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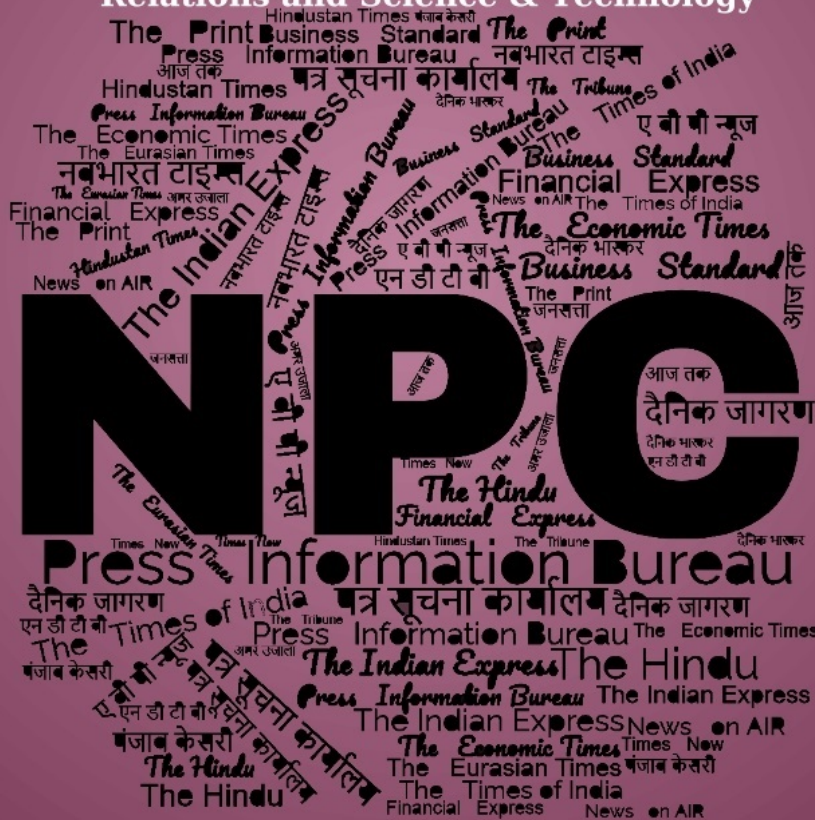
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# समाचार पत्रों से चयनित अंश

## 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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# DRDO News

## Two top govt panels to assess 7 firms vying for India's stealth fighter jet project

*Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 14 Oct 2025*

Two top government panels will assess the capabilities of the seven public and private sector entities competing for the development of India's fifth-generation stealth fighter jet or the AMCA (advanced medium combat aircraft) programme, officials aware of the matter said on Monday. The firms will be first evaluated by a committee of senior **DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)** officials and their findings will be sent to a panel headed by the defence secretary for further review, the officials added, asking not to be named.

Those eyeing the AMCA programme include Hindustan Aeronautics Limited that has partnered with two smaller firms, Tata Advanced Systems Limited, Adani Defence and Aerospace, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Goodluck India along with BrahMos Aerospace Thiruvananthapuram Ltd and Axiscades Technologies, and Bharat Forge Ltd in partnership with BEML Ltd and Data Patterns.

These firms have responded to a call for expressions of interest (EOI) by the **DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** for building prototypes and supporting flight test and certification of the indigenous stealth fighter. The evaluation process is expected to be completed in a month after which the government will issue a request for quotation to the firms and evaluate their responses before negotiating a contract with one of them for building five AMCA prototypes and one structural test specimen, HT has learnt.

ADA invited the EOI in June to shortlist Indian companies to kick-start the stealth fighter project, weeks after the defence ministry unveiled its plan to fast-track the development of AMCA and announced that the execution model will be competitive and provide equal opportunities to public and private sector firms. The ADA is executing the programme through industry partnership.

The entity must be capable of setting up a manufacturing facility for the series production of AMCA, and the duration of the contract for development, prototyping, flight test and certification should not exceed eight years, the EOI states. The first prototype is expected to make its maiden flight in 2029, and AMCA's development is likely to be completed by 2034 before it enters production a year later. Speeding up the AMCA programme is critical as China has already deployed the J-20 fifth-generation fighters, is rolling out the J-35 stealth fighters that Pakistan is looking at buying, and has tested two so-called sixth-generation platforms designated J-36 and J-50.

