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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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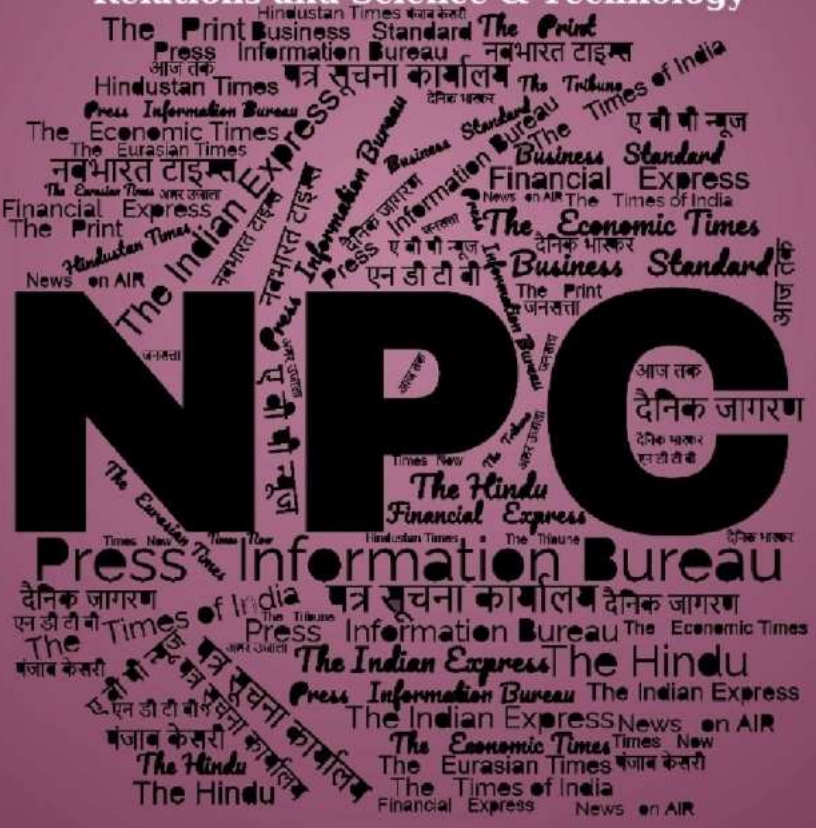

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Defence News

Deal Done on Tech Matters for F414 Coproduction in India : GE

Source: The Economic Times, Dt. 13 Apr 2026

CO ANNOUNCES CONTRACT TO SET UP DEPOT FACILITY IN INDIA FOR F404 ENGINES

Deal Done on Tech Matters for F414 Coproduction in India: GE

Move to boost IAF's attempts to reverse depleting squadron strength & grow fleet

Manu Pubby

New Delhi: India and the US achieved a key breakthrough on coproduction of fighter jet engines, with GE Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) reaching an agreement on technical matters. This is likely to be followed by the signing of a final contract later this year, in what would be a major boost to the Indian Air Force's attempts to reverse its depleting fighter squadron strength and grow the fleet, critical for a two-front war with China and Pakistan.

The US aerospace company also announced the signing of a contract with IAF for setting up a depot facility for F404 engines that currently powers the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), seen as a major future backbone of the air force.

Rita Flaherty, vice president, sales and business development for defence and systems at GE Aerospace, told ET that the "hardest part" of technical discussions, which include a complex and deep transfer of technology for the more-advanced F414 engines to India, have recently been concluded.

"GE Aerospace is pleased to announce significant progress regarding F414 coproduction today, having reached agreement on technical matters related to the work," she said. "This agreement marks a significant step forward in strengthening economic growth and advancing national security interests in both India and the US and further expands the 40-year partnership between GE Aerospace and HAL," said Flaherty, who was visiting India for the stakeholder discussions.

Terming it as a "landmark agreement", she said this would result in transfer of manufacturing technology of the powerful engine, supporting India's mission of moving towards self-reliance. **Flaherty said GE is transferring manufacturing technology to India and owns about 80% of the engine's intellectual property rights. The balance is held by other US suppliers.**

"These are extraordinarily capable machines, but they're also complex," she said. "We can count on one hand all the companies in the world that can do this kind of capability, and now we are bringing this to India, so India can do it for themselves."

GE and HAL will now move to the next phase of holding commercial discussions. These are expected to take some time as global prices for components have risen significantly in the past months. The final signing of the contract is expected this financial year, followed by HAL setting up a manufacturing facility in India with GE's assistance. The plan is to have the facility up and running within two years of contract signing.

As part of the deal, 99 engines will be manufactured in India, powering the Mk2 variant of LCA. IAF has projected a demand for 120-130 Tejas Mk2 fighters, which, if accepted by the government, is likely to swell the order size beyond 99 engines. In addition to LCA, the first two squadrons of the futuristic Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) are also likely to be powered by the same engine.

Flaherty underlined that GE is interested in continuing discussions with India for developing higher thrust engines of the 120kN class for next generation fighter jets.

On F404 engines for LCA Mk1a, which have faced significant delays, Flaherty said the sixth engine has arrived in India and that GE is focused on timely deliveries, also considering that there is no compromise on safety and quality standards. On the new depot facility for F404, she said it would be owned, operated, and maintained by IAF, with GE providing technical inputs, training, support staff and ensuring supply of necessary spares and specialised equipment.

Next Phase of GE-HAL Pact

Commercial discussions to take some time as component prices have risen significantly

Final signing of contract expected this financial year

HAL will then set up a manufacturing facility with GE's assistance

Plan is to have the facility ready within two years of contract signing

FINALLY, AFTER SIGNIFICANT DELAYS

On F404 engines for LCA Mk1a, Flaherty said 6th engine has arrived in India and GE is focused on timely deliveries

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Navy to review operational posture amid war in W Asia

Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 13 Apr 2026

Navy to review operational posture amid war in W Asia

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy will carry out a comprehensive review of its operational posture to protect the country's maritime interests, and examine issues related to capability development and the service's strategic alignment with national security objectives during an upcoming top conference, the navy said on Sunday.

Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi will chair the three-day biannual Commanders' Conference 2026, which begins on April 14.

"This edition of the conference is important in light of swift naval deployments to safeguard India's energy security, amidst the ongoing conflict in West Asia and the convergence of multi-national forces in the Indian Ocean Region," the navy said in a statement.

The navy has deployed several warships in the Gulf of Oman to escort India-flagged vessels exiting the Strait of Hormuz, which is at the centre of military tensions amid the US-Israel war with Iran.

The top commanders will review and assess plans to address multi-dimensional challenges in the current geo-strategic environment, the navy said. "Alongside security imperatives, the deliberations will focus on achieving decisive operational success, enhancing blue-water capabilities, training, human resource management, sustainable maintenance practices, effective employment of uncrewed systems, operational logistics, and other key enablers for combat readiness of platforms," the statement added.

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

The navy leadership will also review the implementation of the service's artificial intelligence roadmap, data-driven technologies for seamless operations, inter-services coordination, and technology-driven response mechanisms post Operation Sindoor.

The operation marked New Delhi's direct military response to the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed. India launched the operation in the early hours of May 7 last year and struck terror and military installations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Interactions are aimed at enhancing interoperability and jointness, provide a broader perspective on the national security architecture, and foster a collaborative approach to address future maritime challenges. "The forum serves as a platform for close interaction with national leadership, setting a strategic direction for the naval plans," the statement added.

The conference is taking place days after the navy commissioned its newest nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Aridaman, into service. It was built under a highly classified strategic programme to bolster the sea leg of the country's nuclear triad—the ability to launch strategic weapons from land, air and sea.

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इंडियन एयरफोर्स को चाहिए US के MK-84

Source: NBT, Dt. 13 Apr 2026

इंडियन एयरफोर्स को चाहिए US के Mk-84 जैसा हवाई बम

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नई दिल्ली : इंडियन एयरफोर्स को अमेरिका के Mk-84 जैसा हवाई बम चाहिए। इस स्वदेशी बम के लिए एयरफोर्स ने स्वदेशी कंपनियों से जानकारी मांगी है। इसमें बहुत ज्यादा विस्फोटक शक्ति होती है, जिससे बड़ा धमाका होता है।

बंकर का भी काल बन सकता है: दुश्मन के बंकर, इमारत, गोदाम जैसे मजबूत ठिकानों को नष्ट करने के लिए इसका इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। Mk-84 को आधुनिक सिस्टम के साथ जोड़कर इसे प्रिसिसन (सटीक) बम भी बनाया जा सकता है। इंडियन एयरफोर्स ने 1000 किलो के हवाई बम के डिजाइन, विकास और खरीद के लिए जानकारी मांगी है। यह प्रक्रिया रक्षा खरीद प्रक्रिया (DAP 2020) के तहत होगी। इसमें टेल यूनिट और अन्य जरूरी उपकरण भी शामिल होंगे। यह प्रोजेक्ट Make-II (इंडस्ट्री फंडेड) के तहत शुरू होगा और बाद में Buy (Indian–IDDM) कटैगरी में खरीदी की जाएगी।

अभी ऐसे बम विदेश से खरीदे जाते हैं: यह बम भारी विस्फोट करने वाला और दुश्मन पर ज्यादा दबाव डालने में सक्षम होगा। इसे इस तरह बनाया जाएगा कि यह एयरफोर्स के पास मौजूद रूसी और पश्चिमी दोनों तरह के फाइटर जेट में इस्तेमाल हो सके। अभी ऐसे बम विदेश से खरीदे जाते हैं।

पहले चरण में 6 प्रोटोटाइप होंगे: ये प्रोजेक्ट दो चरणों में होगा। पहले चरण में 6 प्रोटोटाइप (टेस्ट मॉडल) बनाए जाएंगे, जिनमें असली और डमी दोनों शामिल होंगे। इसके बाद उनके परीक्षण होंगे और जरूरी तकनीकी मानकों को अंतिम रूप दिया जाएगा। इस चरण में कम से कम 50 पर्सेंट सामग्री भारत में बनी होनी चाहिए।

Mk-84 है यूएस का एक भारी हवाई बम, जिसे लड़ाकू विमान से गिराया जाता है

जनरल पर्पस बम कई तरह के लक्ष्यों में इस्तेमाल होता है

900-1000 किलो वजन होता है इसका

दूसरे चरण में 600 बम की खरीद

दूसरे चरण में योग्य कंपनियों से 600 बम खरीदे जाएंगे। प्रोजेक्ट में EoI जारी होने से लेकर कॉन्ट्रैक्ट साइन होने तक 2.5 साल लगेंगे। डिजाइन, टेस्टिंग, मूल्यांकन और अन्य प्रक्रियाएं शामिल होंगी। सभी टेस्ट भारत में ही तय जगहों पर किए जाएंगे। एयरफोर्स के पास मौजूद प्लैटफॉर्म से ये टेस्ट किए जाएंगे।

विदेशी कंपनियों से साझेदारी?

इसमें भारतीय कंपनियां (प्राइवेट सेक्टर सहित) हिस्सा ले सकती हैं। जरूरत पड़ने पर विदेशी कंपनियों के साथ साझेदारी भी हो सकती है लेकिन डिजाइन और निर्माण में भारतीय हिस्सेदारी जरूरी होगी।

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US, India Air Chiefs Hold Key Talks To Deepen Defence Cooperation

Source: Business World, Dt. 13 Apr 2026

The interactions centred on boosting interoperability, expanding joint training initiatives, and advancing capability development between the two forces

The Air Chiefs of the United States and India held high-level discussions in Arlington aimed at strengthening bilateral defence ties, the Indian Air Force said.

The interactions centred on boosting interoperability, expanding joint training initiatives, and advancing capability development between the two forces.

