



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

January 28, 2025 | Day 028

## Top Gainers

| Stock     | Close  | Prev    | Change |
|-----------|--------|---------|--------|
| SIKA      | 2125.0 | 2025.65 | +4.9%  |
| DATAPATNS | 2066.0 | 1980.0  | +4.34% |
| MAZDOCK   | 2322.7 | 2228.45 | +4.23% |
| TEMBO     | 667.35 | 643.0   | +3.79% |
| GRSE      | 1507.1 | 1453.8  | +3.67% |

## Top Losers

| Stock      | Close   | Prev    | Change |
|------------|---------|---------|--------|
| ZENTEC     | 1591.7  | 1742.75 | -8.67% |
| AZAD       | 1316.8  | 1423.7  | -7.51% |
| LOKESHMACH | 260.95  | 280.35  | -6.92% |
| IDEAFORGE  | 481.55  | 508.3   | -5.26% |
| NIBE       | 1275.45 | 1342.55 | -5.0%  |

## Defense Business and Industry

### Star Air Launches Joint Venture for Regional Jet MRO Services



28-Jan-25

Star Air, a regional carrier based in Bangalore, is set to enter the aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) sector through a joint venture aimed at providing line and major maintenance services for regional and business jets. This move comes as the Indian MRO industry is projected to reach \$4 billion by 2031, driven by increased air travel demand and government reforms supporting self-reliance in aviation services. The airline plans to expand its fleet to 14 aircraft by the end of this financial year and aims for a total of 25 aircraft over three years, enhancing its operational efficiency and reducing maintenance costs. By developing in-house MRO capabilities, Star Air positions itself to improve safety standards and operational turnaround times, reflecting a broader trend in the aviation market towards self-sufficiency.

### Philippines to Enhance Defense with US Typhon Missile Training



28-Jan-25

The Philippine military is set to train a platoon on the US Typhon missile system next month, ahead of joint drills, amidst rising tensions with China over disputed maritime territories. The training aims to enhance the Philippines' mid-range missile capabilities to secure its maritime interests. China's government has condemned this move, asserting it escalates regional tensions and fuels an arms race. As the Typhon system remains stationed in the Philippines after previous exercises, the

Philippines looks to integrate modern defense technologies, signaling a strategic pivot towards bolstering its military collaboration with the US in the face of Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea.

### Trump Proposes U.S. 'Iron Dome' Missile Defense System



28-Jan-25

President Donald Trump announced plans to establish an "Iron Dome" missile defense system for the U.S., akin to Israel's, during a Republican congressional retreat. He emphasized the need for a state-of-the-art shield to protect Americans and asserted it would be manufactured domestically. Despite its effectiveness against short-range threats in Israel, critics note that the Iron Dome is ill-suited for defending against intercontinental missiles, which pose a greater risk to the U.S. Nonetheless, Trump praised the system's success in intercepting rockets from regional adversaries and justified its necessity for American defense, highlighting his commitment to enhancing national security.

### Andhra Pradesh Proposes Dugarajapatnam for Shipbuilding Hub



28-Jan-25

The Andhra Pradesh government has proposed Dugarajapatnam as a site for developing a comprehensive shipbuilding and port cluster, strategically located on the eastern coast near existing ports and major shipping routes. The Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board has invited national and international firms to establish an integrated ecosystem encompassing ship repair and maritime decarbonization. Engaging RITES Ltd. for a feasibility study underscores the commitment to robust infrastructure and support for successful

implementation. This initiative aims to transform Andhra Pradesh into a key maritime hub, fostering economic growth and job creation while enhancing India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities in alignment with national defense and maritime strategies.

## India's Defense Revolution: AI and Robotics Take Center Stage



28-Jan-25

The Indian government is prioritizing the integration of AI and robotics in defense, as highlighted by President Droupadi Murmu, to enhance self-reliance and operational efficiency. Initiatives like the National AI Mission and Defence Industrial Corridors are fostering domestic manufacturing, with start-ups such as SparkCognition, Gridbots, and Omnipresent Robot Tech leading innovations in AI applications, autonomous robots, and drones. This strategic focus aligns with global military trends, aiming for a \$5 billion defense export target by 2025. By leveraging deep-tech, India is evolving its defense landscape, positioning itself as a leader in global defense innovation while improving military capabilities and readiness.

## India Enhances Submarine Defense with TKMS and Diehl's IDAS



28-Jan-25

India is set to enhance its naval capabilities through the acquisition of the Interactive Defense and Attack System (IDAS) from Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and Diehl Defence, which allows submarines to engage aerial threats while submerged. This innovative system, integrated with existing torpedo tubes, employs fiber-optic guided missiles based on the IRIS-T air-to-air missile technology, thus significantly improving submarine defense against anti-submarine warfare threats. As India progresses with its Project-75I to build six advanced submarines, incorporating IDAS will bolster the operational effectiveness and stealth of its modernization efforts, ultimately redefining naval strategies and enhancing India's position in regional maritime security.

## HAL's HLFT-42: A Game-Changer in Trainer Aircraft with Export Prospects



28-Jan-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is set to launch the Hindustan Lead-in Fighter Trainer (HLFT-42), which serves dual roles as an advanced training platform and a light combat fighter. Featuring an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar and customizable

weaponry, the HLFT-42 is tailored for the Indian Air Force and has significant export potential. Priced competitively at around \$20 million, it aims to attract a variety of international buyers seeking advanced, cost-effective solutions. This strategic move by HAL not only strengthens India's defense capabilities but also enhances its position in the global defense market by offering adaptable and interoperable platforms to meet diverse customer needs.

