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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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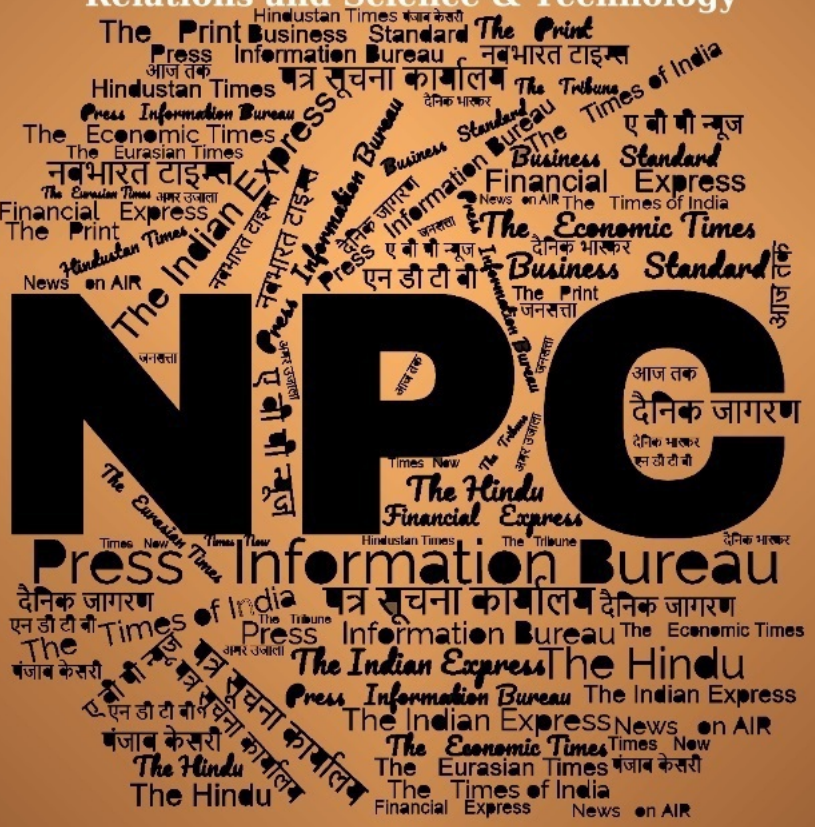

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DRDO News

DRDO turns to startups for defence technology push

Source: The Times of India, Dt. 12 March 2026

Prayagraj: Defence research organisations are increasingly looking at startups and academic institutions as key partners in developing advanced technologies for national security.

This emerged during an interaction between scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and innovators at the Innovation and Incubation Hub MNNIT Foundation (IIHMF) at Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (MNNIT), where discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in defence technology development.

The discussions took place during a visit by Debmalya Roy, Scientist 'G', additional director and head of the nanomaterial division at the Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), DRDO, Kanpur, to IIHMF at MNNIT, on Wednesday. Roy delivered an expert lecture on nanoengineered material for defence technology as part of a short-term academic course being conducted at the institute.

During the interaction, officials highlighted that research institutions and startups can play a crucial role in developing next-generation defence technologies, particularly in emerging fields such as nanomaterial and advanced material engineering. DRDO representatives noted that several funding avenues are available for innovative research and technology development projects.

According to officials, DRDO is also open to evaluating new technologies developed by startups in its laboratories.

The interaction also highlighted the growing startup ecosystem being nurtured at IIHMF. Officials stated that nearly 60 startups applied for funding support under the incubation programme, out of which about 10 promising ventures will be selected for govt-backed financial assistance.

Experts also emphasised the importance of nanoengineered material in modern defence technologies.

Senior officials and faculty members of the institute were present during the interaction.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/allahabad/drdo-turns-to-startupsfor-defence-technology-push/articleshowprint/129477926.cms

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Defence News

India is Committed to welfare of its Neighbours: Raksha Rajya Mantri

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 11 March 2026

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth said today that India is committed to welfare of its neighbours, while steadfast on zero-tolerance towards terrorism. He was delivering keynote address at National Seminar: "Changing Dynamics in India's Neighbourhood", organised by Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) as part of the activities being undertaken to commemorate its 25th Anniversary in New Delhi, on 11 March, 2026.

Invoking the civilizational ethos of India, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, and averring it being the land of Lord Krishna and Chhatrapati Shivaji, combining compassion with decisive strength, Shri Sanjay Seth made special reference to Operation Sindoor, a landmark military operation demonstrating the Nation’s resolve following the Pahalgam terror attack. He further said that unlike all previous wars since 1947, Operation Sindoor was executed with various indigenous platforms, a powerful testament to the success of self-reliance in the defence sector.

