



# Defence Professionals News & Analysis

January 31, 2025 | Day 031

## Top Gainers

| Stock     | Close  | Prev    | Change |
|-----------|--------|---------|--------|
| BEML      | 3844.7 | 3540.6  | +8.59% |
| PREMEXPLN | 459.75 | 427.8   | +7.47% |
| PARAS     | 1135.9 | 1061.8  | +6.98% |
| GRSE      | 1624.2 | 1519.85 | +6.87% |
| MAZDOCK   | 2498.5 | 2350.7  | +6.29% |

## Top Losers

| Stock | Close | Prev  | Change |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| CFR   | 600.0 | 607.6 | -1.25% |
|       |       |       |        |
|       |       |       |        |
|       |       |       |        |
|       |       |       |        |

## Defense Business and Industry

### India Set to Finalize Deal for 26 Rafale Jets and 3 Submarines



31-Jan-25

India is nearing the finalization of a significant defense deal with France for 26 Rafale-Marine jets and three Scorpene submarines, expected to occur within weeks, potentially during Prime Minister Modi's Paris visit for an AI summit. These acquisitions, following the prior approval of 22 Rafale-M jets for the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, aim to enhance India's naval and aerial capabilities and strengthen strategic ties with France. This partnership reflects ongoing collaboration in defense technology and production, highlighting India's commitment to modernizing its military while fostering international defense relationships. Future expansions of Rafale squadrons may also be considered, reinforcing India's operational readiness.

### Indian Army Enhances Uri Sector Defense with Advanced Gear



31-Jan-25

The Indian Army has enhanced the operational capabilities of its soldiers in the strategic Uri sector by equipping them with advanced Armasen plate carriers and Level III+ Advanced Combat Helmets. These upgrades signify a commitment to modernizing infantry equipment, offering superior protection against ballistic threats while ensuring compatibility with essential gear like communication devices and night vision goggles. Given the area's historical military significance near the Line of Control with Pakistan, this initiative not only boosts soldier confidence but also meets international

standards for military protection. Analysts commend this proactive approach to counter-terrorism and border security amidst complex security challenges.

### Coast Guard Calls for ALH Design Review After Fatal Crash



31-Jan-25

A senior Indian Coast Guard official has called for a design re-evaluation of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) following a fatal crash in Gujarat that resulted in three fatalities. The ALH, a key asset for the Coast Guard, has served well for over 20 years, but recent incidents warrant a reassessment of its design, as acknowledged by ICG Inspector General Bisham Sharma. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd is reportedly working on improvements. Additionally, the Coast Guard is enhancing its surveillance capabilities by inducting drones to complement its operations. This proactive approach underscores India's commitment to maintaining a robust maritime security framework while addressing safety concerns effectively.

### NATO Races to Develop Arctic-Ready Drones Amid Rising Threats



31-Jan-25

NATO is racing to develop drones that can operate effectively in Arctic conditions as military activities by Russia and China increase in the region. The U.S. emphasizes the Arctic's importance for territorial defense and has invested heavily in unmanned technologies, but concerns about drone vulnerabilities in harsh weather persist. Russia has gained an early advantage with its specialized drones for extreme conditions, while NATO struggles to formulate a cohesive response. As nations boost military spending, collaboration with startups for innovative drone solutions is on the rise, highlighting the urgent need for

effective aerial capabilities in this strategically vital area.

## India to unveil affordable AI model in 6 months, says IT Minister SHARE

31-Jan-25

India is set to launch its own indigenous artificial intelligence (AI) model within six months, aimed at providing safe and affordable solutions. Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that this model, supported by a computing facility of 10,000 GPUs, will cost less than Rs 100 per hour after government subsidies, contrasting sharply with global counterparts. The initiative emphasizes ethical AI deployment, with plans to establish an AI Safety Institute. This development strengthens India's position as a trusted technological powerhouse, enhancing innovation and governance while harnessing AI's potential for the greater good. The move is expected to benefit researchers, students, and developers significantly.

## UAE Receives First Batch of Rafale Jets in €16.6 Billion Deal SHARE

31-Jan-25

The UAE has officially received its first batch of 80 Rafale fighter jets from France, part of a historic €16.6 billion deal aimed at modernizing its defense capabilities amidst evolving regional and international security challenges. This acquisition highlights the strengthening strategic partnership between the UAE and France, with Emirati officials emphasizing the transformative impact on their armed forces. The deal underscores the importance of advanced military technology in enhancing national security and reflects a broader trend of defense modernization in the Gulf region. As India continues to develop its own defense industry, such moves by regional powers may prompt increased collaboration and competition in military procurement.

## Russian Media Claims Su-57 Outperforms F-35 for India SHARE

31-Jan-25

Russian media outlet Sputnik has praised the Su-57 fifth-generation fighter jet, claiming it surpasses the F-35 in several aspects, including stealth, maneuverability, and advanced armament like the R-37M missile and Kinzhal hypersonic missile. It highlights the Su-57's impressive operational parameters such as a service ceiling of 20 kilometers and a range of 5,500 kilometers. However, while the Su-57 is positioned as a significant contender in

modern aerial warfare, some international assessments point to ongoing development challenges, particularly concerning its engine and stealth technology. Nevertheless, if the Su-57's capabilities are fully realized, it could enhance Russia's standing in aerial combat significantly.

