance basic flying skills while reducing training costs, potentially half that of the UH-72 Lakota. With growing interest from the Army, Bell's solution emphasizes a return to fundamental flying techniques while integrating advanced avionics. Competitors like Robinson Helicopters are also vying for the Army's contract with their R66 model, emphasizing lower operating costs and American manufacturing. Bell's initiative reflects a strategic shift in military rotary-wing training, addressing operational efficiency and pilot proficiency.

Israel Partners with Sikorsky for Advanced CH-53K Helicopters SHARE

25-Mar-25

The Israel Ministry of Defense has contracted Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin subsidiary, for the integration of unique mission systems into 12 CH-53K helicopters, valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. These helicopters will replace the IAF Yasur aircraft and are currently being assembled in the U.S. under a Foreign Military Sales agreement. Sikorsky will establish a dedicated production line to adapt the helicopters from U.S. Marine Corps specifications to meet the rigorous demands of the Israeli Air Force, including the installation of advanced avionics and electronic warfare systems. This move enhances Israel's aerial capabilities and illustrates the growing collaboration between the U.S. defense industry and Israeli military needs.

GRSE Secures German Contract for 7th and 8th Multi-Purpose Vessels SHARE

25-Mar-25

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd has signed a significant contract with Carsten Rehder Schiffsmakler and Reederei GmbH & Co. KG, Germany, for the construction of the 7th and 8th Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs), reinforcing India's "Make in India, Make for World" initiative. This contract is valued at approximately 108 million USD, with each vessel designed to carry 7,500 DWT, accommodating diverse cargo including large windmill blades. The deal underscores GRSE's expanding global footprint and commitment to advanced maritime capabilities, enhancing India's defense and commercial shipping sectors while fostering international partnerships.

India's \$500 Kamikaze Drones: A Game-Changer Against \$10M Weapons SHARE

25-Mar-25

India is enhancing its military capabilities through the development of loitering munitions, or "kamikaze drones," which offer a cost-effective alternative against high-value enemy systems. With examples from global conflicts illustrating their effectiveness, India is prioritizing indigenous drone production, exemplified by the SkyStriker and Nagastra-1 systems. The strategic focus on AI integration and swarm technology aligns with India's ambition for self-reliance, as evidenced by a 174% increase in domestic defense production and significant procurement of next-generation artillery systems. As geopolitical tensions rise, these advancements not only elevate India's operational readiness but also redefine the future of warfare.

Two Advanced Warships Set for Indian Navy Induction in Kolkata

 SHARE

25-Mar-25

Two advanced warships, Himgiri and Androth, are set to be inducted into the Indian Navy, following successful Contractor Sea Trials (CSTs) conducted by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata. Himgiri, the first of three Project-17A Advanced Frigates, and Androth, designed for anti-submarine warfare, enhance India's naval capabilities amid regional challenges. These trials assess the vessels' seaworthiness and compliance with naval standards, marking a significant milestone in India's shipbuilding efforts. With over 790 platforms delivered, GRSE underscores India's commitment to strengthening its maritime defense and self-reliance in shipbuilding, crucial for maintaining security in the increasingly complex Indo-Pacific region.

Dassault to Boost Rafale Production Amid European Defense Shift

 SHARE

25-Mar-25

French defense firm Dassault Aviation is ramping up Rafale warplane production in response to increased European defense needs amid US security concerns and Russian aggressions. CEO Eric Trappier announced plans to increase output from over two jets per month this year to three by 2024 and potentially five in the future, contingent on government approval. This move comes as countries like Germany and Canada reassess their reliance on US-made F-35 jets, emphasizing a potential shift in defense procurement strategies. The growing demand for Rafales highlights the need for India to strengthen its indigenous defense capabilities and ensure strategic autonomy in light of changing global security dynamics.

India Fast-Tracks Next-Gen Offshore Patrol Vessel Construction

 SHARE

25-Mar-25

India has accelerated the construction of its Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV) with the keel laying ceremony for the second and third vessels held at Ratnagiri. The Ministry of Defence has contracted Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) to build 11 NGOPVs, enhancing India's coastal defense and surveillance capabilities. These vessels, designed for various operations including anti-piracy, align with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives, marking a crucial step towards boosting the Indian Navy's maritime strength. This project not only

underscores indigenous shipbuilding but also represents a strategic enhancement of national security.

Indian MoD Seeks RFI for 7,050 Hours of ALH Simulator Training

 SHARE

25-Mar-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to procure 7,050 hours of simulator training annually for the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III and ALH-WSI, aimed at enhancing operational readiness across the Indian Army, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard. This initiative, structured on a pay-as-you-use basis, emphasizes advanced simulation technology to replicate real-world flying conditions, ensuring pilots are well-prepared for diverse scenarios. With a Build, Operate, Train, and Maintain model, the program not only enhances training efficiency but also integrates military expertise, reflecting India's commitment to strengthening its defense capabilities and fostering a self-sustaining aviation expertise pipeline.

Indian Defence Ministry Procures 11 Amphibious Boats for Enhanced Operations

 SHARE

25-Mar-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence has initiated a procurement process for 11 Rigid Hull Boats (Amphibious), aiming to enhance operational capabilities across maritime and land environments. These versatile vessels will facilitate rapid troop transport and logistics in challenging regions, such as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Gujarat's coastal areas. With a focus on safety, high performance, and durability, the procurement emphasizes a potential preference for indigenous production under the Make in India initiative, promoting collaboration between domestic firms and global manufacturers. This strategic move reflects India's commitment to modernizing its defense capabilities and strengthening its maritime industrial base.

