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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

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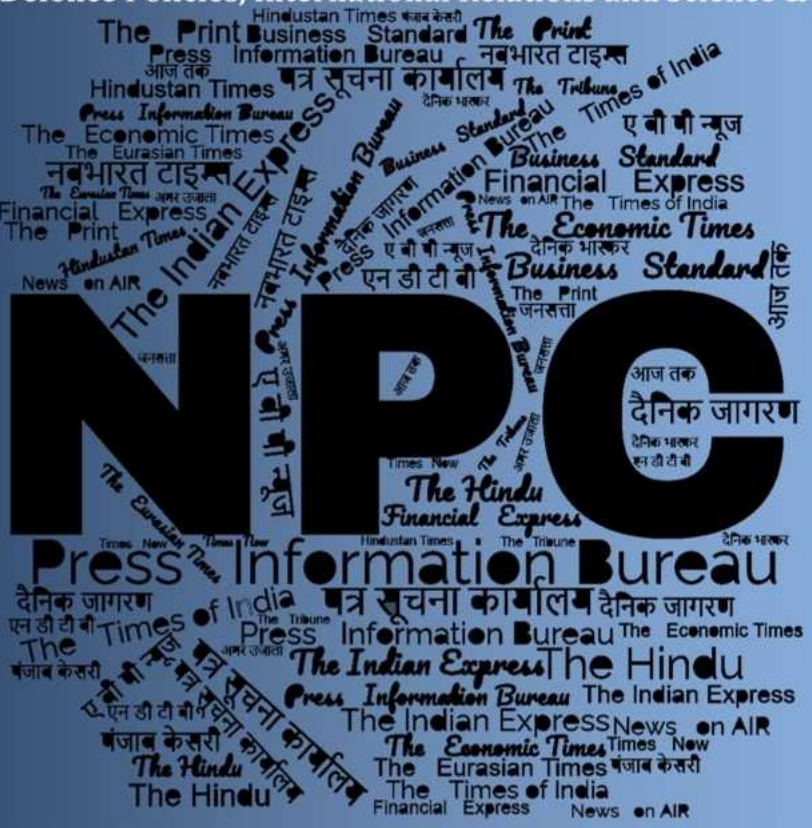

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DRDO News

अग्नि 3 मिसाइल का सफल परीक्षण, 3500 किलोमीटर तक करेगी सटीक मार

Source: Dainik Jagran, Dt. 07 Feb 2026

ओडिशा के अब्दुल कलाम द्वीप पर मिसाइल परीक्षण • स्रोतः डीआरडीओ

- पूरे पाकिस्तान समेत चीन के कई शहर मिसाइल के दायरे में, पहले से ही है सेना में शामिल
- रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह और डीआरडीओ के अध्यक्ष ने परीक्षण में शामिल टीमों को दी बधाई

जागरण संवाददाता, बालेश्वर: रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) ने शुक्रवार को ओडिशा के अब्दुल कलाम द्वीप से लंबी दूरी तक प्रहार करने वाली इंटरमीडिएट रेंज बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल अग्नि-3 का सफल परीक्षण किया। यह मिसाइल 3500 किलोमीटर दूर बैठे दुश्मनों को निशाना बनाने में सक्षम है। इस मिसाइल की मारक क्षमता पाकिस्तान के कोने-कोने समेत चीन के बीजिंग और शंघाई जैसे प्रमुख शहरों तक तबाही मचाने का दम रखती है।

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने इसे भारत की सामरिक क्षमता की दिशा में बड़ी कामयाबी बताते हुए डीआरडीओ समेत इस परीक्षण से जुड़े समस्त टीमों को बधाई दी है। डीआरडीओ अध्यक्ष समीर वी कामत ने भी परीक्षण से जुड़ी सभी टीमों को बधाई दी है।

परीक्षण के दौरान मिसाइल सभी तकनीकी व संचालन मानकों पर शत-प्रतिशत खरी उतरी। डीआरडीओ की ओर से तैयार यह पूर्ण स्वदेशी मिसाइल पहले ही सेना में शामिल की जा चुकी है।

अग्नि मिसाइल सिस्टम भारतीय रक्षा प्रणाली का एक प्रमुख हिस्सा है। पहली बार इसका परीक्षण 2006 में किया गया था। इसके बाद से मिसाइल का कई बार सफलतापूर्वक परीक्षण हो चुका है। वर्ष 2019 में पहली बार रात के समय इसका सफल परीक्षण किया गया था। इस बार फिर रात के समय ही इसका सफलतापूर्वक परीक्षण किया गया। रक्षा क्षेत्र में भारत लगातार आगे बढ़ रहा है।

क्यों खास है अग्नि-3

- मैक-7 से मैक-8 की रफ्तार से उड़ान भर सकती है।
- मिसाइल की लक्ष्य को निशाना बनाने की क्षमता बेहद सटीक है।
- मोबाइल लांचर से भी फायर की जा सकती है।
- मिसाइल की लंबाई 17 मीटर, व्यास दो मीटर और वजन करीब 50 टन है।
- इनेर्शियल नेविगेशन सिस्टम (आइएनएस) और जीपीएस से संचालित होती है।
- अपने साथ 1.5 परमाणु और अन्य हथियार ले जाने में पूरी तरह सक्षम है।

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India successfully test fires Agni-3 missile

Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 07 Feb 2026

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

BALASORE: India on Friday successfully test-fired nuclear weapons-capable Agni-3 ballistic missile from the Chandipur off Odisha coast, which has a strike range of more than 3,000 kilometres, officials said.

The surface-to-surface missile was launched by the personnel of Strategic Forces Command (SFC) from a mobile launcher as part of a regular training exercise for the user.

The missile was picked up randomly from the production lot and test fired, they said adding that the SFC is tasked with handling strategic weapons systems. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters, officials said.

After the command for auto-launch was given, the two-stage solid-propelled missile took off on a designated flight path and homed onto the pre-designated target area in the Bay of Bengal with accuracy.The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) sources said that it met all the mission objectives.

THE SURFACE-TO-SURFACE BALLISTIC MISSILE HAS A STRIKE RANGE OF MORE THAN 3,000 KILOMETRES, OFFICIALS SAID

Various parameters and trajectory of the 17-meter long missile were tracked and monitored in real time by radars along the east coast, as well as by the telemetry and electro-optical systems. Two down-range ships near the impact point recorded the terminal event, they said.

Agni-3 is one of the sophisticated and accurate missiles of its class and has already been inducted into the armed forces.

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Defence News

Ahead of Macron's visit, DAC likely to meet next week to approve deal for 114 Rafales

Source: The Times of India, Dt. 09 Feb 2026

Ahead of French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India for the Artificial Intelligence Summit from Feb 18 to 20, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by defence minister Rajnath Singh, is scheduled to meet in the second week of this month to consider big-ticket defence procurement proposals, a defence source told TOI. Most important of them all is the likely proposal to grant Acceptance of Necessary (AoN) next week to buy 114 Rafale fighter jets from France at a cost of Rs 3.25 lakh crore.