## Indian Army Wraps Up Stryker APC Trials in Ladakh Amid Engine Concerns SHARE

31-Jan-25

The Indian Army has concluded trials for the Stryker Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) in Ladakh, assessing its performance in high-altitude conditions. Key concerns arose regarding its Caterpillar C7 engine, which may lack sufficient power for operations in such environments, prompting the Army to seek a possible upgrade to a 600hp engine. The trials also featured the Stryker equipped with Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missiles, demonstrating its combat potential. This indicates a strong focus on customization and technology transfer, highlighting India's commitment to enhancing its mechanized forces to effectively address regional security challenges.

## Archer SRUAV Enhanced with DRDO's Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon SHARE

31-Jan-25

The Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) under DRDO is enhancing the Archer Short-Range Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (SRUAV) by integrating the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW), a long-range precision-guided munition. Weighing 125 kg and with a range of at least 100 km, the SAAW will enable the Archer SRUAV to effectively target critical airfield assets while maintaining safety from a distance. This upgrade, allowing the Archer SRUAV to carry two SAAWs, significantly boosts its combat capabilities and showcases India's growing expertise in advanced UAV technology, potentially attracting international interest and demonstrating a robust defense innovation trajectory.

## HAL's CATS-Warrior UCAV Nears First Flight with Successful Trials SHARE

31-Jan-25

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has made significant progress in its Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) program with the successful engine ground run of the CATS-Warrior UCAV, now set to undergo crucial taxi trials ahead of its first flight. This autonomous wingman is designed to enhance the operational capabilities of manned fighters like the Tejas LCA,

enabling coordinated tasks such as reconnaissance and electronic warfare while also ensuring low observability for stealth operations. The integration of manned and unmanned systems aims to increase combat efficiency, reflecting India's commitment to advancing its defense technology and maintaining a strategic edge in the region.

## **Saudi Arabia Considers India's ATAGS 1552 Howitzer for Purchase**



31-Jan-25

Saudi Arabia is reportedly considering the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) 1552 developed by Bharat Forge, following their previous trial of the Bharat-52 howitzer. The ATAGS represents a significant advancement in indigenous artillery technology, tailored to meet the Indian Army's modern requirements, and has already secured a deal with Armenia. This renewed interest from Saudi Arabia highlights the growing global recognition of Indian defense capabilities and could enhance bilateral defense ties between India and Saudi Arabia. The potential sale signifies a promising opportunity for Indian defense exports, reinforcing Bharat Forge's role in expanding India's defense manufacturing footprint.

## **Pakistan Enhances Sri Lankan Air Force with FT-7P Trainer Donation**



31-Jan-25

Pakistan has donated an FT-7P fighter trainer aircraft to the Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF), enhancing its training capabilities. This donation, stemming from Pakistan's surplus inventory as it upgrades to more advanced aircraft, signifies strong military ties between the two nations. The FT-7P effectively doubles Sri Lanka's capacity for training fighter pilots, crucial for modernizing its air force under budget constraints. While the FT-7P is not cutting-edge, it represents a cost-effective solution for maintaining pilot proficiency and extending the operational life of existing aircraft. This collaboration reflects strategic regional defense partnerships, with India closely monitoring the evolving military dynamics in South Asia.

## **GTRE Launches Recruitment to Propel AMCA Engine Development**



31-Jan-25

The Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) is gearing up for a recruitment drive to support India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) engine program, crucial for the country's fifth-generation fighter jet ambitions. Currently employing 227 personnel, GTRE

plans to expand its workforce significantly, focusing on specialized skills in aerospace technology. The initiative aims to enhance India's self-reliance in defense by developing a high-thrust indigenous engine, expected to involve collaboration with global leaders like Safran and Rolls-Royce. This strategic move underscores India's commitment to reducing dependence on foreign technology while advancing its capabilities in critical defense sectors.

## **Safran's 110kN Engine Proposal to Enhance AMCA and Rafale Performance**



31-Jan-25

French aerospace company Safran has proposed developing a high-thrust 110kN engine for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program, which could also be retrofitted into the existing and future Rafale fleets. This upgrade promises substantial performance enhancements without requiring major modifications to the airframes, ensuring cost-effective maintenance. The transition from the current 75kN M-88 engine to a 110kN engine would improve thrust-to-weight ratios, enabling longer missions and increased combat versatility. As India enhances its air combat capabilities, leveraging such technological advancements is crucial for maintaining air superiority in the region, though careful consideration of operational needs and engine maintenance will be essential.

## **DG Propulsion's Jet Engine Breakthrough Fuels India's Jetsuit Vision**



31-Jan-25

DG Propulsion has achieved a significant breakthrough in jet engine technology by successfully conducting a one-hour vertical operation test, demonstrating variable throttle control and reliability. This advancement paves the way for the development of jetsuits in India, positioning the country as a potential leader in personal aviation. These powered exoskeletons could revolutionize emergency response and personal mobility sectors, highlighting India's growing capabilities in high-tech aerospace innovation. As DG Propulsion transitions toward production, its success may inspire further advancements within India's burgeoning aerospace ecosystem, reinforcing the country's commitment to indigenous defense technology development and enhancing its strategic capabilities in both civilian and military applications.

