April
अप्रैल
2026

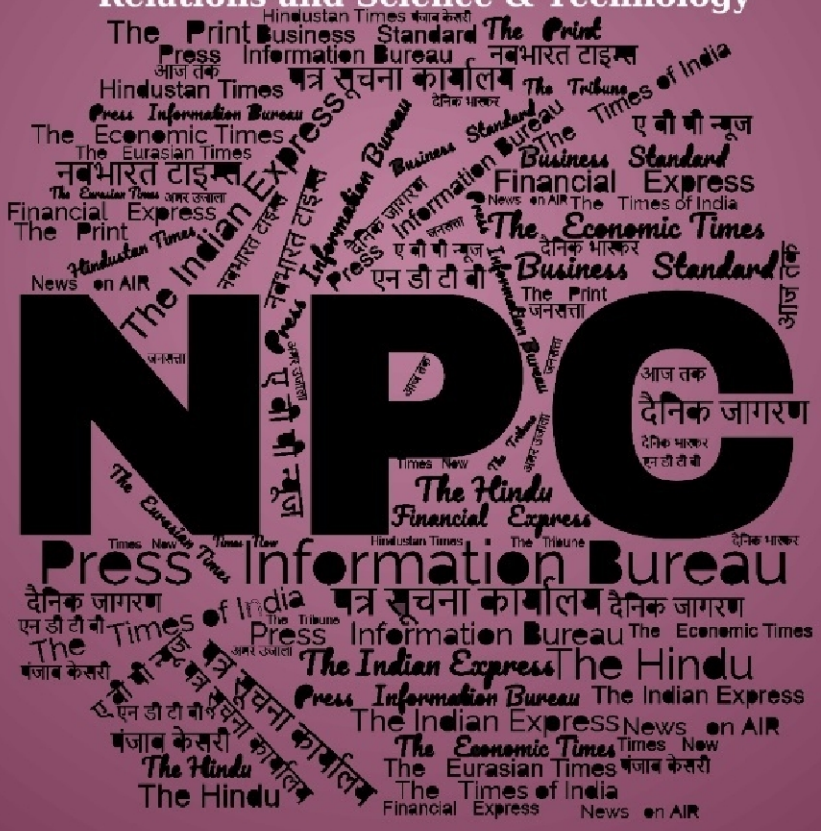
खंड/Vol. : 51 अंक/Issue : 64

07/04/2026

समाचार पत्रों से चयनित अंश
Newspapers Clippings

डीआरडीओ समुदाय को डीआरडीओ प्रौद्योगिकियों, रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकियों, रक्षा नीतियों, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंधों और विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी की नूतन जानकारी से अवगत कराने हेतु दैनिक सेवा

A Daily service to keep DRDO Fraternity abreast with DRDO Technologies, Defence Technologies, Defence Policies, International Relations and Science & Technology



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय
Defence Science Library
रक्षा वैज्ञानिक सूचना एवं प्रलेखन केंद्र
Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre
मेटकॉफ हाउस, दिल्ली - 110 054
Metcalfe House, Delhi - 110 054

CONTENTS

Defence News

IAF chief begins US visit to bolster defence ties

Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 07 Apr 2026

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, began his week-long visit to the United States on Monday to bolster defence ties between the two countries, officials aware of the matter said. Ongoing projects and possible avenues for future defence cooperation are expected to be discussed during the visit, the officials said. His visit comes as India seeks faster delivery of F404 engines from the US for the Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA Mk-1A) and negotiates a deal for the joint production of F414 engines in the country for the more advanced LCA Mk-2 programme.

Indian ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra, said in an X post, “Pleasure to host and welcome CAS Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh as he begins his visit to the United States to further strengthen the defence partnership and sustain the strong & growing ties between the two Air Forces.” Singh’s visit also comes as a US company competes with two other global firms for an Indian programme to equip the IAF with 60 medium transport aircraft (MTA) to boost its airlift capabilities. The defence acquisition council (DAC) approved a military capability boost worth ₹2.38 lakh crore in March, including the MTA.