Last year, the Cabinet Committee on Security approved AMCA's design and prototype development at a cost of around ₹15,000 crore. IAF's modernisation map envisages the deployment of around 120 stealth fighters (six squadrons) 2035 onwards. The first two squadrons will consist of the Mk-1 version powered by the American F-414 engines, while the rest will have the more advanced Mk-2 version equipped with an even more powerful engine to be built in India with French collaboration.

The government is likely to soon approve a joint project involving French firm Safran and India's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), a lab under the DRDO, to develop and produce a 120-kilonewton thrust class engine to power the AMCA. The Safran-GTRE combine, HT learns, will develop nine prototypes in a time frame of 12 years, with 100% transfer of technology and intellectual property rights to India.

IAF is wrestling with a worrying shortage of fighter jets --- it operates around 30 fighter squadrons compared to an authorised 42.5. An in-house assessment after Operation Sindoor indicates that IAF may need to field more than the authorised number of squadrons to meet future challenges. To be sure, the defence ministry has awarded two contracts for 180 light combat aircraft (LCA Mk-1As) to HAL to boost the IAF's combat readiness. On October 3, chief of the air staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said the French-origin Rafale was one of the options to shore up the air force's fighter fleet, speaking in the context of the need for 114 multi-role fighter aircraft to be made in India by a foreign original equipment manufacturer and a local partner.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/panels-to-assess-firms-vying-for-stealth-fighter-project-101760381489745-amp.html>

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## Defence News

### India going for German-origin submarines, may scrap project for more French Ones

**Source: The Times of India, Dt. 14 Oct 2025**

India may scrap the proposed project to build another three French-origin Scorpene submarines at Mazagon Docks (MDL), while it goes full steam ahead with the plan to construct six new German-origin diesel-electric stealth submarines at the same facility for over Rs 70,000 crore. The plan for the three additional Scorpene submarines, which would have cost around Rs 36,000 crore, "is not being pursued now", though the "final decision to scrap it has not yet been taken in black and white", top govt sources have told TOI.

While cost negotiations for the three more Scorpenes concluded in the last fiscal itself, the final nod from the PM-led cabinet committee on security (CCS) is "on hold" because the German submarines are considered "a generation ahead" of them, the sources added. "Moreover, it would be difficult for MDL to handle two different complex submarine-building projects simultaneously," a source said. The three new Scorpenes were to add to the six such submarines already built at MDL under the over Rs 23,000 crore 'Project-75', which was inked way back in Oct 2005.

The first, INS Kalvari, was commissioned in Dec 2017 after much delay and the sixth, INS Vagsheer, in Jan this year. All the six Kalvari-class submarines will, however, be retrofitted with the air-independent propulsion (AIP) system being developed by DRDO for greater underwater endurance. AIP gives a diesel-electric submarine the stealth capability to remain underwater for around two weeks, while a boat without it must surface or 'snorkel' every couple of days to get oxygen to recharge its batteries. The German submarines to be constructed at MDL under 'Project-75India (P-75I)', in partnership with ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS), will have AIP, land-attack cruise missiles and other new-generation technologies.





INS Kalvari commissioned in '17

- **German subs** to be built at MDL under 'Project-75India will have **air-independent propulsion, land-attack cruise missiles** & other new-gen tech
- **Call to take forward techno-commercial negotiations for 6 German subs** made after extensive deliberations among top defence bodies

The decision to take forward the final techno-commercial negotiations for the six German submarines -- with the option for another three of them at a later stage -- was taken after extensive deliberations among the defence ministry, Navy, the National Security Council Secretariat and others, the sources said. Consequently, the official contract talks for MDL to build the six German submarines began last month. "These new-generation boats under P-75I will come with design ToT (transfer of technology) and a greater indigenisation level of around 60%. The project will serve as a bridge to the future P-76, under which conventional submarines will be constructed based on totally indigenous design," another source said.

Considering France's expansive strategic partnership with India, there is however still the possibility that the case for three more Scorpene-class submarines could be revived if there is top-level intervention. Sources, on their part, say France should be pleased that it is on course to bag several other major projects. For one, the govt-to-govt deal for additional Rafales under the IAF's around Rs 2 lakh crore project for 114 multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA), in which the bulk of the jets will be manufactured in India, is now in the works, as was reported by TOI.

For another, the collaboration to co-develop a new powerful jet engine with French major Safran -- at a cost of Rs 61,000 crore -- for India's fifth-generation stealth fighter called AMCA (advanced medium combat aircraft) has also been virtually finalized. Amid all this, the Navy is keeping its fingers crossed.