In a post on X, the Indian Air Force noted that US Air Force Chief of Staff General Kenneth Wilsbach hosted Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh with full ceremonial honours. The talks with senior US Air Force leadership covered areas such as operational coordination, shared learning, and future collaboration. The visit also featured engagements at Peterson Space Force Base and Nellis Air Force Base, along with a familiarisation sortie in an F-15EX fighter jet.

On 9 April, Air Chief Marshal Singh also visited Peterson Space Force Base, where he held strategic discussions with General Gregory M Guillot, Commander of US NORTHCOM.

Welcoming the Indian Air Chief, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor highlighted the importance of expanding bilateral cooperation.

The engagements reflect the growing strategic alignment and operational synergy between the two nations. The Indian Air Force described the discussions as a “productive exchange of perspectives on complex operational modalities,” underscoring the increasing depth of the defence partnership.

Air Chief Marshal Singh, who arrived in the US on 6 April, was received by Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who emphasised the visit’s role in further strengthening ties and sustaining momentum in India-US air force cooperation.

https://www.businessworld.in/article/us-india-air-chiefs-hold-key-talks-to-deepen-defence-cooperation-601906

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अमेरिकी युद्धोन्माद को रोकने मैं भारत , रूस और चीन की भूमिका अहम : ईरान

Source: Dainik Jagaran, Dt. 13 Apr 2026

अमेरिकी युद्धोन्माद को रोकने में भारत, रूस और चीन की भूमिका अहम : ईरान

मुंबई, एएनआइ : मुंबई में ईरान के महावाणिज्यदूत सईद रजा मोसयेब मोतलाघ ने बढ़ते तनाव के बीच क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता स्थापित करने में प्रमुख वैश्विक शक्तियों, विशेषकर भारत की भूमिका की सराहना की है। नई दिल्ली की कूटनीति के प्रति अटूट प्रतिबद्धता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए मोतलाघ ने कहा कि भारत ने चीन और रूस के साथ मिलकर सैन्य हस्तक्षेप की बजाय शांति की बहाली को प्राथमिकता दी है। उन्होंने कहा कि अमेरिकी युद्धोन्माद को रोकने में भारत, रूस और चीन की भूमिका अहम होगी।

तीनों देश चाहते हैं शांति: मोतलाघ ने बताया, "भारत, चीन और रूस ने अपने हितों को जोखिम में डालकर भी संघर्ष में हस्तक्षेप न करके यह प्रदर्शित किया है कि वे शांति चाहते हैं। उन्होंने अमेरिकी हमले को उचित नहीं माना और न ही उसका समर्थन किया, न ही उन्होंने ईरान को सैन्य सहायता देने की स्थिति में खुद को रखा।"

महावाणिज्यदूत ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि यद्यपि इन शक्तियों ने जिम्मेदार वैश्विक हितधारकों के रूप में कार्य किया है, फिर भी वाशिंगटन की ओर से पारस्परिक सहयोग की कमी के कारण तनाव कम करने का मार्ग अवरुद्ध है।

ईरान का दावा, नेतन्याहू के फोन से पलट गई शांति वार्ता

जागरण न्यूज नेटवर्क, नई दिल्ली: अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच इस्लामाबाद में हुई शांति वार्ता के विफल होने के बाद एक नया विवाद सामने आया है। ईरान ने आरोप लगाया है कि बातचीत के दौरान इजरायली पीएम बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू के फोन काल ने संभावित समझौते को पटरी से उतार दिया। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, ईरान के विदेश मंत्री सैयद अब्बास अराघची ने इंटरनेट मीडिया पर कहा कि वार्ता के बीच नेतन्याहू द्वारा उपराष्ट्रपति जेडी वेंस को किए गए फोन काल ने बातचीत का फोकस बदल दिया और इसे इजरायल के हितों की ओर मोड़ दिया। आरोप लगाया कि अमेरिका वार्ता के जरिए वह हासिल करना चाहता था, जो युद्ध के जरिए नहीं कर सका।

वार्ता के बाद ईरानी राष्ट्रपति व पुतिन ने की फोन पर बात

पेजेश्कियान और पुतिन● फाइल

तेहरान, एएनआइ: शांति वार्ता विफल होने के बाद ईरान के राष्ट्रपति मसूद पेजेश्कियान ने रूस के राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन से फोन पर बातचीत की। ईरान के राष्ट्रपति कार्यालय ने एक्स पर एक बयान साझा किया। इसके मुताबिक, दोनों नेताओं ने बातचीत के दौरान क्षेत्रीय एवं अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर हो रहे ताजा घटनाक्रमों की समीक्षा की, जिसमें क्षेत्र में चल रहे युद्धविराम की मौजूदा स्थिति भी शामिल थी।

एएनआइ के अनुसार, भारत में ईरान के सर्वोच्च नेता के प्रतिनिधि अब्दुल मजीद हकीम इलाही ने अयातुल्ला अली खामेनेई की मौत के बाद भारत सरकार और यहां के लोगों के समर्थन का आभार व्यक्त किया है। ईरानी सांस्कृतिक केंद्र, दिल्ली में शहीद-ए-उम्मत के चेहलुम के अवसर पर आयोजित शोक सभा में इलाही ने कहा कि भारतीय जनता की प्रतिक्रिया साझा सिद्धांतों के प्रति समर्पण को रेखांकित करती है।

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Indian army contingent departs for India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise dustlik

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 12 Apr 2026

The Indian Army contingent departed today for the 7th edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military Exercise DUSTLIK. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted at Gurumsaray Field Training Area, Namangam, Uzbekistan from 12 to 25 April 2026. Exercise DUSTLIK is a yearly event conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan. Last edition was conducted at Foreign Training Node, Aundh (Pune) in April 2025.

The Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 60 personnel is being represented by 45 personnel from the Indian Army, majorly from a Battalion of the MAHAR Regiment and 15 personnel from the Indian Air Force. The Uzbekistan contingent also comprises of approximately 60 personnel, from Uzbekistan Army and Air Force.