The proposed project will entail procurement of 18 aircraft in fly away condition and the rest made in India with up to 60% indigenous content. About 80% of the 114 Rafales proposed to be acquired under the deal are planned to be manufactured in India. Sources said the IAF is going to get 88 single-seater and 26 twin-seater aircraft under the project, of which the majority would be built in India with the collaboration of Dassault and Indian private sector companies.

The acquisition, which was already cleared by Defence Procurement Board last month, will head to the apex body for the next round of clearances, following which the formal process of technical and commercial negotiations will start. Deal may be given the final shape during Macron's visit to India. The IAF is currently operating around 30 fighter squadrons, well short of its sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons, at a time when threat perceptions are rising from Pakistan and China.

Defence analysts point to increasing strategic collusion between Pakistan and Bangladesh, as well as Pakistan and China, as key factors that have heightened regional security concerns. Once the deal gets completed, IAF will have a fleet of 150 Rafales, along with 26 of the Indian Navy, which will have an aircraft carrier-compatible version of the French planes.

Operation Sindoor has shown the significance of the '4.5-gen king' Rafale in offensive operations as it is armed with deadly missiles like Meteor, scalp and laser-guided bombs. The Rafale project is expected to help the IAF meet its requirement for a 4.5-gen-plus multirole fighter aircraft for a long time.

The deal is urgently required as India is unlikely to get the new fifth-generation fighter plane Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) any time in near future as the process to shortlist companies for building such an advanced stealth fighter is still going on and HAL's Tejas MkIA production programme is moving at a snail's pace due to its dependence on Tejas engine on American company GE.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/defence/news/ahead-of-macrons-visit-dac-likely-to-meet-next-week-to-approve-deal-for-114-rafales/articleshow/128046713.cms

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भारत और मलेशिया रक्षा क्षेत्र में सहयोग बढ़ाएंगे

Source: Jansatta, Dt. 09 Feb 2026

भारत और मलेशिया रक्षा और खुफिया क्षेत्र में आपसी सहयोग बढ़ाएंगे। दोनों देशों ने सूचनाओं के आदान-प्रदान पर सहमति व्यक्त की। दोनों देशों के बीच आपसी सहयोग के कुल 11 समझौतों पर दस्तखत किए गए हैं। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के दो दिवसीय मलेशिया दौरे में मलेशियाई प्रधानमंत्री अनवर इब्राहिम से वार्ता के बाद आपसी सहयोग के विभिन्न मुद्दों पर सहमति बनी।

कुआलालंपुर में मोदी और मलेशियाई प्रधानमंत्री इब्राहिम ने द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने और रक्षा व सेमीकंडक्टर पर सहयोग बढ़ाने का एलान किया। अगस्त 2024 में दोनों देशों द्वारा अपने रिश्तों को एक व्यापक रणनीतिक साझेदारी में बदलने के बाद से मोदी पहली बार इस दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई देश का दौरा कर रहे हैं। एक दशक में पहले आधिकारिक दौरे पर मलेशिया पहुंचे मोदी ने यात्रा के दौरान भारतीय समुदाय को भी संबोधित किया। इससे पहले मोदी नवंबर 2015 में मलेशिया के आधिकारिक दौरे पर गए थे। मोदी 2018 में भी मलेशिया पहुंचे थे। तब वे तत्कालीन मलेशियाई प्रधानमंत्री से मिलने के लिए कुछ देर रुके थे। तब मोदी इंडोनेशिया के दौरे से लौटे थे और सिंगापुर जाने वाले थे। इस बार दो दिवसीय दौरे में इब्राहिम से मुलाकात के बाद एक प्रेस वक्तव्य में पीएम मोदी ने कहा, 'एआइ और डिजिटल तकनीकों के साथ-साथ, हम सेमीकंडक्टर, स्वास्थ्य और खाद्य सुरक्षा में साझेदारी को आगे बढ़ाएंगे। साथ ही रक्षा के क्षेत्र में हम आतंकवाद रोकथाम, खुफिया जानकारी का आदान-प्रदान, और समुद्री सुरक्षा में आपसी सहयोग मजबूत करेंगे।'

मोदी ने मलेशिया में भारत के कामगारों के संरक्षण के लिए सोशल सिक्योरिटी समझौता, पर्यटन के लिए मुफ्त ई-वीजा, और डिजिटल पेमेंट इंटरफेस यूपीआइ के मलेशिया में शुरू होने की बात भी कही। मोदी ने मलेशिया को आसियान सम्मेलन की सफल अध्यक्षता के लिए बधाई भी दी। इब्राहिम ने कहा, यह बैठक और ये आदान-प्रदान भारत और मलेशिया के बीच संबंधों को आगे बढ़ाने और बेहतर बनाने के लिए बहुत महत्त्वपूर्ण, बहुत रणनीतिक और जरूरी हैं। मलेशिया सेमीकंडक्टर के सबसे बड़े निर्यातकों में से एक है और इस सूची में, दुनिया भर में छठे स्थान पर है। मलेशियाई सरकार के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, यह क्षेत्र जीडीपी में लगभग 25 फीसद का योगदान देता है। मोदी के दौरे से पहले, भारत के विदेश मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा था कि मलेशिया के पास एक बहुत मजबूत सेमीकंडक्टर इकोसिस्टम है और उनके पास उन क्षेत्रों में लगभग 30 से 40 वर्षों का अनुभव है। मोदी ने मलेशिया में एक नया भारतीय वाणिज्य दूतावास स्थापित करने की घोषणा की। इसके अलावा कुआलालंपुर की यूनिवर्सिटी मलाया में एक समर्पित तिरुवल्लुवर केंद्र की स्थापना की भी घोषणा की गई। इस संस्थान में मलेशियाई नागरिकों के लिए तिरुवल्लुवर छात्रवृत्ति भी स्थापित की जाएगी। मलेशिया में भारतीय मूल के करीब 27.5 लाख लोग रहते हैं जो देश की आबादी का लगभग नौ फीसद हैं। इनमें से करीब 20 लाख लोग तमिल भाषा बोलते हैं।

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From business to tech, India inks key pact with Malaysia

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 09 Feb 2026

PM Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during the delegation-level talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday. ANI

Divya A
New Delhi, February 8

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Sunday held wide-ranging talks with his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim in Putrajaya, aimed at deepening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two nations with a special focus on artificial intelligence, defence and semiconductor sectors.

The discussions were followed by the exchange of several agreements and memoranda of understanding covering strategic, economic, technological and people-to-people engagement. Briefing reporters after the talks, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Secretary (East) P Kumaran said: "The two PMs reviewed bilateral cooperation across the full spectrum of our partnership, including trade, investments, defence, security, semiconductors, digital technologies, financial technologies, fintech, renewable energy, education, healthcare, culture, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges. They also had the opportunity to discuss key regional and global issues."