To be sure, aircraft maker Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has imposed liquidated damages on the US firm GE Aerospace for delays in supplying F404 engines for the LCA Mk-1A, as HT previously reported. The contract for 99 engines specifies liquidated damages that must be paid for any supply delay, and that clause is invoked every time an engine is delayed.

These engines are meant for the 83 LCA Mk-1As ordered by the defence ministry for ₹48,000 crore in 2021 to bolster the IAF’s fighter fleet. HAL was supposed to deliver the first aircraft in March 2024 under the contract, but deliveries have not yet begun. The LCA Mk-1A programme was earlier hampered by GE Aerospace’s inability to supply the engines on time and delays in some key certifications.

In November 2025, HAL signed another deal with GE Aerospace for 113 F404 engines to power the 97 additional LCA Mk-1As ordered last September by the defence ministry for ₹62,370 crore to boost the air force’s readiness. The engine deal is worth $1 billion. The deal for the joint production of F414 engines in India will involve 80% technology transfer and is also estimated to be worth around $1 billion. Those vying for the MTA order include US firm Lockheed Martin with its C-130J Super Hercules aircraft, Brazilian plane maker Embraer, which has offered its KC-390 Millennium aircraft to India and European Airbus Defence and Space with its A-400M.

The US firm has tied up with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), and Embraer has teamed up with Mahindra to bid for the contract. However, Airbus has not yet announced its partner. In 2024, India signed a $3.5 billion deal with the US to acquire 31 MQ-9B drones, primarily to boost its defence preparedness with an eye on China. Fifteen drones will be for the navy, and eight each for the army and the IAF. The deliveries are expected to begin in 2029.

https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/iaf-chief-begins-us-visit-to-bolster-defence-ties-101775505097381.html

*

ICG lays keel of fourth FPV under 14-vessel project

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 07 Apr 2026

The keel-laying ceremony of an Indian Coast Guard fast patrol vessel (FPV) — the fourth in a series of 14 being built for coastal security, search and rescue, and law enforcement — was held on Monday, officials said. The ships are being built in consonance with the nation's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and are poised to augment the ICG's presence in the Indian Ocean Region, they said. "Keel-laying ceremony for FPV-4 (Yard 16504) along with plate cutting ceremony for FPV-7 (Yard 16507) of the 14 FPVs project (Yard 16501-14) was held at MDL, Mumbai today," a senior official of the ICG said. The FPVs are being equipped with State-of-the-art machinery, including an AI-based predictive maintenance system and multipurpose drones.

https://dailypioneer.com/news/icg-lays-keel-of-fourth-fpv-under-14-vessel-project

*

Army gets delivery of 'hundreds of kamikaze drones' from Gujarat firm under emergency purchase

Source: The Times of India, Dt. 07 Apr 2026

A Gujarat-based deep-tech drone company has delivered "hundreds of kamikaze (suicide or self-destruct) drones" to Indian Army as part of a Rs 10 crore contract with the defence ministry. The contract with Surat-based InsideFPV was signed last Dec, and the consignment of drones was sent to the Army within a two-month timeframe via emergency procurement route. The exact number of drones delivered to Army's Northern Command was not disclosed by the company for security reasons.

Recognised as a pioneer in FPV (first person view) and kamikaze drones, InsideFPV focuses on systems designed for GPS-denied zones and extreme environments. An FPV drone is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flown using specialised goggles that receive live, real-time video

feed from an onboard camera, making the pilot feel as if they are sitting inside the drone. Arth Chowdhary, CEO of InsideFPV, said, “Our kamikaze and FPV systems are engineered specifically for India’s harshest deployment environments, functioning reliably in temperatures as low as -35°C.”