Aim of Exercise DUSTLIK is to foster military cooperation and enhance combined capabilities to execute joint operations in semi-mountainous terrain. It would focus on high degree of physical fitness, joint planning, joint tactical drills and basics of special arms skills. The Exercise will also establish a unified operational algorithm between the command-and-control structures of both the contingents for planning and execution of joint operations.

Key operational aspects to be practiced include land navigation, strike missions on enemy bases and seizure of enemy-held areas. The Indian contingent will take the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the operational procedures and drills of the Uzbekistan Armed Forces and share own operational experiences with the Uzbekistan contingent. The joint training will culminate in a 48-hour validation exercise aimed at validating the tactical drills for joint operations, emphasising on Preparation & Execution of Joint Special Operations, aimed at Neutralisation of Unlawful Armed Groups.

Exercise DUSTLIK will enable the two sides to share their best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures of conducting joint operations and will further strengthen interoperability, operational synergy and joint command and control coordination between the contingents. The Exercise will facilitate developing bonhomie and camaraderie between soldiers of both the countries. This will also enhance the level of defence cooperation, further fostering bilateral relations between the two friendly nations.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2251300&reg=3&lang=1

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INS Trikand concludes port call at Mombasa, Kenya

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 12 Apr 2026

INS Trikand, a frontline guided missile frigate of the Indian Navy, concluded her port call at Mombasa, Kenya, on **10 Apr 2026.**

The port call coincided with the visit of VAdm Krishna Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, to Kenya. **INSAS rifles and ammunition were formally handed over by FOC-in-C, West to Maj Gen Paul Owuor Otieno, Commander of the Kenya Navy, during a formal ceremony onboard the ship.**

Activities conducted during the stay alongside include handling and maintenance of small arms and ammunition, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS), cross deck visits, community service, sports fixtures, and yoga. Capt Sachin Kulkarni, Commanding Officer INS Trikand, called on Brig Mohammed Shee Shemote, Commander of the Kenya Navy Fleet. A cultural evening was also held onboard the ship.

The ship has proceeded for further operational deployment. The port call at Mombasa reflects India's vision of ***MAHASAGAR*** **- Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions,** and will serve to further strengthen camaraderie, mutual cooperation, and bilateral relations.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2251251&reg=3&lang=1

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Indian Navy to host first edition of commanders' conference - 2026 at New Delhi

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 12 Apr 2026

First edition of Indian Navy's biannual Commanders' Conference 2026 is scheduled over a period of three days at **Nausena Bhawan, New Delhi,** from **14 Apr to 16 Apr 2026**. The Apex Level Conference offers a stage for comprehensive review of Navy's operational posture to protect national maritime interests, capability development and strategic alignment with national security objectives.

This edition holds significant importance in the light of **swift naval deployments to safeguard India's Energy Security, amidst ongoing conflict in West Asia with convergence of Multi-National Forces (MNFs)** in the Indian Ocean Region. The Conference also bears prominent significance in reaffirming Navy's operational doctrine, inter-services coordination and technology driven response mechanisms post 'Op Sindoor'.

The Conference features addresses by the Chief of Defence Staff and the Home Secretary, and embedded discussions with senior naval leadership. Interactions are aimed at enhancing interoperability and jointness, and deriving a broader perspective on national stability, security architecture, and collaborative approach to address future maritime challenges. The forum serves as a platform for close interaction with national leadership, setting a strategic direction for the naval plans.

The Chief of the Naval Staff, along with the operational commanders and senior naval leadership, will review and assess plans to address multi-dimensional challenges in current geo-strategic environment. Alongside security imperatives, the deliberations will focus on achieving decisive operational success, enhancing blue-water capabilities, training, human resource management, sustainable maintenance practices, effective employment of uncrewed systems, Operational Logistics, and other key enablers for combat readiness of platforms. Discussions are also planned to review implementation of Artificial Intelligence roadmap for Pan Navy solutions and data-driven technologies for seamless operations.

On a broader canvas, Navy's apex leadership will review overall preparedness to deliver military success when directed by the Government, in line with Indian Navy's four roles as elaborated in Indian Maritime Doctrine (IMD). It would entail focus on sustained operations, expanding international cooperation, in addi-

tion to furthering Government of India's vision of ***Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across Regions (MAHASAGAR)***, and efforts towards indigenisation and innovation. The deliberations during the Conference would certainly aim towards promoting **Indian Navy as the 'Preferred Security Partner' in the IOR and Indo-Pacific region**.

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Raksha Mantri & Uttar Pradesh CM jointly inaugurate state-of-the-art Laser, Light & Sound Show at Smritika War Memorial, Lucknow Cantt

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 11 Apr 2026

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath jointly inaugurated a state-of-the-art Laser, Light and Sound Show at Smritika War Memorial, Lucknow Cantonment in Uttar Pradesh on April 11, 2026. The approximately 30-minute multimedia show in Hindi narrated the Indian Army's history, operational achievements and contributions to nation-building through advanced projection, sound & lighting technologies. The show will be held on a daily basis in the evening at the Smritika War Memorial and will soon be open to the public.

The multimedia presentation provided an overview of India's major wars, specifically underscoring key operational aspects of the 1947-48, 1962, 1965 and 1971 conflicts, as well as the distinguished contributions during Operation MEGHDOOT and Operation VIJAY. The Central Command's pivotal role in various operations prominently featured during the show. Furthermore, it highlighted the unmatched bravery of Param Vir Chakra awardees from the Awadh region, interwoven with a concise overview of Awadh's deep-rooted martial traditions and its distinguished contribution to the nation's defence.

The show also included the Indian Army's continuous modernisation and transformation in response to evolving threats and the changing dynamics of warfare. Special focus was accorded to the Indian Defence Industry's recent advancements, first use of which was showcased during Operation SINDOOR and the emergence of Uttar Pradesh as a nucleus of Aatmanirbharta initiatives, epitomised by the state's defence corridor.