## India Unveils Advanced Anti-Stealth VHF Radar for Aerial Defense



31-Jan-25

India's defense capabilities have received a significant boost with the unveiling of an advanced Anti-Stealth VHF Radar, jointly developed by the Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). This radar, featuring a unique "staring capability," can effectively detect stealth aircraft and low-observable platforms at extended ranges, addressing a critical challenge in modern aerial warfare. Set to be showcased at Aero India 2025, this innovation not only enhances India's air defense network but also positions the country as a key player in the global radar technology market, potentially paving the way for international collaborations and exports in this strategically vital sector.

## DRDO Requests Decommissioned Kilo-Class Sub for Project-76 Testing



31-Jan-25

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has requested a decommissioned Kilo-class submarine from the Indian Navy to test advanced technologies under Project-76, aimed at developing indigenous submarines with air-independent propulsion (AIP) systems. Utilizing these Soviet-era vessels for experimentation allows for cost-effective testing while leveraging the Navy's operational insights. The integration of technologies such as Lithium-ion batteries and advanced sensors will enhance the stealth and operational capacity of future submarines. This initiative not only supports Project-76's goals but also strengthens India's maritime defense capabilities, ensuring a robust and self-reliant naval force.

## Arjun Mki Tank to Feature Indigenous DATRAN Engine by 2028



31-Jan-25

India's Arjun Mki Main Battle Tank is set to be equipped with the indigenous DATRAN 1500Hp engine by 2028, overcoming delays caused by the halted supply of German MTU engines. This strategic move enhances India's self-reliance in defense production, as the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) developed the new engine. Successful test-firings have already been conducted, with rigorous evaluations planned before full-scale production. The DATRAN engine will significantly improve the tank's maneuverability and combat effectiveness across diverse terrains, showcasing India's growing

capabilities in defense technology and reinforcing its commitment to self-sufficiency in this vital sector.

## AMCA to Feature "Beast Mode" for Enhanced Offensive Power



31-Jan-25

India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), currently under development, will feature a "Beast Mode" configuration that allows it to switch from stealth to a heavily armed aircraft for increased offensive capabilities. This innovative feature enhances the AMCA's versatility, enabling it to perform a variety of missions while also reducing operational costs by minimizing wear on stealth systems. Drawing inspiration from fifth-generation fighters like the F-35 and F-22, the AMCA will integrate indigenous technologies, including the Uttam AESA radar. This development underscores India's commitment to advancing its aerial combat capabilities, positioning the AMCA as a potential game-changer in safeguarding its airspace and projecting power in modern warfare.

## IIT Hyderabad's DRDO Centre Unveils Advanced 3D Manufacturing System



31-Jan-25

A significant advancement has been made at the DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at IIT Hyderabad with the demonstration of a Large Area Additive Manufacturing (LAAM) System. This indigenously designed machine, employing Powder based Directed Energy Deposition technology, has a substantial build volume of 1m x 1m x 3m and can fabricate large rocket components, enhancing India's capabilities in additive manufacturing. Dr. Samir V Kamat, Secretary of the Department of Defence R&D, emphasized that this innovation will facilitate large-scale production of metal parts, fostering growth and modernization in the defense manufacturing sector and strengthening self-reliance in critical technology areas.

## Defense Policy and Budgeting

## Key Expectations for India's 2025-26 Defence Budget



31-Jan-25

The article discusses the anticipated Defence Budget for 2025-26, highlighting the need for increased funding to modernize the Indian Armed Forces amid ongoing tensions with China. A focus on self-reliance



(Aatmanirbharta) is emphasized, with significant allocations expected for domestic procurement and R&D. The government plans to increase capital expenditure by about 11-15%, aiming to allocate Rs 1.50 lakh crore for domestic defense procurement. Additionally, projects like the Border Roads Organisation's efforts to enhance infrastructure in border areas are underscored, along with the potential impact of the Agnipath scheme on long-term expenditure. Overall, the article reflects India's commitment to strengthening its defense capabilities through strategic budget allocations.

## Rafale's Future in Question: Impacts on India's Air Strategy



31-Jan-25

A recent report by the French Institute of International Relations raises concerns regarding the Rafale fighter jet's future role in India's air force strategy, particularly against advanced fifth-generation fighters like the F-35. The report highlights limitations in current sensor technology, suggesting the IAF may need to reassess its reliance on Rafales for air superiority, especially with Pakistan's potential acquisition of the Chinese J-35A. This scenario could prompt India to accelerate the development of its own fifth-generation fighters, such as the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), while also considering upgrades to Rafales' avionics and electronic warfare systems to counter emerging threats effectively.