With Malaysia accounting for roughly 13% of global semiconductor trade, the two leaders sought to integrate India's design capabilities with Malaysia's manufacturing and packaging strengths, acknowledging the semiconductor industry's strategic importance to the global technology landscape.

In the energy sector, Malaysia's PETRONAS and Gentari are expanding their presence in India's solar and green hydrogen markets, aligning with a shared goal of achieving net-zero emissions. According to the joint statement, Malaysia also appreciated India's initiative in establishing the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

The Indian Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) and its Malaysian counterpart (MSIA) are now officially linked to stabilise supply chains against global shocks, added the statement. The two leaders also welcomed the outcomes of the Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee (MIDCOM) and its subcommittees, including the terms of reference on the establishment of a Strategic Affairs Working Group (SAWG) and Su-30 Forum. The Su-30 Forum enables the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) to share technical expertise, maintenance protocols, and spare parts strategies, thereby bypassing supply chain hurdles.

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US, Russia, Iran among 70 nations to join naval drill in Visakhapatnam

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 07 Feb 2026

India is gearing up for a significant naval spectacle, International Fleet Review (IFR)-2026, and hosting 70 countries, including Russia, Iran and the US, for the maritime exercise 'Milan-2026'.

It will host the IFR-2026 at Visakhapatnam on February 18. A day later, the week-long exercise will commence at the same venue. At the International Fleet Review-2026, INS Vikrant, India's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier, will be the centre of attraction.

The IFR is a prestigious naval ceremony, in which warships, submarines and aircraft from friendly nations assemble at sea to showcase their capabilities and foster maritime cooperation. This year, President Droupadi Murmu would review the fleet as India will host its third International Fleet Review, the earlier ones being in 2001 and 2016.

Exercise Milan-2026 would be one of the largest Maritime exercise in the region. Week-long drills will be conducted from February 19 to 26. A harbour phase on February 19 and 20, followed by a highly complex operational Sea Phase from February 21 to 25 in the Bay of Bengal. The sea phase in Bay of Bengal will have anti-submarine drills, air operations and complex and dynamic sea operations.

Notably, the US and Russia will participate together in the multi-lateral forum. Japan and Australia, both partners in the Quad with India and US, would also be a part of it. Besides the exercise Millan and the IFR, the city will also host the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) a Conclave of Chiefs, scheduled to be conducted from February 15 to 25. The IONS Conclave of Chiefs, during which the Indian Navy would assume chairmanship (2025-2027), will bring together Naval Chiefs from 25 members, 9 observers, and specially invited nations to deliberate on maritime security, HADR, and information sharing.

An International Maritime Seminar will gather maritime strategists, defence officials, academics and industry leaders to discuss contemporary issues, including maritime collaboration, technology and humanitarian support.

https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/india/us-russia-iran-among-70-nations-to-join-naval-drill-in-visakhapatnam/

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RRM to Lead the Indian Delegation to Saudi Arabia Participating in the 3rd World Defence Show 2026

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 06 Feb 2026

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth will lead a high-level Indian delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in the third World Defence Show (WDS) 2026, on February 08-09 2026. WDS is expected to host more than 700 exhibitors and around 400 official delegations. The Indian delegation will comprise senior officers from the Department of Defence Production and the Armed Forces.

As part of India's participation, RRM will inaugurate the first-ever India Pavilion at WDS, spread over an area of 400 square meters. The Pavilion will showcase India's growing indigenous capabilities in defence manufacturing and technology, featuring the country's prominent public sector defence enterprises, including Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), Munitions India Limited (MIL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), India Optel Limited (IOL), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Yantra India Limited (YIL), which will exhibit their products such as tanks, artillery gun systems, missiles, ammunition, radars, etc.

On the sidelines of WDS 2026, a bilateral meeting between Raksha Rajya Mantri and his Saudi Arabian counterpart is planned. RRM will also interact with representatives of leading Saudi Arabian industry bodies to enhance defence cooperation and industrial collaboration between the two countries.

The World Defence Show is a biennial international defence exhibition hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It holds significant strategic importance for the Indian Defence industry, serving as a vital platform to highlight India's indigenization initiatives, advanced technologies, and manufacturing capabilities, while fostering international partnerships in the Global Defence Ecosystem.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2224333&reg=3&lang=1

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Western Air Command hosts high-level joint operations conclave: All Domain Joint Operations (ADJO) Exercise 2026 Framework

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 06 Feb 2026

Headquarters Western Air Command successfully conducted a high-level Joint Operations Conclave on 05 and 06 February 2026 under All Domain Joint Operations (ADJO) Exercise 2026 Framework. The conclave was focussed on deepening intra-service and inter-service interactions at the operational level of warfare, with the objective of strengthening joint operational capabilities across the Indian Defence Forces in an increasingly complex multi-domain environment. The deliberations were attended by senior officers representing the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS), Indian Army, Indian Navy, Defence Space Agency (DSA) and Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) alongside senior leadership from the Indian Air Force.

In his inaugural address, Air Marshal JS Mann, Senior Air Staff Officer, Western Air Command, emphasised the paramount importance of jointness and integrated warfighting in contemporary and future conflicts. He highlighted the pressing requirement for an all-domain operational approach that achieves seamless integration across air, land, sea, space and cyber domains, thereby enabling decisive outcomes in contested and denied environments. Further, he emphasised on enhancing interoperability among the services, promoting domain-agnostic decision-making processes, strengthening sensor-to-shooter linkages and refining operational procedures for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

The Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit addressed the ADJO 2026 Conclave and highlighted the need to institutionalise joint mechanisms for integrated planning, intelligence sharing and capability prioritization. He stressed coherent inter-service responses and structured identification of capability gaps to strengthen comprehensive operational preparedness for future contingencies. He underscored the importance of advancing all-domain integration to achieve synergistic effects across services and deliver unified operational outcomes. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit advocated for accelerated doctrinal evolution and tri-service resource alignment to build strong unified operational capability and sustained strategic readiness.

Concluding the conclave, Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command delivered a comprehensive address in which he drew critical lessons from Operation Sindoor and elaborated on their far-reaching implications for the conduct of future warfare. He underscored the pivotal role of air power in generating decisive strategic effects, the essential need to synchronise surface manoeuvre with offensive air operations, and the strategic advantage offered by the employment of stand-off weapons.

Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra advocated a resolute shift away from legacy attrition-based models characteristic of the 1971 era, as well as from conventional Effects-Based Operations framework, toward a more agile, adaptive and fully integrated joint warfighting paradigm. He called particular attention to the imperative of identifying and bridging existing capability gaps, reinforcing convergence across all domains and laying a robust foundation for coordinated, effects-driven responses in the all-domain battlespace.