DRDO Innovates Chemical Processes for AMCA Stealth Maintenance

 SHARE

25-Mar-25

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has made significant strides in maintaining the stealth technology of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), the nation's first fifth-generation fighter jet. By developing specialized chemical handling processes tailored for the jet's

advanced stealth coatings, DRDO ensures the longevity and effectiveness of these coatings, critical for evading enemy radar detection. Unlike conventional aircraft maintenance, the AMCA's upkeep focuses on preserving its composite-heavy airframe and delicate radar-absorbent materials. This innovation is pivotal as the AMCA approaches its developmental trials, with its first flight scheduled for 2028-29, marking a crucial advancement in India's defense capabilities.

HAL Seeks 4 Private Firms for AMCA Joint Venture, Retains 50% Stake [SHARE](#)

25-Mar-25

HAL has invited four Indian private firms to form a Joint Venture for the manufacturing of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), retaining a 50% stake while distributing responsibilities among its partners. This initiative aims to enhance self-reliance in India's aerospace sector, with a modular production approach that divides key assembly tasks among the collaborators. The JV is projected to deliver 126 AMCA units by 2046, addressing the Indian Air Force's need for 5-7 squadrons amidst dwindling fleet numbers. This collaboration not only streamlines production but also fosters innovation, showcasing HAL's commitment to integrating private expertise in defense manufacturing for advanced aerospace capabilities.

Globe Forge Limited's Supply Deal for 155mm Shells Canceled by MIL [SHARE](#)

25-Mar-25

Globe Forge Limited (Formerly Nibe Ordnance Global) has faced a setback as Munition India Limited (MIL) canceled its Letter of Intent for supplying 155mm M107 shells, originally a promising opportunity for the company within India's defense export ecosystem. The cancellation, attributed to the termination of MIL's contract with its buyer, underscores the vulnerability of defense contracts to external factors, likely geopolitical or logistical challenges. While Globe Forge is relieved from any financial repercussions, the lost opportunity may hinder its growth in a competitive market. This situation reflects the complexities MIL faces in managing global supply chains, highlighting the challenges inherent in aligning international demand with domestic production goals.

Estonia Seeks Indian Radar Collaboration to Boost Air Defense [SHARE](#)

25-Mar-25

Estonia is seeking to enhance its air defense capabilities by collaborating with Indian companies to

integrate advanced radar systems, as part of a broader EU initiative to increase military spending amid regional security concerns. The Baltic nation plans to replace its air defense radars by 2027, leveraging India's innovative and cost-effective defense technology, such as the Arudhra and Ashwini radars, which align with its situational awareness needs. This partnership could strengthen Estonia's defense infrastructure and interoperability with NATO allies, as the EU's defense budgets are projected to rise significantly, creating opportunities for international cooperation in defense production.

India's DATRAN 1500 Engine Sets New Standard in Tank Powertrains [SHARE](#)

25-Mar-25

India has made a significant advancement in defense self-sufficiency with the development of the DATRAN 1500 engine, a domestically produced powertrain for Main Battle Tanks, engineered by DRDO and BEML. This engine positions India as a competitive player against established global manufacturers like Germany's MT 883 Ka 501 and Turkey's Batu. Notably, the DATRAN 1500 offers superior torque and versatility, operating effectively in diverse climates, including high altitudes, which is vital for India's varied terrain. Its development reduces reliance on foreign technology, strengthening India's indigenous defense capabilities and enhancing its strategic position in the global defense landscape amidst ongoing modernization efforts.

Geopolitics and Security Alliances

India Hosts Naval Wargame 'AIKEYME' to Enhance Africa Ties [SHARE](#)

25-Mar-25

India is set to host a significant naval wargame, 'AIKEYME' (Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement), in mid-April off Tanzania, aimed at strengthening defense cooperation with several African nations in line with PM Modi's vision for the Global South. Involving countries like Kenya, South Africa, and Mauritius, the exercise will focus on maritime security challenges, including piracy and trafficking, enhancing interoperability among African navies. This initiative complements India's broader strategy of engagement in the Indian Ocean Region, highlighted by the launch of the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar program, which fosters collaboration with regional partners. Such efforts reinforce India's commitment to collective security and regional stability.

India Urges Pakistan to Withdraw from Jammu and Kashmir at UNSC SHARE

25-Mar-25

India has firmly reiterated its position on Jammu and Kashmir at the UN, condemning Pakistan's continued illegal occupation of the region. During a UN Security Council debate, India's Permanent Representative, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, emphasized that Kashmir is integral to India and urged Pakistan to vacate the territory, while advising against using the UN platform for divisive agendas. India chose not to engage in a detailed rebuttal but maintained its sovereign stance. Additionally, Harish highlighted the need for UN peacekeeping missions to adapt to contemporary challenges, including the involvement of women peacekeepers and the necessity for adequate funding. India's commitment to peacekeeping and calls for Security Council reforms reflect its proactive approach to global security dynamics, reinforcing its position as a responsible actor in international affairs.