## Indian Army Boosts Armor with Arjun MkI and DATRAN Engine



28-Jan-25

The Indian Army is set to bolster its armored capabilities with the indigenous Arjun MkI Main Battle Tank (MBT) powered by the DATRAN 1500Hp engine, developed by the DRDO and BEML, with production anticipated to start in 2028. The initiative stems from delays in securing German MTU engines, prompting a pivot towards self-reliance and the Make in India initiative. The DATRAN engine is expected to outperform its German counterpart, enhancing the tank's maneuverability and combat effectiveness across diverse terrains. This strategic move not only reduces dependence on foreign suppliers but also strengthens India's defense manufacturing sector, showcasing a commitment to national pride and technological advancement.

## China Launches J-XDS Sixth-Generation Fighter, Elevating Air Power



28-Jan-25

China has recently showcased its J-XDS sixth-generation fighter jet, emphasizing advanced features such as full-moving wingtips, a tailless design, and enhanced stealth capabilities. This fighter represents a significant leap in the People's Liberation Army Air Force's modernization efforts, positioning China to assert greater control in strategic areas like the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait. The aircraft's design reflects a shift toward agile, multi-role operations, facilitating manned-unmanned teaming (MUM-T) with potential implications for aerial warfare. While China aims to compete globally, India's focus on strengthening its own air capabilities and investing in indigenous defense technologies remains crucial for maintaining regional security and deterrence.

## NewSpace to Launch Game-Changing Loitering Munition at Aero India

2025  [SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

NewSpace Research and Technologies is set to unveil a revolutionary loitering munition at Aero India 2025, featuring a cropped delta-wing configuration and an autonomous pusher-propeller system designed for stealth and efficiency. This innovative drone is anticipated to have a range of 300 to 500 kilometers, enhancing India's tactical aerial capabilities for surveillance, reconnaissance, and precision strikes. Its aerodynamic design and larger payload capacity will support long-endurance missions while minimizing detection risks. This development represents a significant leap in unmanned aerial systems, promising to enhance the operational flexibility of Indian military forces in modern combat scenarios.

## Trump Encourages India to Boost Purchases of US Defense Systems

28-Jan-25

US President Donald Trump has urged India to increase its procurement of US defense systems, emphasizing the substantial \$3.9 billion deal for 31 MQ-9B Predator drones finalized in October 2024 as a starting point for deeper bilateral ties. With over \$25 billion in defense contracts since 2007, India's growing defense budget offers the US a significant opportunity to expand its market presence. While India continues to diversify its defense partnerships, the US is increasingly seen as a preferred supplier for advanced technologies, evident in ongoing collaborations like the co-production of GE F-414 jet engines for the Tejas MkII. This underscores a strategic alignment in countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific.

## India's Big Bang Boom Solutions Exports First Vajra Super Shot to Kenya

28-Jan-25

Big Bang Boom Solutions Pvt. Ltd. has successfully exported the first Vajra Super Shot counter-drone system to Kenya, highlighting India's growing defense innovation and export capabilities under the Make in India initiative. The system features advanced drone detection, radio signal disruption, portability, and adaptive technology. This export not only showcases India's technological prowess but also strengthens strategic ties with Kenya, paving the way for further collaboration in Africa. The achievement reflects the positive impact of the iDEX program, enhancing India's

position in the global defense market and fostering a network of allies equipped with Indian technology.

## Russia's Su-75 Checkmate Targets India as Affordable Stealth Fighter

28-Jan-25

Russia's Sukhoi Su-75 Checkmate is nearing completion, targeting the Indian market as a cost-effective fifth-generation stealth fighter. This initiative aligns with India's defense procurement strategy and its Make in India initiative, which emphasizes technology transfer and local production. Given India's need to modernize its military amidst regional security challenges, the Su-75's capabilities could significantly enhance its aerial superiority against adversaries like China and Pakistan. The aircraft's affordability and advanced features may appeal to India, reinforcing the longstanding strategic defense partnership between the two nations while supporting India's indigenous manufacturing goals.

## MBDA Showcases Advanced Missiles at Aero India 2025 for IAF and Navy

28-Jan-25

At Aero India 2025, MBDA is showcasing its advanced missile systems, including the cutting-edge Meteor, MICA, Exocet AM39, and SCALP, aimed at enhancing the combat capabilities of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Navy while supporting India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The Meteor missile, designed for the Rafale aircraft, offers unmatched range and effectiveness, while the AM39 is proposed for integration with naval aircraft. Additionally, MBDA's partnership with Larsen & Toubro reflects a commitment to local production, driving modernization of India's defense forces. This collaboration underscores India's strategic aim of self-reliance in defense technology and operational readiness.

## Lockheed Martin to Highlight Advanced Defense Systems at Aero India

2025  [SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

Lockheed Martin will showcase its advanced multi-domain capabilities at Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru, emphasizing its support for India's defense self-reliance. Key highlights include the immersive VastTM Experience System and advanced platforms like the C-130J Super Hercules, F-21 fighter aircraft, and MH-60R Romeo helicopter. Lockheed Martin's collaboration with Indian industry, particularly through joint ventures like Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures,

underlines its commitment to enhancing India's defense capabilities. This initiative aligns with India's strategic goals of self-sufficiency and modernization in defense, reflecting a robust partnership that promises to advance the nation's technological and operational readiness.