The All Domain Joint Operations Exercise 2026 constitutes an important milestone, which is expected to play a decisive role in building a truly interoperable and future-ready joint force capable of prevailing across the full spectrum of modern security challenges. This initiative reaffirms the steadfast commitment of the Indian Defence Forces to the principle of jointness, operational synergy and continuous adaptation in pursuit of national security objectives.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2224488&reg=3&lang=1

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Logistics of the military budget hike

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 07 Feb 2026

ONE of the biggest annual increases in defence sector spending, announced in the Union Budget on February 1, aims to address the rapidly changing nature of warfare. It also factors in the new arsenal okayed for a post-Operation Sindoor restructuring of the Indian armed forces' battle architecture.

As technology evolves, war fighting is increasingly becoming 'non-contact' — a reduced close-contact fight that would traditionally happen within rifle-shot or tank-shot range. This demands a sharper focus on long-range missiles, artillery with precision-strike ability, a robust air defence, the latest sensors and radars for surveillance, besides multiple types of drones for reconnaissance and attack.

ACCOUNTING FOR THE NUMBERS

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated Rs 7,84,678 crore for the defence sector, a jump of 15.19 per cent. Capital spending — needed for new weapons, systems, jets, ships, submarines and guns — has also gone up by an unprecedented 21.84 per cent and stands at Rs 2,19,306 crore.

Maj Gen Ashok Kumar (retd), director general of the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies, a think tank under the Ministry of Defence, says, "As the country develops a comprehensive national capability, it is essential to have a matching budget."

Capital spending now forms the biggest chunk of the military budget, accounting for 27.95 per cent. It is bolstered by an additional Rs 1,58,296 crore for operational readiness — deployment of forces in border areas, longer sea deployment of warships and an increase in flying hours for aircraft.

The budgetary allocation accounts for 2 per cent of the country's estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani (retd), director general of the Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategy Studies (CAPSS), an IAF-backed think tank, says, "For the moment, 2 per cent is adequate but it should be the base benchmark."

The Indian armed forces now align the war-fighting structure with a greater use of technology. MANAS RANJAN BHUI

> The 15.19 per cent jump in spending aims to address the changing nature of warfare, and restructuring of the armed forces' battle architecture

Almost 14.67 per cent of the Central government expenditure will be on the defence sector, the highest among all Central ministries.

JUMP IN CAPITAL ALLOCATION

The allocation of Rs 2,19,306 crore is intended to address 'committed liabilities'. During the ongoing fiscal, after Operation Sindoor (May 7-10, 2025), the Ministry of Defence (MoD) concluded contracts worth Rs 2.1 lakh crore. These projects will equip the armed forces with next-generation fighter aircraft, smart and lethal weapons, ships, submarines, UAVs and specialist vehicles.

Maj Gen Kumar opines that "the coming together of Pakistan, China and Turkiye triggered an urgent necessity to scale up defence capability; the government has taken positive steps to address it".

Capital allocation has a sharp focus on aircraft and aero-engines with a sum of Rs 63,733 crore. AVM Golani explains: "The role of the IAF in Operation Sindoor and the long-range precision weapons justify the increased allocation to the Air Force."

LOCAL PRODUCTION

At present, around 60 warships are under construction at Indian shipyards and domestic assembly lines are producing fighters jets, helicopters, artillery guns, and rifles — all funded from the capital budget.

Also in queue is the upcoming contract of the next-generation submarines being offered by ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) of Germany, in partnership with

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). It is expected to be inked this fiscal. The deal to make 114 Rafale jets in India is likely to be announced in the next fiscal.

The focus of the budget is self-reliance and a sum of Rs 1.39 lakh crore, that is 75 per cent of the capital acquisition, is for procurement through domestic industries as the Modi government seeks to ramp up self-reliance. Ashish Kansal, Chief Executive Officer of SMPP and Co-Chair, Defence and Homeland Security Committee of industry body FICCI, is confident that the domestic industry will absorb it. "The industry has steadily built capacity, capability, and quality over the past few years. The domestic ecosystem is increasingly capable of delivering on this opportunity," he says.

WHAT NECESSITATED THE HUGE OUTLAY?

India and Pakistan's four-day skirmish did not just define a modern battle, it triggered a change in the architecture of the Indian Army and spurred addition of technology in the Navy and the IAF. Changes are underway on multiple fronts, including on new equipment, as the nature of war gravitates towards having swift targeted strikes.

The Army structure now aligns war-fighting architecture with a greater use of technology as its units add loitering ammunition and swarm drones, all indicating an increase in non-contact warfare.

The IAF has set about bringing in sweeping changes to expand. The most significant is a proposal to increase the IAF's authorised fighter squadron strength from the long-standing 42 to 50 or higher, needed for a simultaneous two-front war with China and Pakistan.

An additional 97 Tejas Mark 1A jets have been ordered besides the 83 under production. Indigenous air defence systems — needed to protect airbases, logistics nodes, and critical infrastructure —are being fast-tracked.

The Navy is speeding up warship-making, adding to its fleet of maritime reconnaissance aircraft, utility helicopters, shipborne drones and development and deployment of autonomous boats.

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Fighter Jet, Set, Go

Source: The Economic Times, Dt. 08 Feb 2026

India's private sector may soon be given its most challenging assignment yet–build the country's fifth-generation fighter

Nirmal John

Last week, reports suggested that India's private sector is likely to be the preferred option to manufacture the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), the fifth-generation multirole stealth airplane, which is being developed for the country's air force and navy.

If it turns out that way, it will be a departure from the government's usual defence procurement strategy of using Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the manufacture of such aircraft, including the light combat aircraft, Tejas.

While HAL's shareholders have made their feelings clear over the last few days —the stock lost around 14% of its value since the turn of the month—involving the private sector in this complicated, costly endeavour is a step in the right direction. With caveats, of course.

CHALLENGING CURVE

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), under the Department of Defence Research and Development, is spearheading the development of the AMCA. In instances like the Tejas, HAL, being a PSU, was a natural choice as the main player to integrate and manufacture. That is likely changing now.

Air Vice Marshal (retd) Manmohan Bahadur reckons it will be good to get private players involved and to have another line going since HAL's order books are full with a large number of orders for the Tejas aircraft.

It will, however, be a demanding transition for India's private players. While the likes of Tata Advanced Systems, L&T and Bharat Forge are all being talked about as part of the shortlist to integrate and manufacture the fifth-generation aircraft, they have differing levels of expertise when it comes to projects of this nature.

Some are part of the global supply chain for the likes of Airbus and Boeing, others use their high-precision manufacturing capabilities for artillery, while a few have been working with ISRO, India's space agency, to build rockets. Being a lead integrator and manufacturer of a fifth-generation fighter, with its complexities and need for redundancies, is fundamentally a different order of challenge.

But it isn't as if the private sector is

A prototype of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft at the Aero India show in Bengaluru last year
PHOTO: REUTERS

starting on a blank page. As defence analyst Angad Singh points out, these companies have been building components and even entire sections of aircraft as a supplier for the global market.