## Geopolitics and Security Alliances

### Trump Threatens 100% Tariffs to Counter BRICS Dollar Challenge



31-Jan-25

Former President Donald Trump has reiterated his strong stance against BRICS nations attempting to replace the U.S. dollar as the dominant reserve currency, threatening a 100% tariff on any country that pursues a new currency. His remarks highlight ongoing geopolitical tensions as BRICS members, including India, explore ways to reduce dollar dependence, particularly in light of sanctions against Russia. Trump's assertion reflects a commitment to maintaining U.S. economic supremacy, emphasizing that nations seeking economic independence from the dollar should prepare for severe repercussions and lose access to the lucrative U.S. market. This situation underscores the complexities of global finance and trade relations, especially as BRICS nations push for stronger

economic ties among themselves, which could reshape international trade dynamics.

### Russia's Push for Pokrovsk: A Key to Disrupting Ukraine's Supply



31-Jan-25

Russian forces are encircling the strategic Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, a key supply hub in the eastern Donetsk region, threatening Ukraine's military logistics and its steel output due to the closure of the nearby coking coal mine. Control over Pokrovsk is critical for Russia to disrupt Ukrainian supply lines and advance towards Chasiv Yar. Ukrainian leadership has made significant military changes to address the situation, reinforcing defenses despite substantial losses on both sides. The deteriorating situation in Pokrovsk reflects the ongoing conflict's severe humanitarian impact, as remaining residents face a lack of basic utilities amid continuous shelling.

### ISI Seeks to Rekindle Influence in Bangladesh, Raising Security Alarms



31-Jan-25

Pakistan's ISI is reportedly attempting to re-establish its influence in strategic areas of Bangladesh, including Cox's Bazar and Teknaf, reminiscent of its pre-1971 presence that once facilitated insurgent support against India. The recent visit of ISI chief Lt Gen Asim Malik to Dhaka, which included discussions with elements of the Bangladesh army, has raised concerns over a potential resurgence of ISI activities along India's northeastern borders. This development could pose significant security challenges for India, particularly given the alleged support from pro-Islamist factions within the Bangladeshi military. Experts warn that this could rekindle destabilizing forces that threaten regional stability and India's security interests.

### North Korean Troops Withdraw from Ukraine Front Lines Amid Losses



31-Jan-25

North Korean troops supporting Russia against Ukraine have been pulled from the front lines due to heavy casualties, with their numbers reportedly halved since their arrival. Ukrainian officials noted that while the North Koreans are fierce, their lack of coordination with Russian forces and ineffective tactics have led to significant losses. The withdrawal may be temporary, with potential plans for re-deployment after further training. This situation reflects the complexities of the ongoing conflict, as both Russia and North Korea seek

strategic advantages, particularly regarding military cooperation and resource exchanges, while Ukraine continues to fortify its positions amidst a challenging battlefield.

## Russia Slams Trump's Missile Defense Plan, Fears Space Arms Race



31-Jan-25

Russia has condemned the recent U.S. executive order by President Trump to develop a new missile defense system, likening it to an American Iron Dome aimed at countering ballistic and hypersonic threats. The Russian Foreign Ministry argues this plan undermines nuclear deterrence for both Russia and China, and may escalate militarization in space, thereby complicating nuclear arms control discussions. The U.S. maintains that the system is essential for modernizing defenses and ensuring peace through strength. This situation highlights the ongoing tensions in global security dynamics, particularly concerning missile defense advancements that could affect strategic stability in the region.

## IAF and RAF Strengthen Defense Ties at London Meeting



31-Jan-25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force (RAF) recently held the Executive Steering Group Meeting in London, reinforcing military cooperation through discussions on joint training, idea exchange, and professional military education. Co-chaired by IAF's Air Vice-Marshal Prajwal Singh and RAF's Air Vice-Marshal Suraya Marshall, the talks aimed to enhance interoperability and operational readiness against contemporary aerial threats. Key focus areas included improving joint military exercises, sharing technological advancements, and streamlining logistics. This collaboration signifies a strong commitment to addressing mutual security challenges and reflects India's growing strategic partnerships in the defense domain.

## Military Operations

## Indian Army Thwarts Infiltration Attempt in Poonch, Kills 2 Terrorists



31-Jan-25

Indian Army troops successfully foiled a significant infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the

deaths of two heavily-armed terrorists affiliated with the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The troops detected the terrorist movement and engaged them in an intense firefight, which led to a coordinated search operation involving local police and the Central Reserve Police Force. During this operation, three AK assault rifles and substantial ammunition were recovered from the slain terrorists, believed to be Pakistani nationals. This incident highlights the persistent security challenges faced by India, emphasizing the Army's commitment to maintaining peace and countering terrorism in the region, reaffirmed by the Northern Command's General Officer Commanding-in-chief, who praised the swift and effective response of the White Knight Corps.

## Tri-Service Commanders Showcase Night Operations on INS Vikrant



31-Jan-25

India's tri-service military commanders recently conducted nighttime joint operations aboard the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, highlighting their commitment to enhanced inter-service coordination. The TROPEX-25 exercise included simulated airstrikes, anti-submarine warfare drills, and amphibious operations, showcasing the operational readiness of the Navy, Army, and Indian Air Force (IAF). Notably, IAF Vice Chief Air Marshal Dharkar flew a Navy MiG-29K from the carrier, symbolizing close cooperation. This event is pivotal as India moves toward implementing theatre commands, facilitating unified military efforts across geographic regions, thereby reinforcing India's maritime and territorial security strategy amidst evolving geopolitical challenges.