## India's Voronezh Radar: A Game-Changer for Early Warning Systems SHARE

28-Jan-25

India is enhancing its ballistic missile defense capabilities through a technology transfer agreement with Russia for the Voronezh radar system, which features a detection range of 6,000 to 8,000 kilometers. This collaboration aligns with the "Make in India" initiative, as at least 60% of the radar components will be manufactured domestically. The integration of Voronezh technology will significantly extend India's radar surveillance, enabling it to monitor threats from China and beyond, thereby strengthening its deterrence capabilities. This agreement not only marks a major advancement in India's BMD program but also reinforces the strategic defense partnership with Russia, emphasizing India's commitment to technological self-reliance and enhanced security.

## MiG-35 Faces Exit from India's Fighter Jet Competition Due to Concerns SHARE

28-Jan-25

The MiG-35 fighter jet is likely to exit India's Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) competition due to limited production rates and reliability concerns, as the Indian Air Force (IAF) seeks 110 new jets. With formidable rivals like the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and Eurofighter Typhoon boasting robust production and service histories, the IAF may prioritize aircraft that support India's defense strategy of diversifying sources and enhancing indigenous production. The MiG-35's departure could streamline the selection process, allowing India to emphasize technology transfer and operational effectiveness, ultimately aligning with its long-term strategic goals in defense procurement.

## IAF Boosts Strike Power with 300 GAURAV Long Range Glide Bombs SHARE

28-Jan-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to enhance its operational capabilities with the acquisition of 300 GAURAV Long Range Glide Bombs (LRGBs), designed for deep penetration strikes against high-value enemy targets. With a range exceeding 80 kilometers, these bombs enable IAF pilots to safely engage fortified

installations while minimizing risk to themselves. The GAURAV LRGBs, compatible with the IAF's frontline aircraft like the Su-30MKI, utilize advanced guidance systems for precision targeting. This acquisition reflects the IAF's commitment to modernizing its arsenal in response to regional security challenges, ensuring effective air power projection and safeguarding national interests.

## Indian Navy Enhances MiG-29K with Israeli Rampage Missiles SHARE

28-Jan-25

The Indian Navy has enhanced the capabilities of its MiG-29K aircraft by integrating Israeli-made Rampage missiles, extending their precision strike range to 250 kilometers. This advancement allows the Navy to engage high-value targets from a safer distance, thereby minimizing risks to pilots. The Rampage missile's high speed and precision are crucial for neutralizing well-protected installations, reinforcing India's commitment to modernizing its naval air arm amid rising regional security challenges. Furthermore, this development underscores the strong defense cooperation between India and Israel, while demonstrating India's dedication to self-reliance in defense technology through successful test trials of indigenous innovations.

## Adani Defence and DRDO Launch ULM-ER Missile for UAVs with 10+ Km Range SHARE

28-Jan-25

Adani Defence and DRDO have unveiled the ULM-ER, a next-generation UAV-launched missile system with a range exceeding 10 kilometers and autonomous operational capabilities. This advancement enhances the combat effectiveness of UAVs, allowing for precision strikes on both static and moving targets while minimizing collateral damage. The ULM-ER's full autonomy and round-the-clock operational capability signify a leap in India's indigenous defense capabilities, enabling rapid and effective responses in dynamic environments. This innovation is expected to transform unmanned combat, providing India a significant tactical advantage in modern warfare scenarios and showcasing the country's commitment to bolstering its defense industry.



## HAL Set to Launch Tejas Mk2 in November with Trials Ahead SHARE

28-Jan-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is set to unveil the Tejas Mk2, India's advanced multi-role fighter, in November 2025, with the official rollout planned for December. The Tejas Mk2, featuring enhanced range, payload, and avionics, is designed to replace aging aircraft like Jaguars and MiG-29s. Following its rollout, rigorous ground testing and taxi trials will commence, leading to a maiden flight scheduled for March 2026. This program highlights India's commitment to bolstering its domestic defense capabilities and reducing dependence on foreign defense supplies, positioning the Tejas Mk2 as a vital asset for the Indian Air Force in securing the nation's airspace.

## MoD to Announce Foreign Partner for AMCA Engine at Aero India 2025 SHARE

28-Jan-25

The Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) is set to announce a key foreign partnership for the development of a 110kN thrust engine for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) at Aero India 2025, with contenders including Safran, Rolls-Royce, and General Electric. This collaboration is crucial for enhancing India's indigenous capabilities and achieving supercruise capabilities in the AMCA, supported by a substantial funding boost from the Cabinet Committee on Security. The selected partner will play a significant role in technology transfer and joint R&D, fostering growth in India's aerospace sector while driving innovation and job creation. This initiative underscores India's commitment to advancing its defense industry and self-reliance in military aviation.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

## Denmark Invests \$2 Billion to Boost Arctic Defense in Greenland SHARE

28-Jan-25

Denmark plans to invest \$2.05 billion to enhance its military capabilities in Greenland, amid U.S. interest in the territory's strategic importance. The investment will fund new Arctic navy vessels and surveillance drones, addressing Denmark's limited military presence in the vast area. With the U.S. maintaining a permanent base there for missile defense, discussions around potentially stationing EU troops have emerged, highlighting the geopolitical significance of Greenland.