The key challenge is in expanding their field of vision. It is a hard, high-stakes role that involves more than high-precision manufacturing. It is one where the company that wins the AMCA deal will be responsible for overall architecture, system integration, software's interplay with sensors and the lifecycle of the aircraft.

It is clear that private players will need some handholding.

HIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS

While some of that will come from ADA and the defence ministry itself, much will depend on the people who are hired.

G Mohan Kumar, former defence secretary, says the key challenge for any private player who gets the contract is to mobilise resources and manpower: "It is a question of putting together an entire ecosystem of people who can build the parts for it. We have some ecosystem already there for the Tejas."

That means, if all goes to plan, the AMCA contract will end up signalling a hiring spree from the manufacturer who wins it. Singh says, "Whoever wins will poach liberally from the existing ecosystem. Why would they not? The reality is that institutional memory can be bought."

It isn't really an option. Kumar says, "The private sector can bring in innovations because they can bring in the best people."

Expect a major spike in demand for both retired HAL and ADA hands as well as those who work up and down the aerospace ecosystem, even globally. As Singh points out, "They are not bound by government pay scales and recruiting rules. If you can write a cheque large enough, you can get anyone to stroll over."

Singh also warns the private sector against unrealistically low bidding. "You often see overambitious bidding. There is nothing that can prevent a super low bid. But when that happens, the programme has every chance of going off the rails. We have seen it in other sectors. Putting in a realistic bid is critical."

WHAT NEXT FOR HAL?

The hope across the ecosystem is that the private sector will show its efficiency through this contract.

Some of that hope is stemming from the need to show returns. Singh says, "No matter how the contract is administered, the private sector will have finance costs that HAL does not. HAL has massive cash reserves and no opportunity costs because it isn't an innovation-heavy creative company. Tata, for example, can't deploy ₹5,000 crore and not expect a handsome return from it because they could have deployed it elsewhere."

As Singh underlines, the private sector, by nature, is about working fast, because it is about efficiency of capital, which the public sector doesn't have to contend with.

So where does that leave HAL? With the speculation on its exclusion from the AMCA deal affecting its stock, it had to come out with a statement that the company "has not received any official communication in this regard".

While the Bengaluru-based company has, over the years, incurred the wrath of India's armed forces for delayed deliveries of aircraft, it nonetheless remains a key player in the ecosystem, with hundreds of aircraft on order, not to mention maintenance contracts from across the armed forces. That pipeline should take care of its balance sheet for well over a decade.

But there are lessons it must take away, a key one being the need to hasten its approach. Kumar believes one reason why HAL is not being automatically awarded such contracts is because, "HAL makes decisions very slowly. Nor do they take the kind of risks that the private sector will be able to."

In the long term, HAL should be spending its energy in solving that problem.

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INS Sudarshini completes maiden port call at Salalah and Oman

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 09 Feb 2026

The Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini successfully concluded her first port call at Salalah, Oman, on February 5, the defence ministry said on Sunday. The visit marked a key milestone in the ship's ambitious ten-month trans-oceanic voyage, Lokayan 26, aimed at showcasing India's rich maritime heritage and the ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is One Family) across the globe.

During the visit, the Commanding Officer of INS Sudarshini interacted with Captain Mohammad Al Ghailani, Southern Naval Area Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), and Captain Mohammad Al Mahari, Commanding Officer of Royal Navy of Oman Vessel Al Moazer.

The interactions highlighted historic seafaring links between India and Oman and reinforced the 'Bridges of Friendship' between the two navies. Continuing the professional engagement, the ship also hosted officers from the Royal Navy of Oman for a guided tour of the ship.

In a vibrant display of people-to-people connect, the sail training ship was open to visitors. More than 600 visitors, including schoolchildren, were provided a firsthand glimpse of the three-masted barque and were familiarised with the nuances of ocean sailing. INS Sudarshini now proceeds on her next leg of Lokayan 26, carrying forward India's timeless seafaring legacy across the oceans.

https://dailypioneer.com/news/ins-sudarshini-completes-maiden-port-call-at-salalah-and-oman

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कनाडा के साथ सुरक्षा सहयोग बढ़ाएंगे

Source: NavBharat Times, Dt. 09 Feb 2026

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

कनाडा में खालिस्तानी समर्थक हरदीप सिंह निज्जर की हत्या के बाद पटरी से उतरे द्विपक्षीय संबंधों के बाद भारतीय राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजित डोभाल ने पहली बार कनाडा का दौरा किया। इस दौरे में उन्होंने कनाडा के उच्च अधिकारियों से मुलाकात के अलावा, दोनों देशों के बीच सुरक्षा और लॉ एन्फोर्समेंट के क्षेत्र में द्विपक्षीय सहयोग पर आगे बढ़ने की दिशा में सहमति जताई।

सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजित डोभाल।

डोभाल ने 7 फरवरी को कनाडाई पीएम की सुरक्षा और इंटेलिजेंस सलाहकार नताली ड्रुइन से मुलाकात की। दोनों देशों के बीच इस बात पर सहमति बनी कि वे सुरक्षा और लॉ एन्फोर्समेंट लाइजन अफसरों की नियुक्ति करेंगे। इस फ्रेमवर्क के जरिए दोनों देश अपनी एजेंसियों के बीच और ज्यादा सहयोग क़ायम कर पाएंगे। इस सिस्टम के बाद दोनों देश अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठित अपराधियों के नेटवर्क, नशे के नेटवर्क को लेकर जानकारी साझा करने में मदद मिलेगी।

- राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजित डोभाल ने कनाडा का दौरा किया।
- दोनों देश सुरक्षा और लॉ एन्फोर्समेंट लाइजन अफसरों की नियुक्ति करेंगे।

इसके अलावा दोनों देश साइबर सिक्युरिटी पॉलिसी और जानकारी साझा के लिए दूसरे साइबर मैकेनिज्म पर सहयोग कायम करेंगे। साथ ही फ्रॉड और इमिग्रेशन से जुड़े मुद्दों पर भी चर्चा जारी रहेगी। बता दें कि भारत हाल के वर्षों में कनाडा में बढ़े संगठित अपराधों और कट्टरपंथी तत्वों के मुद्दे को उठाता रहा है।

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'फ्रेंड्स फॉर लाइफ' के माध्यम से और आगे बढ़ेगी सैन्य कूटनीति