## Terrorism and Counterterrorism

## Kerala Police Capture 27 Illegal Bangladeshi Nationals in Kochi



31-Jan-25

In a significant crackdown on illegal immigration, Kerala Police and the Anti-Terrorism Squad apprehended 27 Bangladeshi nationals in Kochi, following a pre-dawn raid that led to the detention of 54 individuals. The operation aimed to address unauthorized employment and settlement, revealing that many of the arrested had been working without valid documentation, posing potential security risks. Authorities are investigating how these individuals entered India and acquired fake documents, emphasizing the need for stringent enforcement of immigration laws, particularly in

industrial hubs like Ernakulam, which relies on migrant labor. The initiative, part of the "Clean Rural" program, underscores the authorities' commitment to enhancing security by monitoring and regulating the migrant workforce, fostering a safer environment for the local population.

## Hamis to release three hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners



31-Jan-25

Hamis has announced it will release three hostages, including the father of the youngest victim from its October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, in a forthcoming exchange for Palestinian prisoners. The hostages include Keith Siegel, a dual U.S. citizen, with his wife having been released previously. While Hamis claims some hostages, including infants, were killed in Israeli airstrikes, Israeli responses emphasize the importance of securing the safe return of all hostages. This situation highlights the complex dynamics of hostage exchanges and the ongoing conflict, with humanitarian concerns often intertwined with geopolitical strategies.

## Two Ansarullah Bangla Team Terrorists Sentenced in Assam



31-Jan-25

A Special NIA court in Guwahati has sentenced two more members of the Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), associated with Al-Qaeda in the Indian Sub-Continent, underscoring India's rigorous approach to combating terrorism. The accused received sentences under various sections of the IPC and UAPA, with one already serving two years and eight months. Additionally, Assam Police's Special Task Force arrested 14 associates of the ABT across different states as part of Operation Praghat, reflecting proactive measures against fundamentalist groups. This ongoing crackdown illustrates India's commitment to national security and its determination to dismantle terrorist networks operating within its borders.

## Cybersecurity and Information Warfare

## Experts Call for Increased Cybersecurity Budget to Combat Threats



31-Jan-25

Experts are advocating for a dedicated budget for cybersecurity in India to combat increasing digital threats, particularly affecting vulnerable sectors like

MSMEs. The Data Security Council of India has urged the finance ministry to allocate specific funds in the Union Budget 2025, emphasizing that such provisions would enhance national cybersecurity, promote innovation, and strengthen digital resilience. With Prime Minister Modi highlighting cybersecurity's significance, experts believe that targeted funding for national cyber resilience programs will bolster investigative capabilities and public-private collaborations. A strategic focus on cybersecurity, linked to national security and economic prosperity, is crucial for India's goal of becoming a global cybersecurity hub.

## AceCloud Launches DeepSeek AI, Ensuring Data Security in India



31-Jan-25

AceCloud, an Indian indigenous cloud service provider, has announced the launch of DeepSeek AI models that ensure data residency within India, addressing national security and privacy concerns. This makes AceCloud the first Indian sovereign cloud provider to offer these models, which promise enterprise-ready features while keeping data compliant with Indian regulations. Despite skepticism regarding data security due to DeepSeek's Chinese roots, AceCloud asserts that its environment allows businesses to maintain control over their data. This initiative not only aims to bolster India's position in AI and digital innovation but also reflects a growing trend towards self-reliance in technology within the country.

## Chinese AI Startup DeepSeek Faces Data Leak Allegations



31-Jan-25

DeepSeek, a rising Chinese AI startup, has been accused of leaking sensitive data online, including software keys and user chat logs, due to a security vulnerability discovered by New York-based Wiz. The database was reportedly accessible without authentication, exposing over a million lines of sensitive information. Although DeepSeek promptly secured the data within an hour upon being alerted, the incident raises concerns about cybersecurity in rapidly developing technologies. This event follows DeepSeek's remarkable success, surpassing even OpenAI's ChatGPT in App Store downloads, reflecting the competitive dynamics in the AI sector and the implications for data security amidst such advancements.

## Tata Technologies faces ransomware attack; CEO calls for upskilling.



31-Jan-25

Tata Technologies recently faced a ransomware attack that temporarily suspended some IT services, though client delivery remained unaffected. The company has restored operations and initiated a detailed investigation into the incident, emphasizing its commitment to security and data protection. In light of this event, CEO Warren Harris called for increased funding for upskilling initiatives aligned with Industry 4.0, highlighting the need for innovation to achieve India's \$5 trillion economy vision. He urged government support for R&D, skill development, and infrastructure to foster advanced technologies like AI and IoT, which are crucial for strengthening India's position in the global tech landscape.