US-Russia Talks on Ukraine Ceasefire Ongoing, No Plans Yet SHARE

25-Mar-25

U.S. and Russian officials are engaged in negotiations for a potential ceasefire in Ukraine, though no concrete plans have emerged yet. Talks in Saudi Arabia have seen both parties struggling to agree on the specifics of a limited 30-day pause amid ongoing attacks on each other's territories. The Kremlin and Ukrainian leadership's interpretations of a ceasefire differ, particularly regarding which targets should be protected. Despite the complexities, Russian lawmaker Grigory Karasin described the discussions as constructive, indicating a willingness to continue dialogue. This situation highlights the challenges of diplomatic negotiations in conflict resolution and the necessity for international cooperation to mitigate hostilities.

Amit Shah Celebrates Hurriyat Groups' Break from Separatism SHARE

25-Mar-25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that two groups from the Hurriyat Conference have severed ties with separatism, emphasizing this as a significant step towards strengthening India's unity. He highlighted that such actions reflect the success of Prime Minister Modi's vision for a peaceful and developed Bharat, indicating a shift away from separatist ideologies in Jammu and Kashmir. Shah welcomed this move, urging other groups to abandon separatism. This development

underscores the government's firm stance against separatist elements and showcases a commitment to fostering national integration and stability in the region.

India Advocates Consensus Reforms for Effective UN Peacekeeping SHARE

25-Mar-25

India has called for consensus-driven reforms in UN peacekeeping, emphasizing enhanced funding, technology, and a greater role for troop-contributing countries. Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish highlighted the need to adapt peace operations to modern challenges, advocating for the integration of advanced technologies and the critical role of women in peacekeeping. He underscored that peacekeeping should not be a standalone solution and stressed the necessity for political solutions alongside military efforts. India remains committed to UN peacekeeping, having deployed nearly 300,000 troops across more than 50 missions, reaffirming its support for comprehensive reforms to better address current geopolitical realities and ensure the safety of peacekeepers.

Russia accuses Ukraine of attacks on energy infrastructure amid talks. SHARE

25-Mar-25

Russia's Defence Ministry accused Ukraine of launching three attacks on its civilian energy infrastructure while U.S. and Russian officials were engaged in ceasefire talks. The strikes targeted facilities owned by Rosseti, a gas distribution station in eastern Ukraine, and an underground gas storage site in Crimea. Russia emphasized its commitment to a moratorium on attacks following discussions between Presidents Putin and Trump, while Ukraine has not declared a similar moratorium, citing the need for a formal agreement. The Ministry criticized Ukrainian President Zelenskii's actions as evidence of his unwillingness to negotiate, highlighting the challenges in achieving a trustworthy ceasefire.

Norway's Defence Minister: U.S. Committed to European Security SHARE

25-Mar-25

Norway's Defence Minister Tore O. Sandvik reaffirmed the United States' commitment to Europe's defence while emphasizing that Europe must shoulder more responsibility for its security costs. He noted that despite concerns about U.S. support, dialogue with American officials remains strong, particularly regarding shared security interests against Russia.

Norway plans to significantly increase its defence spending to bolster its military capabilities, reflecting a broader recognition among NATO members of the need for enhanced self-reliance and investment in collective security. This stance highlights the ongoing debate over burden-sharing within NATO, particularly in the context of evolving geopolitical challenges.

Japan Advocates Stronger Security Ties with India and South Korea



25-Mar-25

Japan has expressed support for closer security cooperation with India and South Korea in the Indo-Pacific, emphasizing the importance of building a multi-layered network of alliances amid rising tensions with China. This follows comments from the Philippines' military chief regarding the inclusion of India and South Korea in the U.S.-backed Squad group, which focuses on defense collaboration and joint military exercises. Japan's Ministry of Defense highlighted the necessity of alliances to realize a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," underlining the strategic significance of India as a partner in enhancing regional security. This development reflects India's growing role in addressing geopolitical challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

US Defense Secretary Hegseth Kicks Off First Indo-Pacific Tour



25-Mar-25

US Defence Secretary Hegseth has embarked on his first Indo-Pacific tour, emphasizing the region's importance to American security interests amid rising tensions with China. His itinerary includes critical engagements in Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines, and Japan, where he will meet with military and civilian leaders to strengthen alliances and regional deterrence. Key discussions will focus on security objectives in the South China Sea, particularly with Philippine officials. This visit highlights the US's commitment to ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific, reflecting a strategic alignment with regional partners as they navigate growing assertiveness from China, demonstrating India's potential role in similar collaborative security efforts.

U.S. Report: China Gears Up for Possible 2027 Taiwan Invasion



25-Mar-25

A recent U.S. intelligence report indicates that China is preparing for a potential invasion of Taiwan by 2027, largely influenced by systemic corruption within the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the broader

government. The report underscores Chinese President Xi Jinping's extensive anti-corruption campaign aimed at enhancing military readiness, following the removal of key military leaders. The challenges posed by corruption raise concerns over the PLA's operational capabilities, prompting international scrutiny regarding China's military ambitions and strategies in the region. India must remain vigilant, as these developments could significantly impact regional security dynamics and necessitate a robust defense posture.