Source: NavBharat Times, Dt. 09 Feb 2026

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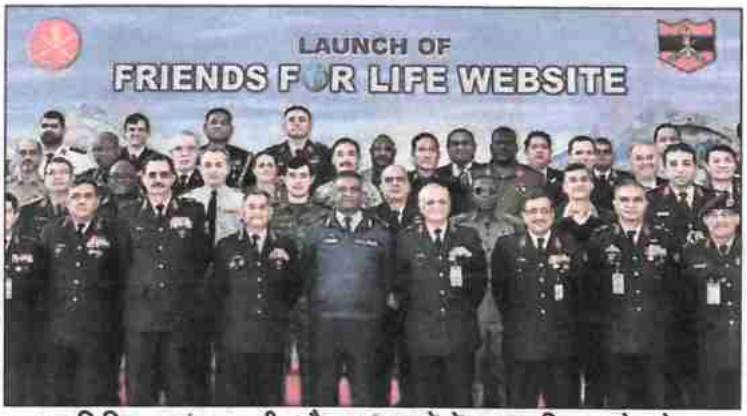
■ नई दिल्ली : डिफेंस डिप्लोमेसी में एक कदम और आगे बढ़ते हुए भारतीय सेना ने 'फ्रेंड्स फॉर लाइफ' नाम से एक खास डिजिटल पहल शुरू की है। इस वेबसाइट का मकसद उन मित्र देशों के सैन्य और पूर्व सैन्य अधिकारियों को एक साथ जोड़ना है, जिन्होंने अलग-अलग वक्त पर भारतीय सेना के प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में ट्रेनिंग ली है। इस मंच के जरिए ये अधिकारी आपस में जुड़ेंगे, अनुभव साझा करेंगे, पेशेवर संवाद को आगे बढ़ा सकेंगे।

भारतीय सेना के संस्थानों में ट्रेनिंग ले चुके विदेशी अधिकारी आएंगे एक प्लैटफॉर्म पर।

भारतीय सेना के मुताबिक, यह डिजिटल मंच भारतीय सेना के प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में साथ प्रशिक्षण ले चुके 99 देशों के सैन्य अधिकारियों और पूर्व छात्रों को जोड़ने का काम करेगा, ताकि उनके बीच पेशेवर संवाद बढ़ाया जा सके। भारतीय सेना का मानना है कि इससे भारतीय और विदेशी सैन्य अधिकारियों के बीच सहयोग और समझ को और मजबूती मिलेगी।

पिछले एक दशक में ही भारतीय सेना ने मित्र देशों के 21500 से अधिक सैन्य अधिकारियों को प्रशिक्षण दिया है। 'फ्रेंड्स फॉर लाइफ' के जरिए इन सभी को एक ग्लोबल नेटवर्क में जोड़ने की पहल की गई है। श्रीलंका की सेना के मौजूदा कमांडर लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल बीकेजीएम लासंथा रोड्रिगो भी इंडियन मिलिट्री अकेडमी के छात्र रहे हैं। इसी तरह नेपाल के सेना प्रमुख भी जनरल अशोक राज सिगडेल भी आईएमए के पूर्व छात्र हैं। बांग्लादेश, मलेशिया, भूटान के भी कई सीनियर अधिकारी भारतीय सेना के ट्रेनिंग संस्थानों में ट्रेनिंग ले चुके हैं। स्टाफ कॉलेज और नेशनल डिफेंस अकेडमी में अमेरिका, यूके, कनाडा, जापान, फ्रांस से भी सैन्य अधिकारी आते हैं।

भारतीय सेना के 34 अलग अलग इंस्टिट्यूट हैं, जिनमें मित्र देशों के सैन्य अधिकारी अलग अलग वक्त में ट्रेनिंग के लिए आते हैं। भारतीय सेना का ट्रेनिंग कमांड (ARTRAC) सभी तरह के प्रशिक्षण की जिम्मेदारी संभालता है।



यह डिजिटल मंच भारतीय सैन्य संस्थानों में साथ प्रशिक्षण ले चुके 99 देशों के सैन्य अधिकारियों और पूर्व छात्रों को जोड़ने का काम करेगा।

NBT Lens
खबरों के अंदर की बात

क्राइसिस में कैसे मददगार?

भारतीय सेना और दूसरे देशों के सैन्य अधिकारियों का कनेक्शन सिर्फ ट्रेनिंग या जॉइंट ऑपरेशन तक ही सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि क्राइसिस में भी यह कनेक्शन काम आता है। जब बांग्लादेश में शेख हसीना सरकार का तख्ता पलट हुआ तो उस वक्त भारत और बांग्लादेश के बीच बातचीत की एकमात्र कड़ी दोनों देशों के आर्मी चीफ थे। राजनीतिक स्तर पर भले ही रिश्ते में उतार चढ़ाव देखा गया, लेकिन आर्मी टु आर्मी कनेक्शन में कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ा। हाल ही में इंडियन आर्मी चीफ जनरल उपेंद्र द्विवेदी ने कहा था कि मेरी बांग्लादेश आर्मी चीफ से नियमित बातचीत होती है। हमारा मकसद ये है कि किसी तरह का मिसकम्युनिकेशन या गलतफहमी ना हो।

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Army rolls out alumni platform to deepen global military ties

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 09 Feb 2026

The Army has launched a unique platform — 'Friends for life'— to serve as a bridge connecting generations of military leaders from 99 countries who trained together at Indian Army training establishments. In the past decade alone, the Army has trained over 21,500 service personnel from friendly foreign countries. The portal was launched on February 5. The Army said it would allow strengthening professional engagement and rekindling bonds among Indian and foreign alumni.

At the launch, foreign services attachés from 39 friendly foreign countries were present. Through the launch, the Army is not only connecting its alumni but also weaving a global network of

friendships that will strengthen institutions, enhance collaboration, improve interoperability and contribute to deeper defence cooperation.

The aim is to foster strong bonds between students of friendly foreign countries and training establishments. The web portal will be a medium to reconnect and serve as a springboard for further involvements. The web portal has been developed in order to maintain a life-long connection between the training establishment. Sources said the use of the platform would be based on credentials — like a login and password. Each of the former students of foreign countries will be verified.

https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/india/army-rolls-out-alumni-platform-to-deepen-global-military-ties/

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जम्मू पहुंचें आर्मी चीफ, ऑपरेशनल तैयारी और सुरक्षा व्यवस्था परखी

Source: NavBharat Times, Dt. 07 Feb 2026

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■ नई दिल्ली : भारतीय सेना प्रमुख जनरल उपेंद्र द्विवेदी ने सेना की वाइट नाइट कोर (16वीं कोर) के जिम्मेदारी वाले इलाके का दौरा किया। यहां पिछले दो दिनों में ही दो अलग-अलग ऑपरेशंस में तीन आतंकियों को मार गिराया गया है। 16वीं कोर का इलाका पिछले एक महीने से लगातार सक्रिय है और यहां अलग अलग जगह आतंकियों की जानकारी मिलने पर घेराबंदी की हुई थी। कई जगह ऑपरेशंस अभी भी जारी हैं। जनरल द्विवेदी ने यहां मौजूदा सुरक्षा स्थिति की समीक्षा की और यहां तैनात यूनिट की ऑपरेशनल तैयारियों का आकलन किया। इस दौरान सेना प्रमुख को नगरोटा में मौजूदा सुरक्षा माहौल की जानकारी दी गई। इसमें आतंकवादी-रोधी ग्रिड, खुफिया तंत्र और दूसरे सुरक्षा बलों के साथ चलाए जा रहे जॉइंट ऑपरेशंस की डिटेल भी दी गई। जनरल द्विवेदी ने यहां विभिन्न सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के प्रतिनिधियों से बातचीत की और रिसोर्स के प्रभावी उपयोग, खुफिया जानकारी साझा करने और कॉर्डिनेटेड ऑपरेशंस के लिए सभी की सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि इन प्रयासों से इलाके की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था काफी मजबूत हुई है। कमांडर्स, अधिकारियों, अन्य सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के लोगों से बातचीत करते हुए सेना प्रमुख ने उनके पेशेवर रवैये की तारीफ की।