“The drones dispatched to the Army are for kamikaze attacks and have waypoint control (automated navigation method), multi-step safety mechanism and a detonation trigger,” the company told TOI. The Rs 10 crore rapid-execution contract reflects a larger trend of govt increasingly favouring domestic manufacturers that can deliver precision unmanned systems quickly and in volume.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/defence/news/army-gets-delivery-of-hundreds-of-kamikaze-drones-from-gujarat-firm-under-emergency-purchase/amp_articleshow/130073332.cms

*

Tri-Service Seminar ‘Ran Samwad’ to be held on April 09-10, 2026

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 06 Apr 2026

The Tri-Service seminar Ran Samwad is scheduled to be held on April 09-10, 2026 at the Air Force Training Command, Bengaluru. This edition marks the beginning of a continued and structured dialogue on emerging paradigms of warfare, with the theme “Multi Domain Operations: An Imperative for Addressing Conventional and Irregular Threats”.

During the two-day seminar, deliberations will dwell upon building a roadmap for preparing India’s Defence Forces for Multi Domain Conflict, encompassing land, air, sea, cyber, space and cognitive domains. Various sessions will explore key aspects such as the evolution of Multi Domain Operations, global trends shaping modern battlefields, the Whole-of-Nation approach leveraging national resources, doctrinal adaptation and training and the re-imagining of operational art for effective command and control in a complex environment.

The seminar will also provide a comprehensive understanding of civil-military fusion in the context of Multi Domain Operations. The seminar will serve as a guiding reference for the Indian Defence Forces in developing strategies to enhance operational preparedness and effectively address both conventional & irregular threats in a multi-domain environment.

Technological advancements are leading to a significant change in the character & nature of war, bringing a parallel impact on the practitioners of warfare in terms of operational planning, tactics and strategies. In order to deliberate upon this evolving paradigm, the 'Ran Samwad - Conversations on War, Warfare and Warfighting' was conceptualised by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan as a first-of-its-kind Tri-Service initiative. The inaugural edition of Ran Samwad, held at the Army War College, Mhow, focused on "The Impact of Technology on Warfare" and laid the foundation for structured strategic dialogue among military professionals and experts.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2249422&reg=3&lang=1