India-France 'Varuna 2025' Naval Drill Boosts Indo-Pacific Ties



25-Mar-25

India and France have enhanced their maritime cooperation through the successful conduct of the 'Varuna 2025' naval exercise in the Indo-Pacific, featuring advanced air defense drills with Rafale-M and MiG-29K fighters, anti-submarine warfare exercises, and complex surface warfare operations. The exercise showcased improved operational coordination and the integration of logistical support between the two navies, highlighting their commitment to safeguarding global maritime security. This ongoing partnership, established since 2001, strengthens the framework for a rules-based maritime order in the region, underscoring the importance of collaboration and shared operational understanding to address mutual security challenges effectively.

Russia and India Forge Stronger Strategic Partnership



25-Mar-25

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced the development of a privileged strategic partnership with India, highlighting the importance of strengthening ties with nations like India, China, and Iran. Lavrov emphasized the unprecedented mutual trust in India-Russia relations, with President Putin expected to visit India this year as part of ongoing reciprocal engagements. The regular communication between PM Modi and President Putin underscores the commitment to deepening this partnership. This strategic collaboration not only fortifies bilateral relations but also enhances India's position in a multipolar world, reflecting India's growing geopolitical significance and strengthening its defense and economic resilience in collaboration with key global players.

CSIS Warns of Potential Foreign Interference in Canada Elections SHARE

25-Mar-25

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) has suggested that both China and India may attempt to interfere in the upcoming Canadian general election, scheduled for April 28. Allegations of interference have previously surfaced without direct links to electoral outcomes, and CSIS highlighted the increasing use of artificial intelligence by hostile states in such activities. Relations between Canada and India have soured, particularly following the expulsion of Indian diplomats over alleged involvement with Sikh separatists. While both nations have denied these claims, the potential for foreign interference raises concerns about public trust in Canada's democratic processes. The situation underscores the geopolitical complexities in the region.

Military Operations

Security forces eliminate 3 Naxals in Chhattisgarh encounter SHARE

25-Mar-25

In a significant anti-Naxalite operation in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, security forces neutralized three Naxalites during an encounter, recovering their bodies along with firearms and explosives. This operation follows a successful mission on March 20, where security forces eliminated 30 Naxalites in adjoining districts, highlighting a sustained effort against left-wing extremism in the region. The ongoing operations underscore the commitment of Indian security forces to restore peace and security in conflict-affected areas, demonstrating effective counter-insurgency strategies. Such actions are crucial for strengthening the rule of law and fostering development in regions plagued by violence.

ITBP Establishes Camp in Chhattisgarh to Combat Naxalism SHARE

25-Mar-25

The ITBP has established a new camp in Chhattisgarh to bolster efforts against Naxalism, aiming for eradication by March 2026. Recent operations have seen significant confrontations, including the death of 22 Naxalites and injuries to ITBP personnel from an IED blast. The ongoing conflict remains perilous, highlighted by casualties on both sides, including the martyrdom of an ITBP Jawan during a firefight. This underscores the dedication of Indian security forces in

combating insurgency, despite facing relentless challenges, and reflects the government's commitment to restoring peace and stability in the region.

Soldier Critically Hurt in Mine Blast Near Jammu and Kashmir Border SHARE

25-Mar-25

On March 24, 2025, a soldier was critically injured in an explosion near the Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir, believed to be an accidental mine detonation. This incident occurs shortly after the Army's Romeo Force, together with local police, conducted a successful operation recovering a significant arms and narcotics cache in Sangla village. As security agencies maintain a high alert due to escalating terror threats and intelligence reports indicating over 100 active terrorists in the region, concerns persist about potential infiltration attempts as warmer weather approaches. The situation remains tense with ongoing encounters between security forces and militants, highlighting the need for continued vigilance and robust defense strategies in the area.

Chinese WL-10/WL-2 Drone Spotted Near Sikkim Raises Concerns SHARE

25-Mar-25

A PLA reconnaissance drone, the WL-10/WL-2, has been spotted near Sikkim, raising concerns about China's aerial surveillance capabilities along the sensitive Indo-China border. Operating from Shigatse airbase, its sighting is significant due to the region's strategic importance and the ongoing tensions between India and China. The drone's questionable Mode-S address points to a potential strategy of maintaining deniability while enhancing ISR operations. This development highlights the need for India to bolster its border defenses and intelligence capabilities, especially in light of recent infrastructure upgrades by China in the region, which may improve their monitoring of Indian troop movements and fortifications.

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

States Granted Power to Act Against Awami Action Committee Under UAPA SHARE

25-Mar-25

The Indian Central Government has empowered state authorities to take action against the Awami Action Committee (AAC), designated as an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

Act (UAPA). This move aims to enhance internal security by enabling swift state-level responses to AAC's activities, which threaten national integrity and promote separatism in Jammu and Kashmir. The Ministry of Home Affairs highlighted the AAC's involvement in terrorist support, anti-national propaganda, and incitement to violence. This decisive action underscores the government's commitment to maintaining public order and countering threats to India's sovereignty effectively, reflecting a proactive approach in tackling domestic terrorism and separatism.

Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

Indian Army Dismisses Claims of RPA Hacking by China



25-Mar-25

The Indian Army has firmly rejected recent social media claims that one of its Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) veered into Chinese territory and was subsequently hacked by the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The Army described the allegations as entirely baseless and emphasized that no such incident occurred, urging media and social media users to avoid spreading unverified and misleading information that could cause unnecessary alarm. This denial comes amidst ongoing tensions along the Indo-China border, where both countries maintain heightened military vigilance. The Indian Army reiterated its commitment to the security and operational integrity of its assets, highlighting its robust protocols to safeguard against external threats and misinformation that might tarnish the Army's reputation.