16वीं कोर के इलाके में आतंकियों के खिलाफ जारी है ऑपरेशंस

सेना प्रमुख जनरल उपेंद्र द्विवेदी (लेफ्ट) ने ईस्टर्न नेवल कमांड के फ्लैग ऑफिसर कमांडिंग-इन-चीफ वाइस एडमिरल संजय भल्ला (राइट) के साथ बैठक की।

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New START Ends: US seeks fresh nuclear treaty with Russia, China

Source: The Economic Times, Dt. 07 Feb 2026

The United States on Friday urged three-way talks with Russia and China to set new limits on nuclear weapons, after the last treaty between top nuclear powers Washington and Moscow expired.

Thomas DiNanno, the under secretary of state for arms control, told the UN Conference on Disarmament that the New START treaty, which was allowed to lapse on Thursday, had "fundamental flaws".

"Serial Russian violations, growth of more worldwide stockpiles and flaws in New START's design and implementation gives the United States a clear imperative to call for a new architecture that addresses the threats of today, not those of a bygone era," he told the conference at the United Nations' European headquarters in Geneva.

"As we sit here today, China's entire nuclear arsenal has no limits, no transparency, no declarations, had no controls," he lamented.

He added that "the next era of arms control can and should continue with clear focus, but it will require the participation of more than just Russia at the negotiating table".

The expiration of New START, which restricted the United States and Russia to deploying 1,550 nuclear warheads each, marks the first time in decades that the world finds itself without a treaty to curb the positioning of the planet's most destructive weapons, sparking fears of a fresh arms race.

US President Donald Trump did not accept a proposal from Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to keep New START's restrictions in place for another year, and called Thursday for a "new, improved and modernised treaty".

"New START does not allow the United States to credibly uphold both our strategic deterrence commitments to the American people and our extended deterrence commitments to our allies," DiNanno insisted. "We aim to improve upon New START in order to achieve a new, better strategic stability and arms control architecture that makes the world safer and more secure."

China has already publicly rejected joining disarmament negotiations, noting that its arsenal is much smaller, although it is rapidly growing.

China's ambassador Shen Jian reiterated that position on Friday, insisting to the disarmament body that "China's nuclear capabilities are nowhere near the level of those of the US or Russia". "China would not participate in nuclear disarmament negotiations at this stage."

Russia's ambassador Gennady Gatilov meanwhile insisted that any new nuclear talks should also include other nuclear-armed states such as France and Britain.

Russia "would be involved in such a process if the United Kingdom and France are also involved, who are military allies of the United States in NATO, which has declared itself a nuclear alliance", he told the conference. **AFP**

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Science & Technology News

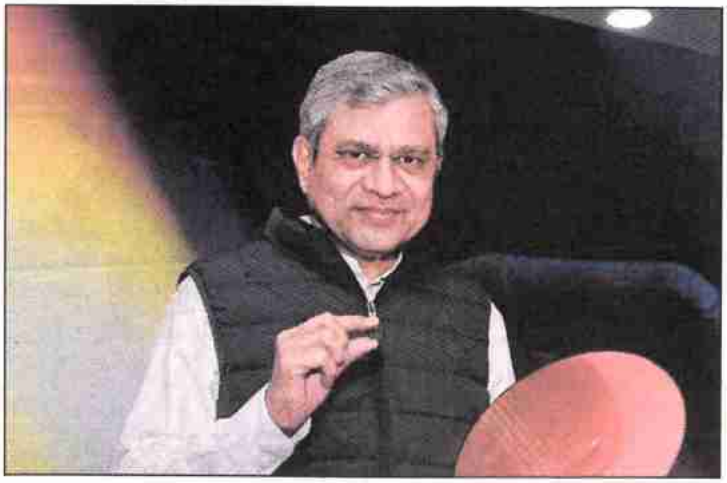
India unveils 2-nanometre chip design, advances AI and semicon ambitions

Source: The Statesman, Dt. 08 Feb 2026

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Bengaluru, 7 February

India on Saturday signalled what the Central government described as a defining moment in its artificial intelligence and semiconductor journey, with the unveiling of a 2-nanometer chip design at Qualcomm highlighting the country's growing role in advanced chip design alongside a rapid expansion of AI and data centre infrastructure.

Speaking at the Qualcomm event, union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said India is steadily moving beyond its long-standing identity as a software services and back-end chip development hub towards higher-value semiconductor design and AI-driven technologies.



The 2-nanometer wafer unveiled by Qualcomm contains dies with around 20 billion transistors each and integrates CPU and GPU capabilities. The minister said such advanced chips are critical for enabling AI computing at the edge, including applications in cameras, networking equipment, industrial systems and automobiles.

He clarified that while semiconductor manufacturing remains a complex, long-term journey, India's design capabilities have advanced significantly, with companies now undertaking end-to-end chip design work in the country, from product definition to silicon validation.

Linking semiconductor progress with AI infrastructure, Vaishnaw said India has already seen committed investments of around $70 billion in data centres, rising to nearly $90 billion when recent announcements are included.

He said industry discussions suggest that investments could rise substantially in the coming years as AI adoption accelerates, though he noted that such figures represent projections rather than firm commitments.

He added that the growth of data centres is beginning to create downstream opportunities, including interest in AI server manufacturing and advanced electronics production in India, supported by existing electronics manufacturing incentive schemes.

On AI compute capacity, the minister said India currently has around 10,000 GPUs available under common compute infrastructure and plans to add approximately 50,000 more in the near term as part of the next phase of the AI mission, with further decisions to be guided by inputs from an upcoming AI summit.

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India's Quantum Future Begins from Amaravati as "National Quantum Mission" Positions the State as Strategic Springboard: Dr Jitendra Singh

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 08 Feb 2026

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today declared that "this is not merely the foundation stone of a building, but the foundation stone of India's quantum future," as he addressed the Foundation Ceremony of Amaravati Quantum Valley in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.

Describing quantum technology as a strategic necessity rather than an option, the Minister said India has no choice but to lead in this domain if it seeks to secure its communication systems, defence architecture, healthcare innovation, and global technological standing in the coming decades.