Shri Sanjay Seth, while outlining the transformation of India's defence industrial base said that Defence exports have grown from Rs. 686 crores in 2014 to Rs. 23,622 crores in 2025, with a target of Rs. 29,000 crores in 2026 and Rs. 50,000 crores by 2029. Defence budget has reached an all-time high of Rs. 7.85 lakh crores. Department of Defence Production has achieved indigenisation of 3,190 defence components out of 5,012 under the positive indigenisation lists. The MSME sector in defence has grown from approximately 1 crore units in 2014 to 6.5 crore units today, providing employment to 25 crore people. India's start-up ecosystem has grown from 1,000 start-ups in 2014 to over 2.9 million, establishing India as the world's third-largest start-up nation.

Commenting on India relations with its neighbours, Raksha Rajya Mantri said that Bangladesh is a valued trade partner. He stated that India and Nepal are inseparable, united by history, culture, and shared security interests. India continues to support Nepal through infrastructure projects including the Janakpur-Kurtha railway link, hydropower projects, trauma centres, and the Motihari pipeline.

The event witnessed the release of a landmark policy document on Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain, reflecting India's forward-looking vision for AI integration in national security — enhancing operational capability, strengthening decision superiority, and promoting responsible innovation. SAMADH (Situational Awareness for Aerial

Drones), designed and developed by the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), a premier deep-tech laboratory of DRDO, was officially launched at the event. SAMADH is a scalable, extensible sovereign AI platform providing real-time situational awareness across the full spectrum of warfare, including autonomous and swarm drone environments. The Integrated Online Training and Evaluation Programme (IOTEP) was also launched to cultivate a joint operational mindset among India's middle-level military leadership.

Air Marshal Asutosh Dixit, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC), in his remarks underscored the critical importance of the rapidly evolving geopolitical dynamics in India’s neighbourhood. He highlighted that the changing strategic landscape and emerging challenges in the immediate neighbourhood require careful assessment and sustained engagement. Emphasising the growing complexities in regional relations, he noted that coordinated and comprehensive efforts across multiple stakeholders would be essential to effectively address these challenges and advance India’s strategic interests in the region.

The event brought together senior policymakers, diplomats, military leaders, strategic scholars and practitioners to deliberate on India's evolving security environment and the broader implications for national and regional stability.

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Indian Naval Ship Trikand at Port Louis, Mauritius

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 11 March 2026

Indian Naval Ship Trikand, stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, called at Port Louis, Mauritius on 10 Mar 2026 during her ongoing operational deployment to the South West Indian Ocean Region.

During the port call, the ship will participate in the 58th Mauritius National Day celebrations on 12 Mar 2026 with a marching contingent, naval band and integral helicopter for the fly-past at the National Day Parade at Champ de Mars, Port Louis. Captain Sachin Kulkarni, Commanding Officer, is also scheduled to call on senior Government and Mauritius Coast Guard functionaries. Training and cultural exchanges, including cross training visits, friendly sports fixtures and community service activities are also scheduled.

The visit is aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation, enhancing operational interoperability and furthering bilateral relations between India and Mauritius.

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Global First in Minimally invasive Glaucoma Surgery with aqueous angiography at Army Hospital (R&R), Delhi

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 11 March 2026

In a landmark advancement in glaucoma surgery, surgeons at Army Hospital (Research & Referral) have successfully performed a world's first implantation of the Hydrus Microstent guided by intraoperative aqueous angiography along with cataract surgery. The pioneering procedure was performed on March 10, 2026 using advanced surgical instrumentation and imaging with the Heidelberg Retina Angiograph (HRA) to visualise aqueous outflow pathways in real time.

This novel technique allows precise, targeted placement of the implant within Schlemm's canal, enhancing aqueous drainage and improving outcomes for patients with Glaucoma. The achievement represents a major global milestone in precision Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery. It underscores the modernisation in advancing cutting-edge ophthalmic innovation and patient care in the Defence Forces under the leadership of Director General Armed Forces Medical Services Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin.

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Defence Headquarters Training Institute Secures “Ati Utkrishth” NSCSTI Accreditation

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 11 March 2026

Defence Headquarters Training Institute (DHTI), Ministry of Defence has achieved a significant milestone by securing “Ati Utkrishth” (4-Star) accreditation under the National Standards for Civil Services Training Institutions (NSCSTI) framework. This marks a substantial advancement from its earlier “Uttam” (1-Star) rating during the previous accreditation cycle held two years ago.

As part of the accreditation review process, a four-member NSCSTI assessment team conducted an onsite inspection of DHTI on 10–11 March 2026.

The assessment team examined institutional records, training documentation, infrastructure, governance mechanisms, academic processes, and compliance materials in accordance with the prescribed NSCSTI framework.

The enhanced accreditation underscores DHTI’s sustained commitment to strengthening institutional systems, improving the quality of training, and adopting best practices in capacity building, in alignment with the Government of India’s broader vision of civil services capacity development under Mission Karmayogi.