This move reflects a broader trend of nations reassessing their defense strategies in the Arctic region, emphasizing the need for stronger military infrastructure to secure vital interests against emerging threats.

## India's P-75(I) Submarine Deal Costs Surge to 70,000 Crore SHARE

28-Jan-25

India's Project 75I submarines deal, initially budgeted at 40,000 crore, has escalated to 70,000 crore due to advanced technology integration, inflation, rupee depreciation, and project delays. The program aims to enhance the Indian Navy's capabilities by procuring six advanced diesel-electric submarines with air-independent propulsion for extended underwater endurance. While the cost increase raises concerns about fiscal management, it highlights the complexities and unpredictability inherent in defense procurement. The emphasis on technology transfer and local manufacturing further complicates the budget but is essential for strengthening India's defense ecosystem and ensuring strategic superiority in a challenging geopolitical landscape.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

## India and China to Resume Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in 2025 SHARE

28-Jan-25

India and China have agreed to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in the summer of 2025, marking a significant step towards normalizing relations after recent border tensions. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's talks with Chinese officials resulted in agreements to restore direct flights and enhance cooperation on trans-border river data sharing. This move, coupled with efforts to promote people-to-people exchanges, reflects both nations' commitment to rebuilding ties, especially as 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations. India maintains that normalization hinges on peace in border areas, emphasizing a mutual commitment to resolving disputes while restoring trust and transparency in bilateral interactions. The restoration of the Yatra signifies a positive shift toward fostering goodwill between the two countries.

## India and Indonesia's Naval Chiefs Tackle Maritime Security Challenges SHARE

28-Jan-25

Admiral Muhammad Ali, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy, visited India alongside President Prabowo Subianto for high-level discussions focused on enhancing maritime cooperation between India and Indonesia. Key discussions included joint initiatives like Exercise Samudra Shakti, operational collaboration, and addressing maritime challenges such as piracy. The meetings also involved engagements at critical maritime establishments, including the Information Fusion Centre Indian Ocean Region and BrahMos Aerospace, underscoring a mutual commitment to regional security and a strengthened bilateral defense strategy. This collaboration reflects India's proactive stance in fostering secure maritime environments amid evolving geopolitical dynamics in the region.

## NIA Officials Set to Visit US for Extradition of 26/11 Suspect Rana SHARE

28-Jan-25

A team from India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) is expected to visit the United States to finalize the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, a key conspirator in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, following a US Supreme Court decision that dismissed his petition against extradition. Rana, a Pakistani-origin Canadian citizen, has been convicted in the US for supporting terrorist activities but was acquitted of direct charges related to the attacks. The US State Department has expressed its support for India's efforts to bring the perpetrators of the 26/11 attacks to justice and is evaluating the next steps in the extradition process. This development highlights India's commitment to holding accountable those involved in the heinous attacks that resulted in significant loss of life and injury, reinforcing international cooperation in counterterrorism efforts.

## Jaishankar: West Asia Vital to India's Strategic Interests SHARE

28-Jan-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of West Asia, particularly the Gulf region, to India's strategic interests, citing a trade volume of \$160 to \$180 billion and a substantial Indian diaspora of over 9 million. He highlighted India's extensive projects in the region, which pave the way for enhanced connectivity and cooperation in various sectors, including energy and defense. Jaishankar's discussions during his visit to the UAE also aimed to deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in

2017, with a focus on expanding bilateral trade and collaborative initiatives like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). This reflects India's proactive approach to strengthening ties with the UAE, positioning both nations as pivotal players in ensuring regional stability amidst complex geopolitical dynamics.

## Israel Stays Committed to Gaza Peace Deal Amid Hostage Crisis SHARE

28-Jan-25

Israel remains committed to the Gaza peace deal until all hostages are returned, with Deputy Chief of Mission Fares Saeb emphasizing ongoing negotiations despite breaches by Hamas. Union Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh expressed optimism about the progress in peace talks, highlighting India's concern over terrorism and intolerance. The situation remains critical, with around 90 hostages still believed to be held, and Israel planning to allow Gazans to return to northern regions contingent on compliance with the agreement. This scenario underscores the importance of diplomatic efforts in conflict resolution while addressing broader issues of radicalism and intolerance globally.

## Netanyahu's Possible US Visit Next Week Amid Ceasefire Talks SHARE

28-Jan-25

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is anticipated to visit the US next week, although no official invitation has yet been confirmed by the White House. The visit is expected amid ongoing negotiations for a ceasefire and prisoner exchange between Israel and Hamas, highlighting the significance of diplomatic discussions in a tense geopolitical climate. Special Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff's upcoming visit to Israel further underscores the urgency of these negotiations. This potential meeting reflects Israel's strategic engagement with the US, emphasizing collaboration in addressing regional security challenges, which is crucial for maintaining stability in the Middle East.

## Naga Council Opposes India-Myanmar Border Fencing Project SHARE

28-Jan-25

The United Naga Council has voiced strong opposition to the proposed border fencing along the India-Myanmar border, asserting that it threatens the ancestral lands and cultural ties of the Naga and Mizo communities. The Ministry of Home Affairs' recent decision to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and implement a new pass scheme for border residents

has sparked concerns over cultural severance and economic disruption. The total fencing project, aimed at curbing smuggling along the 1,643-km border at a cost of Rs 31,000 crore, is seen as a necessary step for national security, emphasizing the government's commitment to enhancing border management while addressing local sentiments.