### Miscellaneous

## Indian Astronaut Shukla Eager for Historic ISS Mission



31-Jan-25

Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, a group captain in the Indian Air Force, is set to make history as the first Indian to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft as part of the Axiom Mission 4, scheduled for spring 2025. Shukla, with approximately 2,000 flight hours on various aircraft, was selected after a rigorous process for India's Gaganyaan mission and has undergone extensive training in Russia and at ISRO. He plans to conduct scientific experiments, outreach activities, and take items symbolizing India's cultural diversity to the ISS, emphasizing India's growing capabilities in space exploration. This milestone underscores India's expanding role in international space missions and highlights the collaborative efforts between NASA, Axiom Space, and ISRO, paving the way for future advancements in human spaceflight.

## Coast Guard Aims to Secure Seas Against Illicit Activities: DG



31-Jan-25

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG), celebrating its 49th Raising Day on February 1, 2025, has evolved from seven surface ships in 1978 to a formidable force of 151 ships and 78 aircraft, with ambitions to reach 200 surface platforms and 100 aircraft by 2030. With a focus on Atmanirbhar Bharat, the ICG is increasingly

inducting indigenous vessels and equipment to strengthen maritime security across India's extensive coastline and international shipping lanes. Director General Paramesh Sivamani emphasizes the ICG's commitment to thwarting illicit maritime activities, asserting its reputation as one of the world's most effective coast guards, thereby enhancing the nation's security posture and self-reliance in defense.

## PM Modi expresses condolences for Washington plane collision tragedy.



31-Jan-25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep condolences over the tragic mid-air collision involving an American Airlines regional jet and a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter near Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., which resulted in the feared loss of all 67 individuals on board. The incident, described as devastating by U.S. President Donald Trump, has prompted ongoing recovery operations in the Potomac River, with search teams working under challenging conditions. In addition to Modi's heartfelt message of solidarity with the United States, the incident has reignited discussions on air traffic safety, underscoring the critical need for robust measures to prevent such aviation disasters in the future. This tragedy highlights the importance of international cooperation in ensuring the safety of air travel, given the potential impact on families and nations alike.

## Patel Stresses Commitment to Justice Amid January 6 Scrutiny



31-Jan-25

Kash Patel, nominated by former President Trump to lead the FBI, faced scrutiny during his confirmation hearing, addressing accusations of bias and political motivations related to his support for actions during the January 6 riots. He shared personal experiences of racism and highlighted his family's immigrant background, noting that his parents fled persecution in Uganda and Tanzania. Senators expressed varying views on Patel's qualifications, with some supporting his commitment to justice and fighting corruption, while others questioned his impartiality. Patel emphasized his focus on protecting communities and ensuring safety, reflecting the values instilled in him by his Hindu upbringing and immigrant experience. The discussion underscores the complex intersection of personal history, political beliefs, and law enforcement leadership.



## Sarang Helicopter Team May Skip Aero India 2025 Due to Safety Concerns

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31-Jan-25

The Indian Air Force's Sarang helicopter display team may miss Aero India 2025 due to safety concerns regarding the HAL Dhruv advanced light helicopter, which was grounded after a crash in January. This incident has prompted a detailed investigation by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The absence of Sarang, known for its impressive aerial displays and showcasing India's aerospace capabilities, would be a significant disappointment for aviation enthusiasts and could diminish the event's overall appeal. The future participation of Sarang hinges on the investigation's outcome and the subsequent clearance from HAL and the IAF, underscoring the importance of safety in defense operations.

## Netanyahu Addresses Delays in Hostage Release Amid Safety Concerns

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31-Jan-25

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu confirmed the release of 110 Palestinian prisoners was postponed due to safety concerns during the chaotic handover of hostages. This release is part of a larger agreement aimed at freeing 33 Israeli captives, with Israel expected to release about 2,000 Palestinian prisoners in return. Netanyahu emphasized the inherent risks in negotiations with Hamas and warned of repercussions for any future harm to Israeli citizens. This situation underscores the complexities of hostage negotiations and the delicate balance between security and diplomatic efforts, reflecting the broader geopolitical tensions in the region.

## EAM Jaishankar Commends Trump, Highlights Strong India-U.S. Ties

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31-Jan-25

EAM Jaishankar praised former U.S. President Donald Trump, emphasizing the strong personal bond between Trump and Prime Minister Modi, which has fortified India-U.S. relations. He acknowledged potential shifts in global affairs under Trump's leadership and stressed that India must prioritize its national interests, adapting its foreign policy as necessary. Jaishankar highlighted India's increasing global influence and the positive perception of Indians abroad, indicating a growing recognition of India's stature in international affairs. This reflects India's strategic approach to navigate complex geopolitical landscapes while nurturing valuable partnerships, particularly with the U.S., ensuring its national interests remain paramount.

## EAM Jaishankar Highlights India's Strategic Role in Global Security

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31-Jan-25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of understanding India's perspective on evolving geopolitical dynamics during his interaction with the Ministry of External Affairs' fifth Disarmament and International Security Affairs fellows. He addressed the implications of technological advancements for global security and advocated for equitable access to technology while ensuring data transparency. Jaishankar reaffirmed India's commitment to a universal, non-discriminatory approach to nuclear disarmament, consistent with its credible minimum deterrence and no-first-use policy. This stance not only reflects India's proactive engagement in international security discussions but also reinforces its strategic position as a responsible nuclear power in a rapidly changing global landscape.