The Foundation Ceremony of Amaravati Quantum Valley was attended by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, State Minister for IT, Electronics and Education Shri Nara Lokesh, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director IIT Madras, senior industry leaders including Dr Amit Singhee (IBM Research India), Dr Harrick Vin (TCS), Mr M. V. Satish (L&T), senior state officials, faculty members and students. The event featured the unveiling of the foundation plaque, launch of the Amaravati Quantum Valley logo, launch of IBM and TCS Quantum Cloud Services, establishment of the IBM–TCS Quantum Innovation Centre, announcement of a Quantum Talent Hub, Quantum Reference Facility by SRM University, Quantum-Safe Applications initiative, and exchange of multiple MoUs with nine industry partners, marking a coordinated industry–academia–government partnership.

Dr Jitendra Singh expressed deep appreciation for the leadership of Chief Minister Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, describing him as a leader who "lives in tomorrow and dreams of the day after tomorrow." Recalling his early exposure to the Chief Minister's technology-driven governance during the first term in Hyderabad's Hi-Tech City, he said the rapid progress seen in Andhra Pradesh over the past year reflects the true spirit of cooperative federalism and what Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi describes as the "double-engine" approach — alignment between the Centre and the State.

Referring to his visit to Visakhapatnam last week, the Minister cited the long-pending National Centre for Ocean Sciences project, conceived in 2006 and stalled for nearly two decades, which was completed within months after the present state government assumed office. The Centre will serve as a critical node for India's Deep Ocean Mission, further strengthening the Blue Economy vision announced by the Prime Minister from the Red Fort.

Dr Jitendra Singh noted that India today stands among a select group of nations with a dedicated National Quantum Mission. With an allocation of approximately ₹6,000 crore, the Mission spans 43 institutions across 17 States and 2 Union Territories, organised through four thematic hubs focusing on Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Sensing and Metrology, and Quantum Materials and Devices. The national objectives include developing quantum computers with up to 1,000 physical qubits within eight years, establishing secure ground-to-

ground quantum communication networks, enabling long-distance quantum communication, and achieving inter-city Quantum Key Distribution across 2,000 kilometres.

Addressing students present at the event, the Minister explained why quantum technology is central to the next industrial transformation. He stated that conventional computing and cybersecurity systems would remain vulnerable in a world where adversaries possess quantum computing capabilities. Quantum encryption, he explained, would make data virtually impossible to breach, potentially requiring astronomical timeframes to decode. In defence and cybersecurity, this offers unprecedented strategic protection.

He also spoke about transformative healthcare applications, including precision radiation therapies capable of targeting tumours without collateral damage, adapting dynamically to organ movement and enabling faster patient recovery. Quantum technology, he said, will similarly redefine satellite communication, secure communications infrastructure, and advanced sensing capabilities.

Dr Jitendra Singh observed that India may have entered the IT revolution later than some nations, but it will not repeat that delay in emerging technologies. With parallel missions in Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Space and Deep Ocean exploration, India is positioning itself at the forefront of the next global technological wave. He referred to the recently announced BioPharma Shakti initiative and noted that the global economy is steadily transitioning toward biotechnology, regenerative cycles, genetic sciences, software-driven systems, and quantum computing.

The Minister informed that India has already introduced B.Tech minors in Quantum Technology and is preparing to expand into M.Tech programmes. He discussed with the Chief Minister the possibility of launching structured quantum academic programmes in Andhra Pradesh, supported by trained faculty and institutional collaboration. He added that advanced fabrication facilities and central research infrastructure are being established and will be accessible to startups, researchers, and academic institutions. He also acknowledged the pioneering Research Park model initiated by IIT Madras, now being replicated across the country.

Dr Jitendra Singh emphasised that the era of working in silos is over. The success of Amaravati Quantum Valley lies in integrating government, industry, academia, and startups into a unified national effort. Opening the space sector to private players five years ago and expanding private participation in nuclear energy demonstrate the confidence of the present government in collaborative growth. India’s space economy has already grown from a fractional share to an $8 billion sector, with projections reaching $45 billion in the coming years due to this integrated approach.

Concluding his address, the Minister declared that India’s quantum journey begins from the sacred city of Amaravati and that Andhra Pradesh will serve as a springboard in India’s march towards Viksit Bharat. He assured full support from the Government of India for states that align their innovation ecosystems with national missions and reaffirmed that the collaboration between the Centre and Andhra Pradesh will accelerate India’s emergence as a global quantum leader.

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DST Strengthens India–Netherlands Cooperation in Green Hydrogen Research and Capacity Building

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 06 Feb 2026

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, today strengthened India–Netherlands scientific cooperation in clean energy with the launch of the India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme, and the hosting of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Groningen, Netherlands, and 19 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to establish an enabling academic cooperation framework in green energy and hydrogen research.

The India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme for which the Scheme Guidelines and Call for Proposals (CFP) was released today, is a national capacity-building initiative open to eligible Indian doctoral, postdoctoral, and faculty applicants across institutions. The fellowship programme was launched by Secretary Department of Science and Technology, Prof. Abhay Karandikar in the presence of Mr. Huib Mijnarends, Deputy Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India.

While launching the programme, Prof. Karandikar, Secretary, DST, said that focused international collaboration and targeted capacity-building initiatives are critical for advancing hydrogen technologies from research to deployment, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors aligned with India's clean energy transition goals. Mr. Huib Mijnarends, Deputy Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India, emphasised the alignment of Indo-Dutch cooperation in hydrogen and energy transition. Prof. Dr. Jouke de Vries, President, University of Groningen, underlined the role of sustained academic partnerships in addressing global energy challenges.

The India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme aims to strengthen India's deployment readiness in hydrogen technologies through structured exposure to advanced hydrogen ecosystems in the Netherlands, with emphasis on system integration, safety, techno-economic analysis, life-cycle assessment, and indigenisation pathways. The fellowship is designed to ensure that research outcomes directly contribute to national clean energy priorities.

DST also hosted the signing of the institution-to-institution MoU between the University of Groningen and 19 IITs, establishing an enabling framework for long-term academic cooperation in hydrogen and green energy research. The MoU would facilitate faculty and student exchange, joint research, and knowledge sharing, and operates without automatic financial commitments.

The high-level engagement reflected the shared commitment of India and the Netherlands to advance research, capacity building, and deployment-oriented innovation in green hydrogen, aligned with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, Energy Independence 2047, and Net-Zero 2070 objectives.

Professor Dhirendra S. Katti, Director IIT Goa; Prof. Venkappayya R. Desai, Director IIT Dharwad; Dr. Anita Gupta, Head CEST Division, DST; Dr. Ranjith Krishna Pai, Senior Director, HVIC and HFC Program Officer, CEST, DST and senior officials from other IITs were also present at the event. The initiatives mark a significant step in deepening Indo-Dutch collaboration and strengthening human capital for the emerging global hydrogen economy.

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