Ukrainian Drone Breaches Chernobyl's Shield, Sparks Safety Concerns



25-Mar-25

A Ukrainian drone reportedly punctured a critical protective shell over the Chernobyl reactor, causing significant damage and raising concerns about radiation safety. This incident highlights vulnerabilities in nuclear infrastructure amid ongoing conflicts, prompting discussions on the need for enhanced security measures. Experts warn that repairs could take years and could cost hundreds of millions, complicating plans to dismantle the damaged reactor and manage radioactive waste. The continued use of drones in warfare emphasizes the evolving nature of threats to nuclear facilities, urging the international community to

reconsider protective strategies to mitigate such risks effectively.

Jaishankar's Visit to Baltic States Aims to Boost Cybersecurity Ties



25-Mar-25

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has been invited to Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia to strengthen cyber ties amid rising cyber threats, particularly from China. This initiative includes forming an Indo-Lithuanian working group focused on cybersecurity and partnerships in high-technology projects, such as collaboration between Lithuania and the Indian Space Research Organisation on nano-satellites. Additionally, discussions involve solar technology ventures with the Adani Group, and advanced biometric systems aimed at optimizing government expenditures. This burgeoning partnership highlights India's strategic focus on enhancing technological cooperation with the Baltic states, reflecting a shared commitment to bolster security and infrastructure through innovative solutions.

IRDAI Calls for Stronger Cybersecurity in Banking and Insurance



25-Mar-25

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) member Rajay Kumar Sinha emphasized the need for banks and insurance companies to enhance their cybersecurity measures due to rising threats from cybercriminals. He pointed out that these institutions often lack vigilance, leading to vulnerabilities, especially with external vendors. Sinha critiqued the poor encryption protocols in place and called for financial regulators to collaborate on establishing basic cybersecurity protocols. The inauguration of a cybersecurity and insurance center by the National Insurance Academy underscores the importance of robust risk mitigation strategies to stay ahead of evolving cyber threats.

FBI Alerts Users: Hackers Exploit Fake Document Converters



25-Mar-25

The FBI has heightened warnings regarding the rising threat of fake online document converters that are being exploited by hackers to steal sensitive user information such as banking details and passwords. These scams utilize deceptive URL manipulations and take advantage of search engine algorithms that often prioritize paid results, potentially leading users to fraudulent sites. The FBI underscores the importance of user education to combat these threats, recommending

careful verification of URLs and avoiding free online conversion tools. This issue highlights the broader implications for cybersecurity, as even seemingly minor scams can facilitate larger ransomware attacks on organizations.

Miscellaneous

Madhya Pradesh Court Sentences Five to Life for Assault on Army Officers and Gang Rape of Woman



25-Mar-25

A Madhya Pradesh court has sentenced five men to life imprisonment for assaulting Army trainee officers and gang-raping a female friend during an attack near Jam Gate in Mhow. The incident, which occurred on September 10, 2024, involved armed assailants demanding a ransom of Rs 10 lakh and resulted in the horrific gang rape of one victim after the group was ambushed. The swift police response led to the apprehension of the suspects, and critical DNA evidence played a pivotal role in securing convictions despite a lack of eyewitness accounts. The case highlights the need for enhanced security measures for personnel and their families, underscoring the urgency for justice in such heinous crimes against individuals associated with the armed forces. The judiciary's prompt action reflects a commitment to addressing violence against women and ensuring accountability for perpetrators.

Bangladesh Army Rejects Indian Media's False Coup Report



25-Mar-25

The Bangladesh Army has dismissed a report from an Indian media outlet alleging an emergency meeting among top generals, labeling it as "false and fabricated." The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) criticized the article for lacking credible sources and described the claims of an impending coup as "deceitful." They emphasized that this is not the first instance of misleading reports from the outlet, urging responsible journalism to avoid creating unnecessary tensions between India and Bangladesh. This incident highlights the importance of factual reporting, especially amidst regional sensitivities, as misinformation can exacerbate trust issues between neighboring nations.

INS Nistar: India's First Indigenously Built Diving Support Vessel Nears Completion in Visakhapatnam



25-Mar-25

The INS Nistar, India's first indigenously constructed Diving Support Vessel (DSV) by Hindustan Shipyard

Mil Personnel & Veterans

Indian Military Academy Welcomes Its First Women Cadets in 2025



25-Mar-25

The Indian Military Academy (IMA) is set to induct its first batch of women officer cadets in July 2025, marking a significant milestone after 93 years of exclusive male training. Following a Supreme Court ruling, these female cadets, transitioning from the National Defence Academy, will join IMA for further training. The Indian Army has progressively enhanced the roles of women, with approximately 60% of women commanding officers now leading units in operational areas. While strides have been made towards gender inclusivity, challenges persist, as highlighted by concerns raised regarding the management of units led by women officers. Overall, this initiative reflects India's commitment to gender equality in the military.