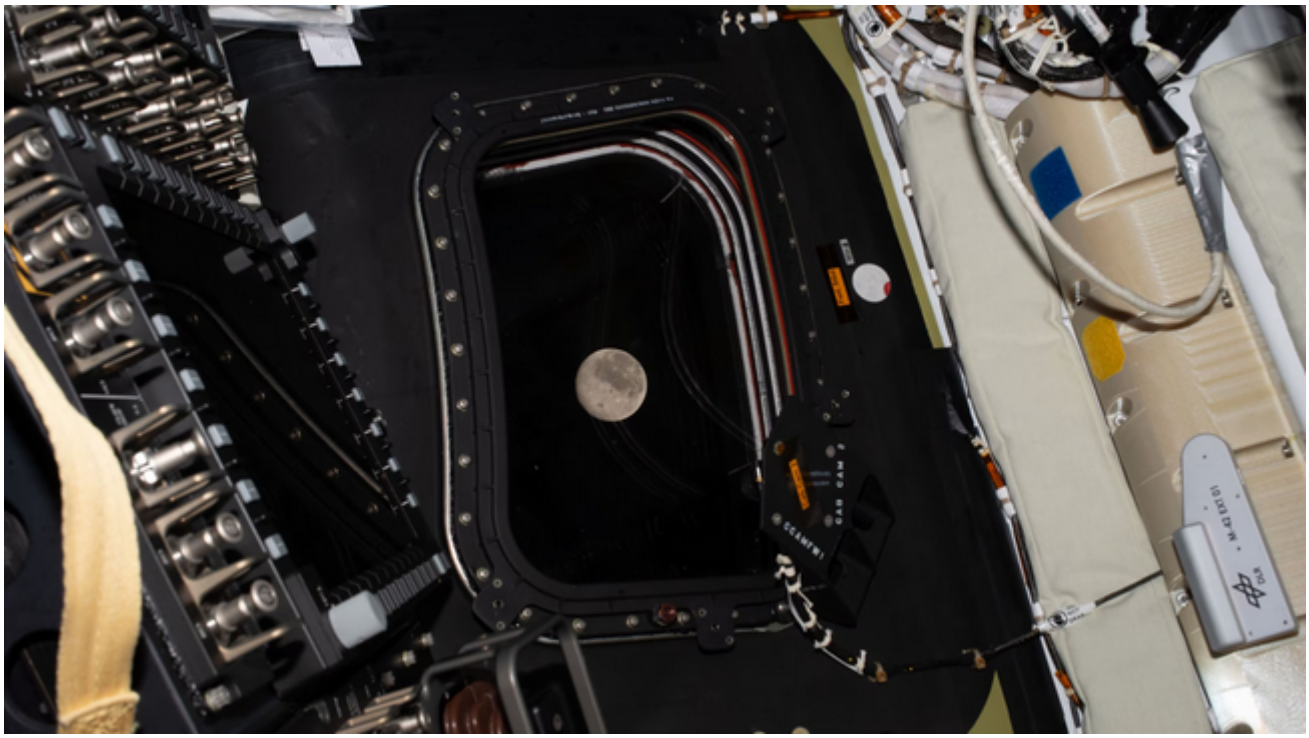
*

Science & Technology News

NASA's Artemis II breaks Apollo 13's distance record as humans travel farther from Earth than ever before

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 07 Apr 2026

With the moon now filling their windows, the Artemis II astronauts set a record Monday as the farthest humans from Earth during a lunar flyby promising magnificent views of the far side never before witnessed. The six-hour flyby is the highlight of NASA's first return to the moon since the Apollo era with three Americans and one Canadian — a step toward landing boot prints near the moon's south pole in just two years.First came a prize — and bragging rights — for Artemis II.



Less than an hour before kicking off the fly-around and intense lunar observations, the four astronauts surpassed the distance record of 248,655 miles (400,171 kilometers) set by Apollo 13 in April 1970. They kept going, hurtling ever farther from Earth. Before it was all over, Mission Control expected Artemis II to beat the old record by more than 4,100 miles (6,600 kilometers).

The astronauts woke up to the voice of Apollo 13 commander Jim Lovell, who recorded the message just two months before his death last August. “Welcome to my old neighborhood,” said Lovell, who also flew on Apollo 8, humanity’s first lunar visit. “It’s a historic day and I know how busy you’ll be, but don’t forget to enjoy the view.” They took up with them the Apollo 8 silk patch that accompanied Lovell to the moon, and showed it off as the crucial flyby approached. “It’s just a real honor to have that on board with us,” said commander Reid Wiseman. “Let’s go have a great day.”

Artemis II is using the same maneuver that Apollo 13 did after its “Houston, we’ve had a problem” oxygen tank explosion wiped out any hope of a moon landing. Known as a free-return lunar trajectory, this no-stopping-to-land route takes advantage of Earth and the moon’s gravity, reducing the need for fuel. It’s a celestial figure-eight that will put the astronauts on course for home, once they emerge from behind the moon Monday evening.Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canada’s Jeremy Hansen were on track to pass as close as 4,070 miles (6,550 kilometers) to the moon, as their Orion capsule whips past it, hangs a U-turn and then heads back toward Earth. It will take them four days to get back, with a splashdown in the Pacific concluding their test flight on Friday.

Their expected speed at closest approach to the moon: 3,139 mph (5,052 kph).Wiseman and his crew spent years studying lunar geography to prepare for the big event, adding solar eclipses to their repertoire during the past few weeks. By launching last Wednesday, they ensured themselves of a total solar eclipse from their vantage point behind the moon, courtesy of the cosmos.