## UN Security Council Urges Immediate Ceasefire in Congo

[SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

The U.N. Security Council has called for an immediate ceasefire in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, urging M23 rebel forces to halt their offensive in Goma, while emphasizing the withdrawal of external forces, particularly Rwanda. The council's statement, which came after M23's capture of Goma, condemned Rwanda's alleged support for the rebels and highlighted concerns over GPS jamming affecting civil aviation and humanitarian efforts. With a long-standing history of ethnic tensions, the situation poses risks of escalating regional conflict, necessitating dialogue between Rwanda and the DRC to restore peace and stability in the region.

## Military Operations

### Sri Lankan Navy fires on Indian fishermen, raising tensions

[SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

Two Indian fishermen were injured when the Sri Lankan Navy opened fire during their arrest for allegedly crossing the maritime boundary. The incident has escalated tensions, prompting India to summon the Sri Lankan envoy to lodge a strong protest. Currently, 13 fishermen are detained, with their fishing vessel confiscated, and concerns have been raised regarding the treatment of fishermen in the Palk Bay region, where detentions have surged recently. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs emphasized the need for humane treatment and adherence to existing agreements between the two nations. This recurring issue highlights the urgent need for a diplomatic resolution to ensure the safety and livelihood of Indian fishermen amidst ongoing maritime disputes with Sri Lanka.

## West Bengal Allocates Land for BSF Outposts Amid Security Concerns

[SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

The West Bengal government has approved the allocation of 0.9 acres of land in Nadia district for the Border Security Force (BSF) to construct outposts and install fencing, addressing rising security concerns amid allegations of infiltration from Bangladesh. This decision follows criticisms from opposition leaders regarding the state government's hindrance in acquiring land for a 284 km-long fence along the border. The move demonstrates a commitment to strengthening border security, a crucial aspect of India's defense strategy, particularly in light of regional tensions. The cabinet's broader agenda also includes recruitment initiatives and improved coordination for upcoming events, showcasing a multifaceted approach to governance and security.

## LCA-Tejas Mk1 Squadron Moves West to Boost IAF Interceptor Power

[SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has strategically relocated its first LCA-Tejas Mk1 squadron to a western airbase to enhance interceptor capabilities amidst a fighter jet shortfall. This move, prompted by the retirement of older aircraft, highlights the integration of Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile upgrades in the Tejas Mk1, boosting its operational effectiveness in border regions. The deployment underscores the IAF's commitment to indigenous capabilities and air superiority, while also serving as a practical test for the aircraft in varied conditions. This decision reflects confidence in India's defense modernization and readiness to address potential threats in a tense geopolitical environment.

## Ukraine Reshuffles Eastern Command as Russian Forces Gain Ground

[SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy replaced Brigadier-General Andriy Hnatov with Major General Mykhailo Drapatyi as the commander of the eastern front amid ongoing Russian advances. The shift aims to strengthen military leadership in the crucial Donetsk region, where Ukrainian forces have faced significant challenges and territorial losses. Despite some past successes, including halting Russian offensives, Ukraine is now on the defensive, struggling with troop exhaustion and logistics. The situation underscores the need for strategic recalibration as the war nears its three-year mark, highlighting Ukraine's ongoing difficulties in manpower and resource management as

it contends with a formidable Russian military presence.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

### US Defense Chief Vows Military Support for Mass Deportations SHARE

28-Jan-25

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth emphasized his commitment to assisting President Trump's immigration policies, specifically supporting "mass deportations" using military resources. Despite facing significant controversy over his inexperience and personal conduct, Hegseth's confirmation was narrowly secured with a tie-breaking vote by Vice President JD Vance. He indicated plans to dismantle diversity programs within the Pentagon and expressed strong support for executing the president's directives, highlighting a shift towards prioritizing military readiness and accountability. This move reflects the administration's hard-right stance on immigration and defense strategy, potentially raising questions about military overreach in civil matters and the implications for US defense policies.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

### China's DeepSeek AI Disrupts Global Tech Stocks and Markets SHARE

28-Jan-25

China's DeepSeek AI has triggered a significant decline in global technology shares, with notable drops in major firms like Nvidia, Microsoft, and Alphabet as concerns rise over its disruptive potential in the AI industry. Founded in 2023, DeepSeek's DeepSeek-R1 model boasts high reasoning capabilities and claims to operate on lower-cost chips while requiring less data, posing a challenge to established players like OpenAI. This development could reshape the competitive landscape of AI, potentially impacting supply chains reliant on high-tech chips and raising questions about the stability of the tech market amidst such innovations. The incident underscores the geopolitical implications of advancements in AI technology.

## RBI Urges Banks to Strengthen Cybersecurity and Combat Fraud SHARE

28-Jan-25

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), under Governor Sanjay Malhotra, has emphasized the need for banks to enhance their cybersecurity oversight and implement robust systems to prevent digital fraud. During discussions with state-run and private bank executives, Malhotra highlighted the increasing risks associated with third-party service providers and urged banks to adopt proactive measures to combat these threats. This initiative aims to safeguard financial stability and promote a secure digital banking environment, reflecting the RBI's commitment to protecting consumers and maintaining trust in the financial system as digital transactions continue to rise in India.