Army Demands Fair Probe into Assault on Colonel by Punjab Police



25-Mar-25

A serving Indian Army officer, Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath, was allegedly assaulted by Punjab Police personnel in Patiala, leading to a significant public outcry and the establishment of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to handle the case. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has expressed concern over the seven-day delay in registering the FIR and questioned the police's handling of the matter. Lt Gen Mohit Wadhwa of the Army emphasized the need for a transparent investigation to ensure justice and maintain the integrity of relations between the Army and Punjab Police. The court is demanding answers regarding the delay and has ordered preservation of evidence, showcasing a commitment to justice for the Colonel and his son, who suffered injuries in the incident. This situation underscores the importance of accountability within law enforcement and the respect due to military personnel in India.

Limited, is in the final stages of construction at Visakhapatnam. Equipped with an advanced Air/Mix Gas diving system, the vessel can operate at depths of up to 75 meters and is essential for rapid underwater surveys, submarine rescue operations, and sustained patrolling. Additionally, the ship's marine crane can lift 15 tonnes from the seabed, enhancing its salvage capabilities in challenging conditions. This project aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, promoting self-reliance in defense manufacturing while significantly contributing to local employment and economic growth by engaging numerous MSME vendors across India, thus bolstering the Indian Navy's operational readiness and enhancing national security.

Family of Kerala IB officer found dead demands thorough probe



25-Mar-25

A 24-year-old Intelligence Bureau officer named Megha was found dead on a railway track in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, raising suspicions of foul play as her family demands a thorough investigation. Close relatives, including her uncle, assert there is no evidence of mental distress, contradicting earlier media reports suggesting suicide. Megha, who had recently worked at the international airport, was discovered shortly after her shift ended, and the police have begun reviewing her mobile phone records for potential leads. The body has been sent for a post-mortem examination, and both law enforcement and IB officials are intensifying their inquiries to uncover the circumstances surrounding her untimely death. This incident highlights the importance of robust investigations into the deaths of security personnel, ensuring that their service is honored and any wrongdoing is addressed promptly.

Siemens' AI-Powered Industrial Copilot Transforms Maintenance Strategies



25-Mar-25

Siemens is revolutionizing industrial maintenance with its new generative AI-powered Industrial Copilot, which enhances predictive maintenance strategies. The solution includes two packages: the Entry Package for basic predictive capabilities and the Scale Package for comprehensive enterprise-wide applications. By transitioning from reactive to proactive maintenance, companies can significantly reduce downtime and operational costs, with pilot results indicating a 25% reduction in reactive maintenance time. This advancement aligns with Siemens' mission to digitalize

industry and improve asset performance, ultimately fostering long-term operational success in increasingly complex industrial environments.

Strengthening India-Africa Ties for a Collaborative Future



25-Mar-25

The fifth India-Africa Strategic Dialogue, hosted by the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, emphasized deepening the partnership between India and Africa across various sectors, including defense, trade, and security. Key figures, including Amb Sujan R. Chinoy and Shri Dammu Ravi, highlighted the need for collaboration in counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, and technology transfer, aligning with Africa's 'Agenda 2063.' Emphasizing equality and mutual respect, the dialogue aimed to redefine engagement parameters and explore new areas of cooperation. This initiative signifies India's commitment to fostering long-term partnerships and enhancing its role in global geopolitics, especially in the context of strengthening ties with African nations.

Payments Council urges PM Modi to implement MDR for UPI transactions.



25-Mar-25

The Payments Council of India (PCI) has urged Prime Minister Modi to introduce a merchant discount rate (MDR) for UPI transactions and RuPay debit cards, advocating for an MDR of 0.3% for large merchants. PCI argues that this is essential for sustaining the digital payments ecosystem, as current government incentives fall short of the estimated Rs 10,000 crore annual cost for maintaining UPI services. With 90% of the six crore merchants being small, the PCI emphasizes that without MDR, the infrastructure's sustainability is at risk, hindering innovation and support. The call for MDR reflects a critical need for a balanced approach to ensure the growth and stability of India's digital payment landscape.

IMF Denies Pakistan's Request to Cut Property Transaction Taxes



25-Mar-25

The IMF has rejected Pakistan's request to reduce transaction taxes in the property sector and has also declined to lower tax rates on tobacco and beverages amidst ongoing negotiations for a Staff Level Agreement. Pakistan is expected to face challenges in meeting its revenue target due to fewer working days in March 2025, with internal assessments predicting a

shortfall of PKR 60 to 80 billion. The IMF has proposed enhancing the existing \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility by incorporating climate finance, which could secure up to \$1 billion for climate initiatives, contingent on Pakistan's fulfillment of specific commitments. This situation reflects the fiscal pressures and governance challenges Pakistan is currently facing.

Police Clash with Protesters in Panjgur as Strike Continues SHARE

25-Mar-25

Protests in Balochistan's Panjgur have intensified as demonstrators, led by activist Dr. Mahrang Baloch, face violent repression from Pakistani police, including arrests and the use of tear gas and live ammunition. The protest, now in its third day, reflects a broader resistance against state oppression, with a demand for justice and an end to enforced disappearances. Mahrang's detention has sparked further outrage, drawing international attention, including support from figures like Malala Yousafzai, highlighting the human rights violations in the region. As tensions escalate, the situation underscores the fragility of civil rights and the urgent call for accountability.