To facilitate and showcase this Laser, Light and Sound Show, the Smritika War Memorial premises are undergoing a comprehensive upgrade. In addition to the installation of state-of-the-art projectors and speakers for the show and installation of murals depicting new-generation military equipment and war trophies, a modern amphitheatre has been built. Furthermore, three dedicated mural walls are being constructed, which will serve both as prominent displays of military history and as dynamic canvases for the laser, light, and sound show. The initiative has been executed by HQ Central Command in partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation.

The Smritika War Memorial in Lucknow Cantonment, stands as an enduring tribute since 1994, to the valour, sacrifice and indomitable spirit of the soldiers of the Indian Defence Forces. Established under the aegis of HQ Central Command, this memorial is a cornerstone in the cultivation of national pride, the preservation of military heritage and the promotion of awareness among the civilian populace, particularly the youth.

Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Brajesh Pathak, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command Lt Gen Anindya Sengputa, other senior officers of the Indian Army and the state government were present on the occasion.

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National security is a collective duty, its strength is determined through unity, discipline & awareness among people: Raksha Mantri

“No individual can remain passive in the prevailing global uncertainties; People must abide by the law, reject misinformation & place national interests above their own”

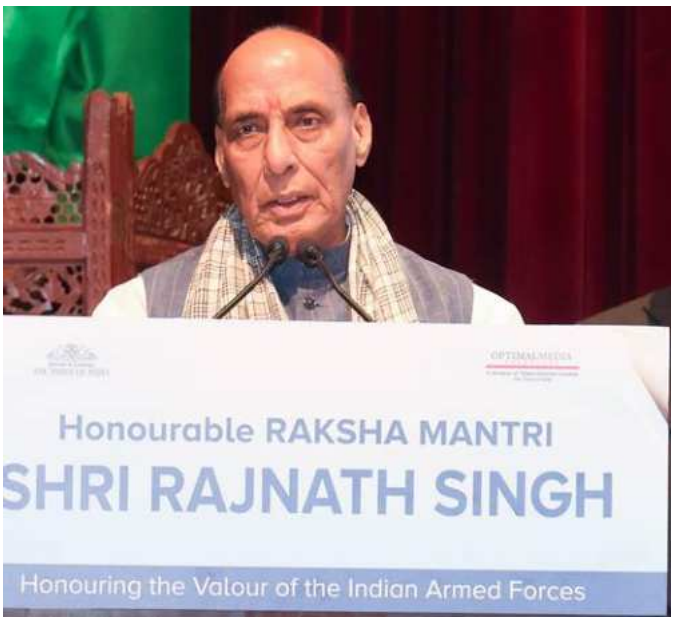
“India surrounded by various hostile actors; Optimum resource utilisation is the need of the hour”

“Misinformation & rumors destabilise society; Accurate & responsible information must reach public through media”

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 11 Apr 2026

“National security, an indispensable pillar of India’s journey towards Viksit Bharat, is a collective duty of every citizen, and not the sole responsibility of the defence forces,” said Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at an event in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on April 11, 2026. He asserted that while soldiers remain the first line

of defence, the strength of national security is equally determined through unity, discipline and awareness among the people.



Underlining that no individual can afford to remain passive in the face of evolving challenges and prevailing global uncertainties, Raksha Mantri called upon the people to act responsibly and with a deep sense of commitment. “Safeguarding national interests requires coordinated efforts across all sections of society. The citizens must contribute meaningfully to national security by abiding by the law, rejecting misinformation, and placing the nation’s interests above personal gains. As a nation, we find ourselves surrounded by various hostile actors. We need to ensure optimum utilisation of every resource at our disposal,” he added.

Terming ‘information’ as a powerful tool in today’s rapidly evolving landscape, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that misinformation and rumors have the potential to create instability within the society. He emphasised that the role of the media, therefore, becomes critical in ensuring that accurate and responsible information reaches the public. “The media is not merely a medium to disseminate news, it is a powerful institution that shapes public opinion. It must recognise that if sensitive issues pertaining to national security are misrepresented, driven by a pursuit of sensationalism, the repercussions could be severe. The media, a key partner in nation-building, bears the responsibility of ensuring that the content it presents serves national interest and does not fuel unnecessary fear or confusion,” he added.

Reiterating that the Government, headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, makes no compromise on matters concerning national security, Raksha Mantri stated that equal priority is being accorded to the welfare measures as well as bolstering the defence capabilities in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. He added that strong emphasis is being laid to achieve Aatmanirnbharta in defence to ensure that the defence forces are equipped with state-of-the-art weapons/platforms manufactured on the Indian soil.

Highlighting the success of the self-reliance efforts being made by the Government, Shri Rajnath Singh said that the annual defence production touched a record high figure of Rs 1.51 lakh crore in the Financial Year 2024-25, with defence exports soaring to an all-time high of Rs 38,424 crore in 2025-26, a staggering increase of 62.66% over the previous financial year. He hoped to achieve the target of Rs 50,000 crore worth of defence exports by 2029-30. “Our efforts are laying the bedrock for an Aatmanirbhar & Sashakt Bharat. Given the pace at which we are advancing, India will soon become self-reliant in the defence sector, and find itself among the leading nations of the world,” he added.

Raksha Mantri underlined that Viksit Bharat is not merely about physical infrastructure, it is also about fostering a society rooted in mutual responsibility, where no one is left behind. He stressed on the need to emulate, at the national level, the quality of teamwork that the soldiers reflect through ‘unit cohesion’ even in the most adverse battlefield conditions. This spirit must guide the nation’s journey forward to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat, he said.

As part of the event, Shri Rajnath Singh felicitated War Heroes, including Gallantry award recipient Subedar Major Retd. (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav; Next-of-Kin of Subedar and Honorary Captain Karam Singh, Company Quartermaster Havildar Abdul Hamid, Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal, Captain Vikram Batra, Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey & Brigadier Mohammad Usman; and Veer Naris of the fallen heroes, honouring their bravery & sacrifice in the service of the nation.