Topping their science target list: Orientale Basin, a sprawling impact basin with three concentric rings, the outermost of which stretches nearly 600 miles (950 kilometers) across. Other sightseeing goals: the Apollo 12 and 14 landing sites from 1969 and 1971, respectively, as well as fringes of the south polar region, the preferred locale for future touchdowns. Farther afield, Mercury, Venus, Mars and Saturn — not to mention Earth — will be visible.

Their moon mentor, NASA geologist Kelsey Young, expects thousands of pictures.“People all over the world connect with the moon. This is something that every single person on this planet can understand and connect with,” she said on the eve of the flyby, wearing eclipse earrings. Artemis II is NASA’s first astronaut moonshot since Apollo 17 in 1972. It sets the stage for next year’s Artemis III, which will see another Orion crew practice docking with lunar landers in orbit around Earth. The culminating moon landing by two astronauts near the moon’s south pole will follow on Artemis IV in 2028.

While Artemis II may be taking Apollo 13’s path, it’s most reminiscent of Apollo 8 and humanity’s first lunar visitors who orbited the moon on Christmas Eve 1968 and read from the Book of Genesis.Glover said flying to the moon during Christianity’s Holy Week brought home for him “the beauty of creation.” Earth is an oasis amid “a whole bunch of nothing, this thing we call the universe” where humanity exists as one, he observed over the weekend. “This is an opportunity for us to remember where we are, who we are, and that we are the same thing and that we’ve got to get through this together,” Glover said, clasping hands with his crewmates

https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/nasas-artemis-ii-breaks-apollo-13s-distance-record-as-humans-travel-farther-from-earth-than-ever-before-10622554/

*

TDB-DST supports Scharge Pvt. Ltd. under India–UK Collaborative R&D Programme for advanced EV charging infrastructure

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 06 Apr 2026

The Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, has signed an agreement with M/s Scharge Pvt Limited for the project titled “Powering EV Charging Innovation.” The project is supported under the India–UK Collaborative R&D Programme for Industrial Sustainability, in partnership with UK-based Albright Product Design Limited, aimed at developing advanced and efficient solutions for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.

The supported project focuses on the development of a next-generation EV charging solution tailored for commercial fleet and depot operations. The technology integrates an innovative EV charger charge controller developed by Scharge Pvt Limited with a patented automated cable management system from the UK partner. This integrated approach is designed to improve operational efficiency, safety, and usability in high-demand EV charging environments.

The solution introduces a motorised overhead cable management system, specifically designed for fleet-based applications, which streamlines charging operations by reducing manual handling, minimizing cable wear and tear, and enhancing user convenience. The system is compatible with existing AC Type-2 EV chargers and aims to improve charging turnaround time while ensuring safe and organized infrastructure in depot settings.

By addressing key operational challenges such as cable management, equipment protection, and workflow optimization, the technology is expected to significantly enhance the efficiency of EV charging depots. It also contributes to improved safety standards by reducing risks related to cable damage, vandalism, and operational hazards.

Scharge Pvt Limited, an emerging Indian EV technology company, is focused on developing advanced power electronics and smart charging systems. Through this project, the company aims to strengthen indigenous capabilities in EV charging technologies while enabling scalable and sustainable infrastructure for the growing electric mobility sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary, TDB, stated that collaborative R&D initiatives such as the India–UK programme play a critical role in accelerating the development of advanced, industry-relevant technologies. He noted that innovations in EV charging infrastructure are essential to support the rapid adoption of electric mobility and to build a robust, efficient, and future-ready ecosystem in India.

Promoter of Scharge Pvt Limited expressed appreciation for the support and highlighted that the project will enable the company to bring innovative, globally competitive EV charging solutions to market, addressing the evolving needs of fleet operators and infrastructure providers.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2249255&reg=3&lang=1

*

The Tribune
The Statesman
पंजाब केसरी जनसत्ता
The Hindu
The Economic Times
Press Information Bureau
The Indian Express
The Times of India
Hindustan Times
नवभारत टाइम्स
दैनिक जागरण
The Asian Age
The Pioneer