Sonowal Champions Maritime Growth and Sustainability at Singapore Week SHARE

25-Mar-25

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal participated in the Singapore Maritime Week, engaging with global leaders to bolster maritime ties and foster investment in logistics and technology. He announced a USD 20 billion initiative to enhance India's port infrastructure, aiming to increase the nation's global cargo share from 6% to 15% by 2047. Sustainability was emphasized, particularly through the development of Green Hydrogen Hub Ports and India's leadership in the IMO's Green Voyage 2050 initiative. Sonowal's commitment to a green, secure maritime future underlines the importance of international collaboration in addressing global challenges while transforming them into sustainable opportunities.

Chilean President Boric to Strengthen Trade Ties During India Visit SHARE

25-Mar-25

Chilean President Gabriel Boric is set to visit India, focusing on enhancing trade and investment ties. Accompanied by a high-level delegation, including key ministers, he will meet Indian leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on April 1 to explore new trade opportunities. The visit will also

feature engagements in Mumbai to promote the Agri-food sector and a "Shoot in Chile" initiative for film production, culminating in an Innovation Summit in Bangalore on April 4 to discuss technology partnerships. This visit signifies a mutual commitment to strengthening bilateral relations through economic cooperation and cultural exchange, aligning with both nations' strategic interests.

India's Semiconductor Sector: Talent and Supply Chain Hurdles Ahead SHARE

25-Mar-25

India's semiconductor industry faces challenges such as an underdeveloped supply chain, a lack of specialized talent, and competition from established hubs like China and Taiwan. However, the country showcases a strong engineering talent pool and government initiatives aimed at enhancing its semiconductor ecosystem, including significant incentives for manufacturers. While India accounts for 20% of the global semiconductor design workforce, it must address skills gaps in fabrication and testing. The success of this sector will depend on securing long-term chip demand, investing in advanced capabilities, and keeping pace with rapid technological advancements to emerge as a major player in the global chip market.

Government to finalize DPDP rules by April amid industry concerns SHARE

25-Mar-25

The Indian government plans to finalize the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) rules by April, after reviewing feedback from industry stakeholders. Concerns have been raised regarding Rule 12(4), which mandates data localization for Significant Data Fiduciaries, potentially hindering global data flows and innovation. Industry bodies like Nasscom and IAMAI argue this could increase operational costs and complicate compliance, while also calling for a balanced approach to data protection that fosters economic growth. Additionally, the requirement for verifiable parental consent poses significant implementation challenges, particularly for smaller businesses, highlighting the need for further consultation to ensure clarity and feasibility in the final rules.

US Trade Official Visits India Ahead of Tariff Implementation



25-Mar-25

A senior US trade official, Brendan Lynch, will visit India for five days to discuss trade relations just before the implementation of reciprocal tariffs by the US. The meetings aim to negotiate a bilateral trade pact addressing tariffs and market access, reflecting India's commitment to engage with the US for a balanced trade relationship. India is also exploring tariff reductions in specific sectors to signal openness to trade discussions. Notably, the US seeks to reduce its trade deficit with India, which stood at approximately USD 45 billion in India's favor, by encouraging India to increase purchases of American oil, gas, and military platforms.

India Reduces Spot Oil Demand as Russian Supplies Normalize



25-Mar-25

Indian refiners are expected to reduce their spot crude tenders as Russian oil supplies begin to normalize, with over 60 discounted cargoes anticipated in April. This shift comes after a period of increased purchases from alternative suppliers due to US sanctions on Russian shipments. Traders have secured clean Russian cargoes, allowing Indian companies to meet their spot demand more effectively, which had previously faced fluctuations. The reduction in spot oil needs reflects broader confidence in the stability of Russian supply, indicating a potential easing of market pressures and strategic advantages for India in the global energy landscape.

Adaptability and Innovation Key to Modern Warfare, Says CDS Gen Chauhan



25-Mar-25

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan emphasized the necessity of adaptability and innovation in contemporary warfare during his address at the College of Defence Management, highlighting the importance of a whole of nation approach to national security. He discussed the transformative efforts within the Indian Armed Forces towards integration and synergy, aligning with the Vision 2047 roadmap and Atmanirbharta initiatives. Gen Chauhan's insights into the evolving challenges, including AI disruptions and non-traditional threats, underscore the need for visionary leadership and a collaborative defense strategy. His engagement with future strategic leaders reflects India's commitment to maintaining a robust and adaptive defense posture in a complex global landscape.

Modified Matte Olive Green Fortuners Fuel Online Curiosity



25-Mar-25

A fleet of matte olive green Toyota Fortuners, modified for the Indian military, has sparked curiosity online due to their distinctive design featuring oversized roof-mounted satellite communication systems. These vehicles, likely serving special forces, are stripped of rear seats to accommodate advanced equipment and may include military-grade enhancements, though specifics remain undisclosed. The choice of matte olive green not only provides camouflage but also highlights the military's emphasis on mobility and connectivity in challenging terrains. This development reflects the Indian armed forces' commitment to modernizing their operational capabilities, particularly in remote and rugged environments.

Omar announces Rs 144 crore compensation for border fencing impact.



25-Mar-25

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah highlighted the challenges faced by border residents and announced that over Rs 144 crore has been distributed as compensation to farmers for land affected by border fencing. He emphasized the government's commitment to addressing these humanitarian issues and will convene a meeting with MLAs from border areas in April to discuss further action. The Border Security Force (BSF) has acquired a significant amount of land for the fencing, which is crucial for national security. This initiative underscores the government's proactive approach in balancing security needs with the welfare of local communities along the Indo-Pak border.