### SHIELD 2025 Cybersecurity Conclave Set for Feb 18-19 in Telangana SHARE

28-Jan-25

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau and Society for Cyberabad Security Council will host SHIELD 2025 on February 18-19, focusing on combating cybercrime in India, which reported significant losses of ₹22,812 crore in 2024. The conclave will gather law enforcement, industry leaders, and academics to foster collaboration and develop actionable strategies against emerging cyber threats, including AI, blockchain security, and misinformation. TGCSB director Shikha Goel emphasized the event as a crucial step toward a secure digital future, while Cyberabad police commissioner Avinash Mohanty underscored the need for integrated efforts among technology, governance, and society to address sophisticated cybercrime challenges effectively.

## Miscellaneous

### PM Modi Set for February White House Visit, Strengthening Ties SHARE

28-Jan-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit the White House in February, as confirmed by US President Donald Trump, who highlighted their strong relationship. During a recent phone call, both leaders committed to deepening India-US cooperation in trade, energy, and defense, and discussed global issues such as the situations in West Asia and Ukraine. The Indian side initiated the call, emphasizing a desire for a more ambitious bilateral relationship. External Affairs



Minister S Jaishankar's meetings in Washington reinforced this commitment, signaling the Trump administration's prioritization of ties with India. While concerns over immigration and tariff policies remain, both sides are keen to address these issues constructively, highlighting the strategic importance of their partnership for regional and global stability.

## US Crackdown on Illegal Immigrants Hits Sikh Gurdwaras in NY, NJ



28-Jan-25

US Homeland Security officials have intensified crackdowns on illegal immigrants, visiting gurdwaras in New York and New Jersey, which has sparked backlash from Sikh organizations concerned about the sanctity of their places of worship. Some gurdwaras are alleged to be linked to Sikh separatists and undocumented immigrants. This shift in policy follows a directive from the new administration that rescinded previous protections for sensitive locations, enabling law enforcement to enforce immigration laws more strictly. While this may enhance national security, it raises significant concerns about community relations and the potential stigmatization of Sikh places of worship amid broader debates on immigration enforcement.

## Report Uncovers Systemic Violence Against Hindus and Ahmadiyya in Bangladesh



28-Jan-25

A Human Rights Watch report reveals systemic violence and human rights abuses in Bangladesh, particularly against Hindus and Ahmadiyya Muslims, following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. The report highlights a significant rise in attacks against Hindus, who have traditionally supported the Awami League, and details the crackdown on freedom of expression under the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus. It notes politically motivated arrests and recommends the Bangladeshi government seek UN assistance to address these human rights violations. This situation underscores the challenges facing minorities and the urgent need for reform in governance and law enforcement to protect vulnerable populations.

## ICG and Indonesia Coast Guard extend MoU to boost maritime security



28-Jan-25

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Indonesia Coast Guard (BAKAMLA) have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Maritime Safety and Security Cooperation for three more years, emphasizing

enhanced operational collaboration in areas such as Maritime Search and Rescue and Pollution Response. This agreement, solidified during a high-level meeting in New Delhi, reflects the commitment of both nations to foster a secure maritime environment in the Indo-Pacific region. The presence of ICG Ship Shaunak in Jakarta further indicates strengthened ties and operational linkages. This cooperation not only underscores regional stability but also highlights India's proactive approach in reinforcing maritime security partnerships.

## Clash between Indian and Bangladeshi farmers in Tripura injures two locals.



28-Jan-25

Tension arose in Tripura's Unakoti district following a clash between Indian and Bangladeshi farmers over agricultural activities near the border. Indian farmers Karim Ali and Zamir Ali were attacked by a group of Bangladeshi nationals, resulting in injuries while they were tending to their crops after noticing damage. The incident highlights ongoing cross-border tensions and disputes over land use, emphasizing the need for effective border management by Indian authorities like the Border Security Force (BSF) to ensure the safety of local farmers. This situation reinforces the importance of diplomatic dialogue and cooperation in addressing agricultural disputes along the India-Bangladesh border.

## India's Rising Aspirations and Global Confidence: EAM Jaishankar



28-Jan-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized India's evolution from complacency to a mindset of ambition and resilience, vital for achieving the "Viksit Bharat" vision by 2047. He highlighted the role of the younger generation in leadership and progress, while noting India's remarkable response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which established it as a global supplier of vaccines and medicines. This resilience, along with technological advancements and cultural richness, underpins India's modern identity and aspirations on the global stage, showcasing India's commitment to overcoming challenges and fostering an inclusive society. Such a proactive approach positions India favorably in the geopolitical landscape, enhancing its stature and influence internationally.

## Apple Partners with Bharat Forge to Boost Local Production in India [SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

Apple is negotiating with Bharat Forge to manufacture components in India, aiming to reduce reliance on China and enhance local production capabilities. This partnership is part of Apple's strategy to increase the local value addition of its iPhones from 14% to 25% by 2027-2028, with significant local production already yielding \$17.5 billion in iPhone manufacturing and \$12.8 billion in exports in 2024. Collaborations with Indian firms like Tata and Motherson underline Apple's commitment to self-reliance in manufacturing, promising job creation and skill enhancement in the workforce while aligning with India's broader economic goals. This move signifies a pivotal step in strengthening India's defense and technological manufacturing landscape.