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Innovative Digital Initiative: Delhi Cantonment Board launches Swachhata Monitoring & Automated Reporting Tool

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 11 March 2026

The Delhi Cantonment Board (DCB) has launched Swachhata Monitoring & Automated Reporting Tool (SMART) for enhanced effectiveness and transparency in the monitoring of sanitation & civic services across the area. This innovative digital solution addresses the challenges faced by DCB due to manual reporting, delayed data collection, and fragmented monitoring. SMART automates data collection, streamlines reporting and strengthens performance monitoring. Its key features and benefits include:

Real-Time Monitoring: Enables real-time tracking of works carried out by staff across sanitation, horticulture, civil, and electrical departments.

Automated Reporting: Reduces manual effort by generating accurate and timely reports for informed decision-making.

User Role Management: Provides secure, role-based access aligned with user responsibilities.

Centralised Dashboard: Offers a single platform for monitoring key performance indicators across all departments.

Enhanced Accountability: Improves operational workflows by ensuring timely submission of verified data.

The tool features a four-tier monitoring system i.e., CEO, Officer In-Charge, ASI and Supervisors, which ensures timely submission, verification and review of all departmental works. Supervisors submit daily updates, ASIs act as backup, Officers In-Charge track performance, and the CEO leverages consolidated reports for strategic interventions.

To further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the SMART software, AI-enabled analytical capabilities are being integrated into the system as a pilot initiative. These capabilities will enable SMART to minimise human intervention, analyse operational data, identify recurring issues and support proactive decision-making. Through AI-driven analytics, the system will automatically highlight problem areas and prioritise locations requiring immediate intervention. The AI module will also assist in automated issue classification, intelligent alerts, and performance analytics, enabling senior officials to monitor trends, evaluate staff productivity, and deploy resources more efficiently.

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Software glich behind Tejas Feb 7 mishap; entire fleet to be updraded

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 12 March 2026

Software glitch behind Tejas Feb 7 mishap; entire fleet to be upgraded

The Tribune EXCLUSIVE

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 11

After the entire fleet of 35 Tejas fighter jets in the inventory of the Air Force underwent 'exhaustive checks', it has been found that the accident on February 7 was caused by a glitch in the software of the plane's onboard computer.

The software has been corrected, and a new upgraded software is being tried out on the plane, said sources. The upgrade has been done jointly by the IAF and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

The glitch that caused the accident on February 7 was not a mechanical or metallurgical failure, the sources said, adding that glitches in software do happen and are corrected.

The IAF had ordered 'exhaustive checks' after the February 7 mishap, in which a jet was veered off the runway into an adjoining mud-ditch while it was taking off from a forward base along the western front. The pilot had survived, but sustained injuries. The IAF is also conducting its Court of Inquiry.

The subsequent exhaustive checks included checking the metallurgy of the under carriage that holds the wheels, the electro-magnetic system used for applying brakes and the software. On February 23, the HAL said the February 7 incident was 'not a crash', but a minor technical incident on ground.

"As a standard operating procedure, the issue is being analysed in depth and the HAL is working closely with the IAF for a speedy resolution," the HAL had said, adding light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas maintains one of the world's best safety records among contemporary fighter aircraft.

The February incident was the third accident involving Tejas since its induction in 2016. The fighter jet had faced its first crash near Jaisalmer in March 2024, when the aircraft crashed while coming back from a firepower demonstration. The pilot had managed to eject successfully. The second crash happened in November 2025, when the fighter jet was involved in an aerobatic display at the Dubai Airshow. Wing Commander Namansh Syal had died in the mishap.

In all, 40 Tejas jets were ordered. Since plane maker HAL is yet to deliver two Tejas, two of the IAF's 38 jets have been lost to crashes while the fate of the plane involved in the accident on February 7 is still to be decided. The IAF is also awaiting the delivery of the 180 Tejas Mark 1A jets, with deliveries running behind schedule by two years.

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Science & Technology

Parliament Question: Research, Development And Innovation (RDI) Scheme

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 11 March 2026

The Department of Science & Technology (DST), as the nodal Ministry for the RDI Scheme, has formulated and finalized the implementation guidelines for the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund, as well as the Special Financial Rules for the Scheme, in consultation with the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and the Department of Expenditure (DoE). These guidelines have been approved by the Executive Council of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

As per the approved framework, the Technology Development Board (TDB) and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) have been designated as Second-Level Fund Managers (SLFMs) and launched calls for project proposals on 4 February 2026 and 13 February 2026, respectively. Further, a call inviting applications from additional eligible entities, including Fund of Funds, to act as SLFMs was issued, which closed on 31 January 2026. Applications have been received and the selection process is currently underway.

The SLFMs will provide funding to eligible technology entities, including startups, companies and industry-led R&D projects developing technologies at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4 and above, in strategic and sunrise sectors.