Raksha Mantri paid glowing tributes to the bravehearts such as Major Somnath Sharma, Naik Jadunath Singh, Company Quartermaster Havildar Abdul Hamid, Captain Vikram Batra and Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey. Their tales of valour, he said, continue to inspire the people, especially the youth, and instill in them

the values of courage, patriotism, and a strong sense of duty, along with the spirit of sacrifice. He exuded confidence that the stories of the Gallantry award winners will serve as a guiding force in shaping the life journeys of the youth.

Shri Rajnath Singh described the families of the brave soldiers as an invisible pillar of strength that keeps the morale high of those serving the motherland, voicing the Government's resolve of 'protecting India's sovereignty' and 'maintaining the dignity of its soldiers'. He urged the people to honor the invaluable contribution of these families towards national security. "Whenever I interact with the families of the fallen heroes, I do sense their grief, but deep within lies a profound sense of pride, free from any complaint. Such resilience originates from a culture where sacrifice is revered as the supreme value," he said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Brajesh Pathak and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command Lt Gen Anindya Sengputa were among the dignitaries who attended the event.

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IAF conducts maintenance command commanders' conclave 2026

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 11 Apr 2026

The Maintenance Command Commanders' Conclave was held at Vayusena Nagar, Nagpur on 10 & 11 Apr 26. Air Marshal Yalla Umesh, Air Officer Commanding in-Chief, Maintenance Command, presided over the Conclave. Focused on the theme, "Maintenance Command in Mission Mode to Support Operations", the conclave brought together senior leadership and key stakeholders to review maintenance strategies and future initiatives for operational preparedness. The focus was on enhancing efficiency, optimising resource utilisation and strengthening maintenance support systems towards sustained operational readiness, technological integration with modernisation and following the best practices to address emerging challenges.

The AOC-in-C, Maintenance Command, in his address appreciated the vital role being played by the Maintenance Command and allied Units towards sustenance of various fleets and systems. He was apprised of the

efforts initiated towards achieving self-reliance, thereby reducing dependence on the foreign OEMs. He appreciated the efforts towards *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan* and Capability Enhancement. In his concluding remarks, the Air Marshal emphasised for a need to refine the current maintenance operations, strategic planning, innovation, indigenisation, adaptation of advanced technologies and personnel training to ensure continued growth. He stressed on active participation of all personnel in the transformative changes that have been initiated towards nation building.

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Science & Technology

"TDB-DST supports casey aviation pvt. ltd. Under india–uk collaborative r&d programme for advanced hybrid propulsion in unmanned aviation"

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 13 Apr 2026

The Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, has signed an agreement with Casey Aviation Private Limited, Gurugram for the project titled “Boost Electric Jump Take-Off (BE-JTO).” The Board has sanctioned a conditional grant under the India–UK Collaborative R&D Programme for Industrial Sustainability, in partnership with UK-based ARC Aerosystems Ltd.

The TDB-supported project focuses on the development of an advanced hybrid propulsion-based Jump Take-Off (JTO) system, aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of unmanned and light aircraft platforms. The project envisages the establishment of a dedicated test bench facility for validating rotorcraft propulsion systems, which will serve as a critical infrastructure for testing and optimization of next-generation aerial mobility technologies.

The proposed solution integrates hybrid propulsion technologies to enable short or near-vertical take-off capabilities for platforms such as gyrocopters and unmanned aerial systems. By enabling reduced take-off distances and improved operational flexibility, the technology is expected to support a wide range of applications, including regional connectivity, disaster response, medical evacuation, unmanned logistics, and surveillance operations, particularly in remote and inaccessible regions.

The project also aims to create one of the **first such propulsion testing facilities in North India**, providing validated testing infrastructure for startups and developers working in unmanned and advanced aerial mobility systems. In addition to supporting in-house development, the facility is expected to enable broader ecosystem benefits by offering testing services and facilitating the commercialization of hybrid propulsion solutions.

Casey Aviation Private Limited, a newly established aerospace venture, is focused on designing and developing small aircraft and specialized aviation solutions. The company brings together expertise from industry, academia, and research institutions to address emerging needs in India’s aviation and unmanned systems landscape.

Speaking on the occasion, **Shri Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary, TDB**, stated that collaborative R&D initiatives under international programmes play a crucial role in advancing cutting-edge technologies in strategic sectors. He noted that innovations in hybrid propulsion and advanced take-off systems can signif-

icantly enhance India's capabilities in unmanned aviation and regional air mobility, while contributing to sustainable and efficient aviation solutions.

Promoters of Casey Aviation Private Limited expressed appreciation for the support and stated that the project will enable the company to validate its technology in real-world conditions and accelerate the development of scalable propulsion solutions for emerging aviation applications.

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Scientists Grew a Brain in a Lab and Now They're Asking If It Can Feel Pain

Source: IDR, Dt. 12 Apr 2026

Lab-grown brain organoids are growing more complex, enabling new research on disease while raising ethical questions, though consciousness remains out of reach.

© Scientists Grew a Brain in a Lab and Now They're Asking If It Can Feel Pain - © Shutterstock