## PayPal to pay \$2M for cybersecurity lapses in data breach [SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

PayPal has agreed to pay a \$2 million fine to New York State for failing to comply with cybersecurity regulations, leading to a 2022 data breach that exposed the personal information of 35,000 customers. The breach was attributed to inadequate employee training and security flaws, including the absence of mandatory multi-factor authentication, which allowed hackers to exploit vulnerabilities through credential stuffing attacks. Despite later implementing remediation measures, the New York Department of Financial Services cited significant compliance failures. This case underscores the critical importance of robust cybersecurity protocols and employee training in safeguarding customer data against increasingly sophisticated cyber threats.

## Survey: 54% of IT Leaders See Data Security as AI's Major Hurdle [SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

A recent survey by Hitachi Vantara reveals that 54% of Indian IT leaders view data security as a critical barrier to AI adoption, amidst rising concerns about data breaches and ransomware attacks. Over 40% of respondents worry about AI-enabled threats, while 58% emphasize that high-quality data is essential for successful AI initiatives. The findings indicate that despite the rapid acceleration of AI in India, challenges such as data quality, cybersecurity gaps, and ethical issues remain significant hurdles. Experts suggest that addressing these challenges through modern

infrastructure solutions is crucial for India's sustainable growth in the AI sector, ensuring that technological advancements do not compromise security and governance.

## DPDP Rules 2025: Need for Clarity and Effective Guidance [SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

The draft DPDP Rules, 2025, aim to operationalize India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act but face criticism for their lack of clarity and specific guidelines, particularly regarding security safeguards and breach notification processes. Experts highlight concerns over the government's authority to override data controllers, the complexities of managing granular consent, and the need for a unified reporting structure to streamline compliance efforts. Recommendations include clarifying security requirements, defining consent managers' roles, and promoting a privacy-centric governance framework. This collaboration between policymakers and industry stakeholders will be crucial to ensure effective implementation while fostering a secure and innovative digital economy in India.

## Data Privacy Day 2025: Indian CXOs Stress Urgent Data Protection [SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

On Data Privacy Day 2025, Indian CXOs emphasized the growing importance of data privacy as a cornerstone of trust and innovation, particularly following the implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. Despite this, a PwC India survey revealed that only 9% of organizations fully understand the act. The rise of AI and cyber threats, highlighted by a significant data breach affecting Star Health, underscores the urgency for businesses to adopt proactive data protection measures. Industry leaders advocate for a robust cybersecurity posture, integrating privacy by design and prioritizing data resilience to safeguard sensitive information and maintain customer trust in India's evolving digital landscape.

## "Sky Force" Revives 1965 War Legacy, Honoring Balwantrai Mehta [SHARE](#)

28-Jan-25

The film "Sky Force" has revived interest in the 1965 Indo-Pak War, celebrating the valor of India's armed forces while commemorating the tragic loss of Balwantrai Mehta, Gujarat's Chief Minister, who died when his helicopter was mistakenly shot down by Pakistani forces. The movie has sparked a surge of national pride among audiences, who resonate with its

themes of sacrifice and heroism, reflecting on the human cost of the conflict. It serves as a reminder of the complexities of war, where victories are interwoven with profound losses, emphasizing the contributions of leaders like Mehta to the nation beyond the battlefield.

## ISRO's 100th mission countdown: Launching navigation satellite

NVS-02  **SHARE**

28-Jan-25

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated a 27-hour countdown for its landmark 100th mission, set to launch the navigation satellite NVS-02 aboard a GSLV rocket on January 29. This mission marks the first under the leadership of new ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan and aims to enhance the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) system, which provides precise location services across India and beyond. With applications in various fields such as agriculture and IoT, the NVS-02 satellite will significantly bolster India's capabilities in satellite navigation,

reflecting the nation's growing prowess in space technology and its commitment to enhancing regional connectivity and security.

## 76th Republic Day to Conclude with Inspiring Beating Retreat

 **SHARE**

28-Jan-25

The 76th Republic Day celebrations in India will culminate with the Beating Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk on January 29, 2025, featuring performances by bands from the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Central Armed Police Forces. Distinguished guests, including the President and Prime Minister, will witness the event which will showcase 30 Indian tunes, including patriotic classics such as "Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon" and "Sare Jahan se Acha." This ceremonial tradition not only highlights India's military prowess but also fosters national pride and unity through its rich musical heritage, reinforcing the significance of the armed forces in safeguarding the nation.