India's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) is about 0.64% of GDP, with the public sector accounting for around 60% of the total expenditure, while the private sector contributes about 35–36%. This is lower compared to leading innovation-driven economies where the private sector contributes over 70% of R&D expenditure.

To address the gap in patient capital for high-risk and deep-technology research and to encourage greater private sector participation, the Government has launched the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme with a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore, aimed at catalysing private investment in R&D.

This information was given by the Minister of State (Independent charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology & Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

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Chandrayaan-5 to have heavier lander with longer mission life: ISRO Chief

Source: The Economic Times, Dt. 11 March 2026

Bengaluru: India is planning to collect samples from the Moon and bring them back to Earth under Chandrayaan-4, while Chandrayaan-5 will involve a heavier lander with a longer mission life, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said on Wednesday. He also spoke about ISRO's future missions including the one to study Venus and the other on Mars landing mission. "Now we are working on the continuation of the Chandrayaan programme. In Chandrayaan-4, we plan to collect samples and bring them back. Chandrayaan-5 will involve a heavier lander with a longer mission life," he said at the inaugural ceremony of ISRO's fourth edition of the Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START 2026) programme here.

ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan

He recalled that in Chandrayaan-3, the lander's mission life was only 14 days. "In the future mission, we are talking about a life of around 100 days. The rover will also be heavier. Chandrayaan-3 had a Listen to this article in summarized format Listen ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan PTI News English Edition | 12 March, 2026, 10:52 AM IST | Today's ePaper PTI Last Updated: Mar 11, 2026, 10:06:00 PM IST rover of about 25 kg, while the future mission will have a rover of about 350 kg," Narayanan said. Referring to ISRO's future programmes like the Venus Orbiter Mission, he said, "We have already accomplished the Mars Orbiter Mission, and now we are working on a Mars landing mission."

These are some of the projects being discussed for government approval. So there is a lot of interest in the science area." He noted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the vision of the space programme has been expanded and said, "We are currently working on the Gaganyaan programme and are planning to send our own astronauts into space and bring them back safely, possibly within the next two years." "We are also planning to build our own space station by 2035. Additionally, we are working on landing Indians on

the Moon and bringing them back safely by 2040. Brainstorming activities have already begun. So there are many activities happening in the space sector. Apart from application-related activities that ensure food security, water security, communication, and safety for citizens, there are many initiatives planned in the science area as well," he added. Narayanan noted that India's space programme has accomplished 10 scientic missions so far, including AstroSat, which recently completed a decade in orbit and was still functioning very well. He also highlighted India's various lunar eploration missions -- Chandrayaan-1, Chandrayaan-2, and Chandrayaan-3 -- saying they led to many scientic discoveries. "We are progressing in a big way," he added. Highlighting the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission in the year 2023, the ISRO chairman said that India became the rst country to successfully achieve a soft landing near the south pole of the Moon. "Not only did we achieve the landing, but many discoveries were made. Around eight minerals were identied, seismic activity was studied, and the thermal prole of the Moon's surface was understood. Electron clouds were also studied. So many discoveries have come from that mission," he added. Referring to the launch of Aditya-L1, the ISRO chairman said, "India is the fourth country to successfully place a satellite to study the Sun, and a large amount of data has already come out, and we have released the data as well." Emphasising India's Space Vision 2047, he recalled that the country, which started with very humble beginnings, has

developed signicant capabilities. "Today, we have the capability to conceive, design, and build our own launch vehicles, as well as conceive, build, and place satellites in orbit. Fifty years ago, we did not have this capability. Today, we can build satellites and the payloads required for them," Narayanan said. Citing an example, he said that earlier optical cameras used lenses that were only about one inch in diameter. "But today, in ISRO, cameras with optics of about 1.7 metres in diameter and almost one foot in thickness are being developed. These optics are being built at the LEOS (Laboratory For Electro Optics Systems) laboratory in Bengaluru for space observation. Many such activities are happening in the space sector," he noted. He pointed out that the US, after 1969 and almost after 50-55 years, has again shown interest in landing on the Moon. "The Artemis programme is already a very vibrant programme, with many activities going on. An accord was signed in 2023, and India is also a signatory to that accord," he said. Speaking about China and Russia leading eorts to build the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), the ISRO chairman noted, "When we talk about such space stations, one aspect is technology development. The second aspect is the large number of scientic experiments that will take place there. There is also a lot of competition today." "There was a time when only government organisations across the world carried out space activities. Today, companies like SpaceX have advanced signicantly. In fact, they have overtaken many others in terms of launches," he added. He said that the main idea behind programmes like START 2026 is to encourage the next generation of youngsters to develop interest in this eld and to build scientic temper so that they can become great leaders in building the nation.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/chandrayaan-5-to-have-heavier-lander-with-longer-mission-life-isro-chief/printarticle/129471643.cms

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