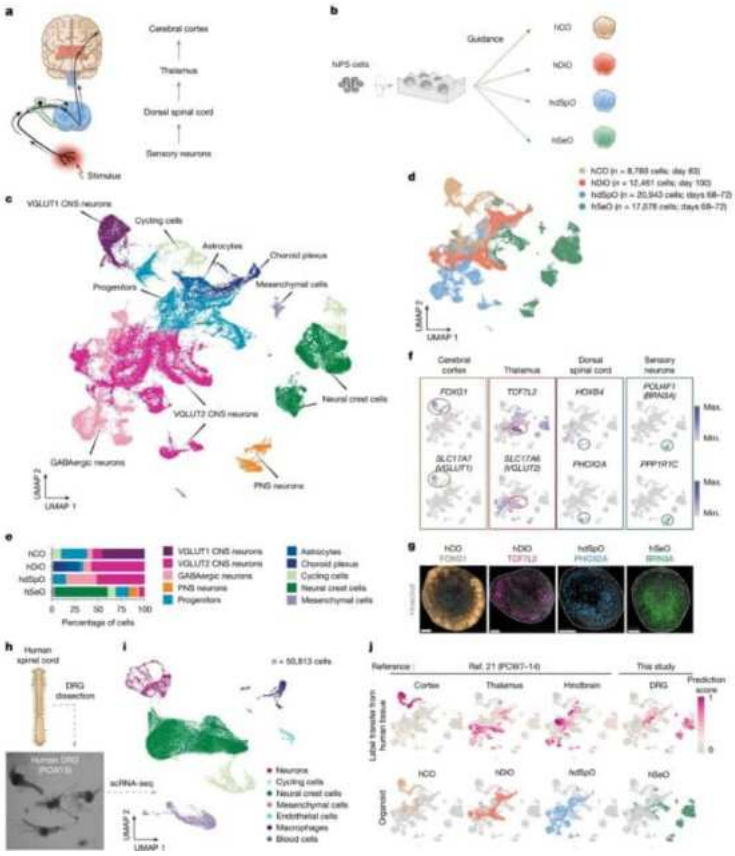
Brain organoids were first developed in 2013 by researchers in Austria. Over the past decade, they've become a widely used tool for studying some of the most treatment-resistant disorders of the human mind, including autism spectrum disorder, schizophrenia, and Alzheimer's disease. Their value lies in offering a window into human brain biology that would otherwise be entirely inaccessible to researchers.

These structures begin as single cells, sometimes stem cells, sometimes skin cells that undergo a chemical process to become stem cells, before developing into structures containing millions of neurons. They typically represent specific regions of the brain, such as the thalamus, in simplified form. Scientists have since gone further, connecting multiple organoids together into what are called assembloids, interconnected systems designed to model broader biological features. One of the most advanced, built by Stanford University professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences Sergiu Pașca and his team, connects four types of organoids to replicate a pain sensory pathway, linking brain organoids to a spinal organoid.

"*Mini Brain*" Is a Misnomer Scientists Are Quick to Correct

Despite the nickname that has attached itself to these structures in the popular imagination, researchers who work with organoids are consistent in pushing back against it. According to Pașca, "*these models are not miniature versions of the brain. They are simplified, developmentally immature, and lack many defining features of an actual brain*", among them a vascular system and any form of sensory input.

The numbers make that distance concrete. Madeline Lancaster, the developmental neurobiologist at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology in the UK who developed the first organoids during her postdoctoral work in Austria, notes that these structures contain at most only 0.002 percent of the neurons found in a human brain.



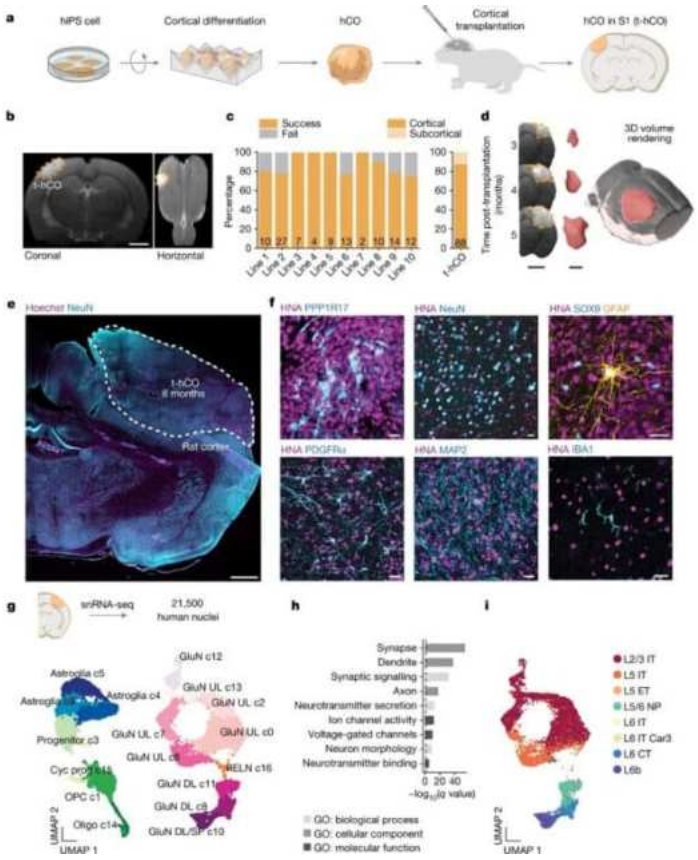
Generation from hiPS cells of components of human ascending sensory pathway – © Nature

For Lancaster, scale and physical integration are two of the thresholds that matter most as the technology develops. "*If technology arose that could enable organoids to develop to a much larger size, say 1,000-fold larger, and start to form the proper shape and structure, and be integrated in some sort of embodied context, then we should reconsider this*," she said.

On the question of consciousness, a word that follows organoid research like a shadow, the current scientific position is cautious but firm. Alta Charo, professor emerita of law and bioethics at the University of Wisconsin Law School, acknowledges that "*there is still substantial debate about both the definition of consciousness and, however defined, what methods could be used to measure it*." But as organoids currently exist, she says, "*we can comfortably say there is no reasonable possibility of anything remotely like consciousness.*"

The More Pressing Concern: Putting Human Organoids Into Living Animals

Organoid consciousness may dominate public discussion, but experts point to a different frontier as the more immediate ethical challenge, the transplantation of human organoids into the brains of living animals. In 2022, Pașca and his team published research describing the first successful transplantation of human organoids into the brains of newborn rats, where the organoids integrated into the animals' neural tissue and influenced their behavior. The resulting organisms are referred to as chimeras.



Transplantation of human cortical organoids in the developing rat cortex – © Nature

According to Lancaster, "*transplanting organoids into living animals does carry important ethical concerns, mainly around animal welfare. That's not because of the organoids themselves, but rather because of course animals do have those features of actual brains that we should care about and that suggest at least some level of consciousness*."