## India Achieves 200 Million Degrees: A Fusion Breakthrough

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31-Jan-25

India's Steady State Superconducting Tokamak-1 (SST-1) has achieved remarkable plasma temperatures of around 200 million degrees Celsius, 20 times hotter than the Sun's core, positioning India among six nations with superconducting Tokamaks. This milestone underscores India's commitment to advancing nuclear fusion technology, paving the way for the upcoming SST-2 reactor expected to start construction in 2027. While China's EAST reactor has focused on sustaining plasma for longer durations, India's achievements in temperature showcase its competitive edge in fusion research. Both nations' progress signifies their significant contributions to global energy solutions, enhancing energy security and environmental sustainability amid ongoing research in this critical field.

## India Tests Reusable Tech to Boost Next Generation Launch Vehicle

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31-Jan-25

India is advancing its space capabilities with the testing of reusable technologies on its Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), which aims to enhance satellite launches and potential human spaceflight while reducing costs. Key innovations include advanced navigation systems, steerable grid fins, deployable landing legs, and semi-cryogenic propulsion, all aimed at improving performance and reusability. However, ISRO faces challenges such as limited funding,

bureaucratic hurdles, and competition from international agencies like SpaceX, necessitating ongoing innovation to maintain India's competitive edge in the global space landscape. Despite these hurdles, ISRO's commitment to refining its technology reflects India's ambitious aspirations in space exploration.

## MoS Defence Awards Best Marching Contingents and Tableaux

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31-Jan-25

The Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth, presented awards for the best Marching Contingents and Tableaux at the 2025 Republic Day Parade. The Jammu & Kashmir Rifles and Delhi Police secured the top spots among Services and CAPFs, respectively. Uttar Pradesh's tableau on Mahakumbh 2025 won first prize, followed by Tripura and Andhra Pradesh. An online poll saw Gujarat emerging as the popular choice for its tableau. This recognition not only highlights the artistic contributions of various states but also emphasizes the spirit of national pride and cultural heritage, crucial elements in strengthening India's defense and unity.

## Tripartite Talks Address UNC's Opposition to Manipur Districts

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31-Jan-25

A recent tripartite meeting involving the Centre, Manipur government, and the United Naga Council (UNC) focused on the contentious issue of seven new districts created in Manipur in 2016, which the UNC claims encroach on Naga ancestral territories. Although previous talks failed to yield results, this meeting concluded with an agreement to present a proposal in the next round scheduled for April. The UNC, which has opposed the district creation and organized protests, seeks to reinstate the status quo, citing past agreements with the government. Amidst ongoing ethnic tensions in Manipur, the Naga areas have

remained largely peaceful during the unrest between other communities.

## Sunita Williams sets new record for women's spacewalk duration

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31-Jan-25

Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams has achieved a remarkable milestone by breaking the record for total spacewalking time by a woman, logging 62 hours and 6 minutes during her ninth spacewalk on the International Space Station (ISS). Despite being stranded since June 2024 due to technical issues with Boeing's Starliner, which prevented their return, Williams and her colleague Butch Wilmore continued vital work, including hardware repairs and sample collection. NASA's recognition of Williams' achievement not only showcases her exceptional skills but also highlights India's growing influence in space exploration, emphasizing the importance of international collaboration in advancing research and technology in this critical domain.

## Transform into Strategic Advisors to Thrive in Tech-Driven Era

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31-Jan-25

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, addressing the World Forum of Accountants in New Delhi, urged Chartered Accountants (CAs) to transform into strategic advisors and ethical guardians to thrive in a rapidly evolving technology-driven landscape. He emphasized the importance of continuous learning and innovation, highlighting India's status as a resurgent global power with a reputation for trustworthiness and expertise in finance. Singh regarded CAs as essential to organizational transparency and integrity, crucial for influencing financial decisions. He affirmed India's commitment to international cooperation and investment in sustainable growth, underscoring the significant role of accountants in fostering accountability and public confidence.