Bulletproof Tractor at Encounter Site is a BSF Farming Tool



25-Mar-25

A recent sighting of a bulletproof tractor near an encounter site sparked speculation about its military use; however, it was clarified to be a farming asset of the Border Security Force (BSF). These specialized tractors, designed to assist farmers in cultivating land near sensitive borders while protecting them from threats, have been utilized for decades. Their armored construction allows farmers to work safely even in volatile regions, showcasing India's innovative approach to securing agricultural productivity. This incident underscores the BSF's dual role in enhancing border

security and supporting local communities, blending practicality and resilience in challenging environments.

Disclaimer: This newsletter provides an independent analysis of news articles and reports published across various media outlets over the past 24 hours. The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the publishers or any affiliated organizations. The publishers are not responsible for the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of the content analyzed and make no representations regarding the information contained herein. Readers are encouraged to consult original sources for verification and further context; access to the list of original sources analysed can be made available upon request via email.

Subscribe to DefenceProfessionals Whatsapp Channel



Defence Sector Stocks

Stock	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	Change	RSI14	SMA20	SMA200
SIKA	624.1	624.1	584.0	623.8	195772	19.94	75.93	506.39	529.47
LOKESHMACH	166.65	166.65	166.0	166.65	56934	5.0	45.71	153.44	340.47
NIBE	979.9	979.9	958.85	979.9	5292	5.0	47.78	925.13	1672.96
CFE	460.15	460.15	451.25	457.0	70600	1.27	48.67	433.99	651.84
TANEJAERO	358.0	359.85	334.5	346.0	43300	0.95	60.83	298.88	466.19
GRSE	1754.55	1790.0	1692.0	1719.8	2495203	0.89	71.39	1408.12	1727.22
LT	3505.0	3525.0	3435.35	3469.6	4235900	-0.35	66.09	3262.39	3557.16
DATAPATNS	1764.55	1776.0	1695.0	1729.45	894547	-0.51	54.18	1592.58	2463.01
BEL	304.0	304.5	298.65	300.03	19364944	-0.69	67.6	275.76	290.79
LMW	16276.8	16307.9	16000.0	16090.55	2516	-0.83	61.46	15209.14	16003.93
SOLARINDS	11015.0	11015.0	10719.3	10772.7	69035	-0.9	75.03	9699.1	10300.58
PTC	162.25	163.4	158.84	160.07	1445755	-1.15	64.59	152.24	181.67
BHARATFORG	1207.0	1210.0	1170.55	1186.25	1298776	-1.26	61.97	1088.21	1409.21
MAZDOCK	2681.15	2689.0	2588.4	2614.5	2354469	-1.52	68.11	2329.92	2249.79
HBLPOWER	486.7	498.8	467.65	472.5	3709740	-1.77	51.25	447.47	570.51
COCHINSHIP	1500.0	1515.05	1448.0	1457.45	1197136	-1.86	62.21	1330.65	1751.84
ROSSELLIND	60.92	62.91	57.13	58.8	50612	-1.87	44.97	58.77	255.27
ADANIENT	2385.0	2387.65	2315.1	2320.35	763065	-2.04	56.58	2233.64	2747.6
PARAS	1035.9	1037.6	988.0	1000.65	188892	-2.36	58.6	920.83	1108.76
HAL	4200.4	4215.0	4000.8	4012.45	3634045	-2.84	66.4	3503.17	4381.32
ASTRAMICRO	726.65	729.75	690.7	694.95	339112	-3.1	59.67	638.59	804.95
BDL	1370.0	1375.1	1297.55	1315.6	1465343	-3.24	67.61	1121.53	1246.29
ZENTEC	1558.0	1598.2	1450.0	1467.45	1486113	-3.59	60.29	1215.11	1683.68
KRISHNADEF	693.0	700.0	645.0	648.65	31750	-3.6	55.92	586.34	714.19
AZAD	1470.6	1475.8	1409.1	1417.0	147977	-3.63	54.75	1326.55	1585.26
BEML	2925.0	2958.0	2764.2	2781.65	437199	-4.01	51.13	2603.88	3840.48
DCXINDIA	248.0	251.9	235.1	236.11	909840	-4.03	41.39	237.86	330.95
HIGHENE	524.7	530.0	481.2	487.65	12495	-4.63	50.6	472.01	651.18
MIDHANI	299.6	301.75	280.02	284.1	788492	-4.64	53.5	265.48	370.95
APOLLO	126.21	126.3	118.2	119.53	7802410	-4.69	51.56	116.31	109.77
MARINE	180.8	181.99	170.54	170.54	218642	-5.0	48.24	163.32	224.05
IDEAFORGE	397.0	397.0	370.0	371.5	371085	-5.02	46.14	361.24	618.94
MTARTECH	1455.95	1476.15	1355.0	1363.7	246741	-5.4	50.49	1319.03	1682.38
PREMEXPLN	373.05	382.0	354.65	356.7	377368	-5.73	47.58	346.53	524.22
AVANTEL	121.95	123.0	112.84	113.71	1549228	-6.2	45.35	114.94	-