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# Defence Sector Stocks

| Stock      | Open    | High    | Low     | Close   | Volume   | Change | RSI14 | SMA20   | SMA200   |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|--------|-------|---------|----------|
| SIKA       | 2040.0  | 2150.95 | 2000.0  | 2125.0  | 2770     | 4.9    | 33.15 | 2404.41 | 2599.87  |
| DATAPATNS  | 1985.4  | 2116.7  | 1891.35 | 2066.0  | 326768   | 4.34   | 37.75 | 2255.52 | 2697.81  |
| MAZDOCK    | 2240.0  | 2346.95 | 2084.5  | 2322.7  | 5139156  | 4.23   | 52.53 | 2247.86 | 2056.78  |
| TEMBO      | 610.85  | 675.15  | 610.85  | 667.35  | 93485    | 3.79   | 39.27 | 761.77  | 435.77   |
| GRSE       | 1465.0  | 1563.5  | 1391.2  | 1507.1  | 1617043  | 3.67   | 46.73 | 1524.58 | 1660.14  |
| HBLPOWER   | 509.75  | 536.75  | 473.1   | 512.6   | 2487330  | 2.23   | 33.57 | 565.43  | 573.34   |
| DCXINDIA   | 316.4   | 328.4   | 301.45  | 320.3   | 863771   | 1.49   | 37.29 | 356.87  | 340.55   |
| ADANIENT   | 2274.2  | 2315.85 | 2242.0  | 2286.05 | 966497   | 1.17   | 40.12 | 2417.53 | 2913.73  |
| BHARATFORG | 1210.0  | 1227.35 | 1181.65 | 1211.1  | 749314   | 1.15   | 41.2  | 1229.14 | 1462.66  |
| BDL        | 1200.0  | 1243.9  | 1136.5  | 1212.05 | 1399136  | 0.62   | 50.76 | 1198.05 | 1245.0   |
| COCHINSHIP | 1405.9  | 1435.0  | 1332.1  | 1409.45 | 799845   | 0.44   | 41.71 | 1477.94 | 1773.56  |
| CFE        | 570.0   | 624.5   | 570.0   | 587.5   | 14200    | 0.26   | 30.88 | 665.6   | 646.04   |
| LMW        | 14940.0 | 15450.0 | 14825.0 | 14951.8 | 4377     | 0.02   | 28.73 | 16214.3 | 16286.57 |
| SOLARINDS  | 9330.05 | 9400.0  | 9101.0  | 9251.95 | 41577    | -0.61  | 41.11 | 9525.0  | 10200.29 |
| MIDHANI    | 308.0   | 311.3   | 295.65  | 304.75  | 311816   | -0.73  | 36.29 | 327.05  | 401.63   |
| PARAS      | 1022.05 | 1033.0  | 958.55  | 1007.85 | 267031   | -0.79  | 46.02 | 1033.18 | 1073.01  |
| PREMEXPLN  | 417.05  | 423.35  | 390.0   | 409.85  | 116740   | -0.89  | 33.15 | 477.07  | 542.82   |
| AVANTEL    | 129.09  | 131.6   | 118.0   | 127.26  | 1214946  | -0.93  | 30.95 | 142.1   | -        |
| LT         | 3464.95 | 3482.15 | 3404.05 | 3413.9  | 1657689  | -1.27  | 33.7  | 3546.9  | 3604.29  |
| MARINE     | 192.05  | 211.0   | 191.2   | 198.45  | 310221   | -1.39  | 27.88 | 236.16  | 209.17   |
| ROSSELLIND | 67.5    | 72.09   | 65.23   | 67.43   | 35481    | -1.79  | 29.38 | 73.41   | 329.63   |
| BEL        | 263.5   | 265.7   | 252.7   | 258.25  | 29049716 | -1.79  | 34.91 | 277.11  | 286.75   |
| HAL        | 3675.85 | 3696.55 | 3485.0  | 3599.15 | 3530307  | -1.95  | 30.5  | 3987.17 | 4516.36  |
| ASTRAMICRO | 709.0   | 711.8   | 669.0   | 691.0   | 256371   | -2.64  | 33.32 | 758.39  | 820.13   |
| MTARTECH   | 1541.0  | 1550.95 | 1470.0  | 1491.15 | 130584   | -2.75  | 34.49 | 1654.27 | 1777.45  |
| BEML       | 3454.0  | 3490.95 | 3271.0  | 3352.45 | 235874   | -2.92  | 30.32 | 3722.4  | 4026.25  |
| KRISHNADEF | 642.2   | 660.95  | 629.8   | 641.45  | 93750    | -3.24  | 33.4  | 735.4   | 689.08   |
| PTC        | 139.05  | 140.03  | 133.2   | 134.32  | 1430138  | -3.39  | 38.19 | 141.42  | 195.58   |
| HIGHENE    | 549.1   | 555.1   | 500.0   | 528.3   | 8913     | -3.79  | 27.6  | 597.07  | 716.37   |
| APOLLO     | 125.0   | 127.44  | 112.3   | 118.93  | 9575209  | -3.83  | 46.45 | 130.71  | 107.35   |
| TANEJAERO  | 371.0   | 380.0   | 353.5   | 359.1   | 22380    | -3.92  | 29.68 | 403.22  | 491.13   |
| NIBE       | 1320.0  | 1359.3  | 1275.45 | 1275.45 | 54372    | -5.0   | 21.96 | 1554.03 | 1756.73  |
| IDEAFORGE  | 508.45  | 512.1   | 471.4   | 481.55  | 276925   | -5.26  | 25.29 | 575.8   | 675.95   |
| LOKESHMACH | 280.0   | 289.45  | 252.25  | 260.95  | 139455   | -6.92  | 28.07 | 307.28  | 385.5    |
| AZAD       | 1446.9  | 1459.9  | 1286.0  | 1316.8  | 550657   | -7.51  | 26.16 | 1664.02 | 1584.37  |
| ZENTEC     | 1742.75 | 1759.95 | 1495.05 | 1591.7  | 2174129  | -8.67  | 22.02 | 2219.02 | 1614.27  |