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# Defence Sector Stocks

| Stock      | Open    | High    | Low      | Close    | Volume   | Change | RSI14 | SMA20    | SMA200   |
|------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|--------|-------|----------|----------|
| BEL        | 3544.0  | 3882.0  | 3544.0   | 3844.7   | 877143   | 8.59   | 54.03 | 3643.63  | 4029.1   |
| PREMEXPLN  | 439.0   | 466.85  | 426.9    | 459.75   | 93980    | 7.47   | 48.24 | 461.48   | 543.63   |
| PARAS      | 1072.55 | 1142.0  | 1064.1   | 1135.9   | 386619   | 6.98   | 60.67 | 1043.99  | 1078.79  |
| GRSE       | 1526.4  | 1649.0  | 1522.25  | 1624.2   | 2120516  | 6.87   | 56.53 | 1511.52  | 1670.43  |
| MAZDOCK    | 2355.95 | 2515.0  | 2344.95  | 2498.5   | 5589552  | 6.29   | 61.62 | 2271.35  | 2076.38  |
| MTARTECH   | 1520.0  | 1641.9  | 1520.0   | 1624.1   | 110869   | 6.05   | 49.62 | 1630.44  | 1773.04  |
| HBLPOWER   | 564.95  | 600.75  | 562.3    | 596.85   | 2533892  | 5.81   | 56.08 | 556.49   | 574.64   |
| APOLLO     | 132.15  | 139.5   | 128.82   | 137.67   | 8396750  | 5.42   | 58.51 | 131.2    | 107.67   |
| COCHINSHIP | 1467.95 | 1540.0  | 1450.4   | 1532.3   | 677944   | 5.21   | 55.37 | 1461.13  | 1779.45  |
| NIBE       | 1435.0  | 1453.9  | 1426.0   | 1453.9   | 33089    | 5.0    | 43.31 | 1508.5   | 1754.71  |
| BEL        | 283.9   | 294.2   | 281.6    | 292.65   | 50252116 | 4.99   | 57.42 | 274.91   | 287.46   |
| MARINE     | 202.7   | 210.35  | 198.0    | 210.35   | 174315   | 4.99   | 37.59 | 226.74   | 210.8    |
| KRISHNADEF | 685.95  | 702.15  | 685.95   | 701.25   | 44500    | 4.86   | 47.54 | 723.04   | 693.16   |
| LT         | 3501.05 | 3590.0  | 3481.05  | 3567.4   | 3995513  | 4.28   | 51.97 | 3516.75  | 3601.32  |
| ASTRAMICRO | 707.7   | 745.95  | 707.7    | 742.7    | 89674    | 4.25   | 47.78 | 749.46   | 821.12   |
| HAL        | 3804.1  | 3969.0  | 3784.8   | 3936.8   | 1976237  | 4.17   | 47.9  | 3927.4   | 4519.28  |
| DATAPATTNS | 2118.0  | 2225.0  | 2109.1   | 2207.4   | 140531   | 3.65   | 47.37 | 2203.76  | 2686.1   |
| AZAD       | 1500.1  | 1563.0  | 1497.0   | 1549.55  | 236201   | 3.5    | 46.31 | 1609.01  | 1587.59  |
| BHARATFORG | 1182.5  | 1238.0  | 1182.5   | 1224.05  | 627704   | 3.38   | 46.94 | 1213.83  | 1463.1   |
| AVANTEL    | 134.5   | 138.63  | 132.11   | 136.73   | 534762   | 3.35   | 43.94 | 138.39   | -        |
| ZENTEC     | 1675.05 | 1774.0  | 1675.05  | 1741.1   | 638227   | 3.32   | 33.3  | 2099.36  | 1624.94  |
| TANEJAERO  | 356.55  | 365.0   | 349.55   | 360.4    | 24338    | 3.1    | 34.1  | 389.41   | 490.44   |
| DCXINDIA   | 320.0   | 328.8   | 317.25   | 328.4    | 353649   | 3.0    | 43.12 | 350.72   | 340.69   |
| BDL        | 1275.0  | 1325.0  | 1267.3   | 1305.0   | 1928838  | 2.97   | 59.3  | 1217.99  | 1250.77  |
| ROSSELLIND | 67.53   | 70.5    | 67.05    | 69.43    | 33075    | 2.81   | 38.67 | 71.74    | 324.66   |
| MIDHANI    | 322.0   | 331.7   | 317.35   | 328.15   | 325510   | 2.5    | 49.62 | 323.52   | 400.13   |
| TEMBO      | 666.0   | 699.9   | 651.0    | 684.5    | 26468    | 2.35   | 42.82 | 733.83   | 442.05   |
| PTC        | 141.8   | 145.0   | 140.0    | 143.98   | 1029293  | 2.19   | 49.31 | 139.95   | 194.7    |
| SIKA       | 2160.9  | 2190.0  | 2128.0   | 2190.0   | 2845     | 1.99   | 38.59 | 2340.61  | 2604.76  |
| ADANIENT   | 2238.85 | 2314.95 | 2213.75  | 2287.8   | 2013345  | 1.56   | 42.08 | 2374.63  | 2900.03  |
| SOLARINDS  | 10229.0 | 10280.0 | 10001.0  | 10194.65 | 315162   | 1.3    | 58.91 | 9550.98  | 10220.59 |
| LMW        | 15577.0 | 15700.0 | 15458.45 | 15652.75 | 2016     | 0.89   | 42.93 | 15936.16 | 16262.38 |
| IDEAFORGE  | 455.0   | 471.0   | 455.0    | 465.45   | 144687   | 0.87   | 25.14 | 550.54   | 672.48   |
| HIGHENE    | 536.0   | 565.0   | 534.6    | 542.05   | 8975     | 0.57   | 33.81 | 582.3    | 713.24   |
| LOKESHMACH | 294.95  | 298.8   | 288.25   | 290.55   | 36399    | 0.22   | 43.29 | 300.21   | 383.26   |
| CFE        | 609.0   | 618.0   | 595.0    | 600.0    | 13800    | -1.25  | 36.14 | 651.15   | 648.62   |