The public perceives this differently still. John Evans, professor of sociology and co-director of the Institute for Practical Ethics at U.C. San Diego, has observed that lay audiences tend to view organoids as extensions of the individual humans who originally provided the cells, a view consistent, he notes, with how people regard donated blood, tissue, and solid organs. On chimeras specifically, Evans points out that "*while scientists and ethicists tend to not consider there to be a fundamental moral divide between humans and animals, the general public does.*" "*Therefore, mixing humans and animals — particularly in the brain that is seen as the core part of the human — is more ethically fraught*," he added.

A Scientific Community Watching Its Own Work Closely

Institutional oversight has not been absent from this conversation. In 2021, the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published a report addressing the ethics and governance of human brain models, organoids included. The report concluded that current organoids "*do not meet any current criteria for consciousness and awareness*," while stating that as they become more complex it will "*be essential to revisit these questions*."

In 2025, Pașca, Charo, and Evans co-authored a paper calling on the global scientific community to monitor the field's progress as it moves forward. The paper reflects a collective recognition that the pace of laboratory innovation demands structured, ongoing oversight rather than reactive policymaking.

Running alongside the calls for caution, though, is a parallel argument for why the research must continue. According to *Popular Mechanics*, experts describe a genuine ethical imperative on the other side of the ledger: modeling the brain and its disorders has the potential to alleviate significant human suffering. Pașca puts it directly. "*Their unique value comes from giving us access to human brain biology that is otherwise inaccessible*," he said, "*allowing us to study disease processes directly in human cells and tissues and to test potential therapeutics.*"

https://indiandefencereview.com/scientists-grew-brain-lab-asking-if-can-feel-pain/

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Artemis 2's journey around the Moon ends with splashdown in Pacific Ocean

Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 12 Apr 2026

{ ASTRONAUTS RETURN HOME }

Artemis 2's journey around the Moon ends with splashdown in Pacific Ocean

Astronauts Reid Wiseman, Jeremy Hansen, Victor Glover and Christina Koch on the USS John P Murtha after being extracted. AP

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

HOUSTON: Artemis II's astronauts closed out humanity's first lunar voyage in more than half a century with a Pacific splashdown on Friday, blazing new records near the moon with grace and joy.

It was a dramatic grand finale to a mission that revealed not only swaths of the lunar far side never seen before by human eyes, but a total solar eclipse and a parade of planets, most notably our own shimmering Earth against the endless black void of space.

With their flight now complete, the four astronauts have set Nasa up for a moon landing by another crew in just two years and a full-blown moon base within the decade.

The triumphant moon-farers — commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canada's Jeremy Hansen — emerged from their bobbing capsule into the sunlight off the coast of San Diego.

In a scene reminiscent of Nasa's Apollo moonshots of yesteryear, military helicopters hoisted the astronauts one by one from an inflatable raft docked to the capsule, hauling them aboard for the short trip to the Navy's awaiting recovery ship, the USS John P Murtha.

"These were the ambassadors from humanity to the stars that we sent out there right now, and I can't imagine a better crew," Nasa Administrator Jared Isaacman said from the recovery ship.

Nasa's Mission Control erupted in celebration, with hundreds pouring in from the back support rooms. "We did it," Nasa's Lori Glaze rejoiced at a news conference. "Welcome to our moonshot."

Their Orion capsule, dubbed Integrity, made the entire plunge on automatic pilot. The lunar cruiser hit the atmosphere traveling Mach 33 — or 33 times the speed of sound — a blistering blur not seen since the 1960s and 1970s Apollo.

The tension in Mission Control mounted as the capsule became engulfed in red-hot plasma during peak heating and entered a planned communication blackout.

All eyes were on the capsule's life-protecting heat shield that had to withstand thousands of degrees during reentry. Watching the drama unfold 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) away, the astronauts' families huddled in Mission Control's viewing room, cheering when the capsule emerged from its six-minute blackout and again at splashdown.

The last time Nasa and the Defence Department teamed up for a lunar crew's reentry was Apollo 17 in 1972. Artemis II came screaming back at 36,174 feet per second — or 39,693 kph — just shy of the record before slowing to a 30 kph splashdown.

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ISRO completes second airdrop test for Gaganyaan

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 11 Apr 2026

ISRO completes second airdrop test for Gaganyaan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday completed the second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

In this test, a simulated Crew Module (the capsule in which astronauts sit during a human flight during re-entry and landing), was lifted by an Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter to an altitude of about 3 km and released over a designated drop zone in the sea, near the Sriharikota coast.

The simulated Crew Module weighs about 5.7 tonnes, that is equivalent to the mass of the Crew Module in the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission (G1).

ISRO said that 10 parachutes of four types were deployed in a precise sequence during the descent of the Crew Module, gradually reducing the velocity for safe touchdown.

"Subsequently, the simulated Crew Module was successfully recovered in co-ordination with the Indian Navy. The IADT-02 test validated the parachute-based deceleration systems in the Crew Module," ISRO stated.

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the accomplishment of the IADT-02 in a post on X. "Congratulations #ISRO for the successful accomplishment of Second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) for #Gaganyaan, India's first Human Space flight scheduled next year. The second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) was successfully conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Station Sriharikota. This marks an important milestone towards the readiness for the Gaganyaan mission," the Minister posted.

"This test marks another significant step towards the readiness for the Gaganyaan G1 Mission, with active support and participation from the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)," ISRO said.

On August 24,2025, ISRO accomplished first Integrated Air Drop Test for Gaganyaan in Sriharikota.

Second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02). ANI

> This test marks another significant step towards the readiness for the Gaganyaan G1 Mission, with active support and participation from the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and DRDO
> ISRO

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The Tribune
The Statesman
पंजाब केसरी जनसत्ता
The Hindu
The Economic Times
Press Information Bureau
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नवभारत टाइम्स
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