Apart from the six Scorpene-class submarines, the Navy is left with just six old Russian Kilo-class and four German HDW submarines in its conventional underwater fleet. It also has two nuclear-powered submarines armed with ballistic missiles. China, incidentally, has over 50 diesel-electric and 10 nuclear submarines. It is also supplying eight new Yuan-class diesel-electric submarines with AIP to Pakistan in what will be a major capability jump for the latter.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-likely-to-scrap-french-scorpene-project-may-go-for-german-origin-subs/articleshow/124540593.cms>

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## French Army chief keen on Indian long-range weapons

Source: *The Economic Times*, Dt. 14 Oct 2025

France has noted the performance of Indian weapon systems during Operation Sindoor and is interested in looking at long-range rockets, loitering munitions and counter-drone systems, French Army chief General Pierre Schill told ET. The senior officer, who is in the national capital for the UN Troop Contributing Countries Chiefs conference, said the two nations can look at co-developing capabilities for the emerging battlefield, including in the areas of artificial intelligence and electronic warfare.



*Indian Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi with his French counterpart General Pierre Schill*

"I'm interested in looking at what are the systems used by the Indian Army because it is a time when I'm renewing my own long-range artillery systems," the general said, referring to the possible acquisition of long-range Pinaka rocket systems by French forces.

It may be noted that France has expressed interest in acquiring a longer-range version of the indigenous Pinaka rocket systems that have proven to be accurate and cost effective. Demonstrations of the system have already been made to France in the past.

Gen Schill said while India and France can cooperate in all new domains of warfare, long-range systems and loitering munitions are of specific interest. "The Indian Army is using those systems very accurately because of your industry and because of the way they are able to adapt them to operations. And what we have seen in Operation Sindoor is very important," he said.

The officer, who met Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday, also identified counter-drone capabilities as an area for cooperation. "Perhaps electronic warfare, artificial intelligence are domains in which cooperation could be very efficient because of the ability of our two armies," Gen Schill said.

The French general shared that India and France are looking to institutionalise annual army training exercises, building on the Shakti series. He said the two sides are not only looking at increasing the number of training exercises but also the complexity of the joint training to include UAV training, counter-drone operations and electronic warfare.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/french-army-chief-keen-on-indian-long-range-weapons/articleshow/124534920.cms?from=mdr>

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## Defence Ministry utilises 50% of total outlay for FY 2025-26

Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 14 Oct 2025

**NEW DELHI :** The defence ministry on Monday said it has utilised over 50% of its capital outlay in the first half of financial year 2025-26, adding that this will result in timely delivery of weapons and systems to the armed forces.

"The capital expenditure stands at ₹92,211.44 crore (51.23%) out of the total allocation of ₹180,000 crore. The ministry had utilised 100% of capital expenditure amounting to ₹159,768.4 crore in the last financial year," the ministry said in a statement.

The utilisation of over 50% of capital outlay by September 30 will result in ensuring timely delivery of vital platforms such as aircraft, ships, submarines, and other weapon systems required for the modernisation of armed forces in the coming year, the ministry said.

On September 25, the ministry signed a ₹62,370-crore contract with aircraft maker Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to buy 97 more light combat aircraft (LCA Mk-1As) and associated equipment for the Indian Air Force which is wrestling with a worrying shortage of fighter jets.

Most of the expenditure, the ministry said, has been on aircraft and aero engines followed by land systems, electronic warfare equipment, armaments, and projectiles. "Capital expenditure is crucial for the defence sector as it funds the acquisition of new assets, research and development, and infrastructural development in border areas, which are all essential for the country's national security. Moreover, capital expenditure has a multiplier effect on economic growth and employment generation," the statement said, adding that the ministry is committed to fully utilising the allocation under capital head by the end of the current FY also.

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## Stage set for global peacekeeping dialogue as 15 Army Chiefs arrive for UNTCC meet

Source: The Statesman, Dt. 14 Oct 2025

The stage is set for the United Nations Troop Contributing Countries' (UNTCC) Chiefs' Conclave being hosted by the Indian Army from October 14-16 in the national Capital. A total of 32 countries that play a pivotal role in UN peacekeeping operations will be participating in the two-day conclave.

A spokesperson of the Indian Army said that 15 Chiefs, 17 Vice Chiefs and other high-ranking military officials from seven nations have also confirmed their participation in the event. Countries represented at the level of Chiefs include Bhutan, Burundi, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Poland, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, Uruguay and Vietnam.



Meanwhile, senior military officials from Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Italy, Nepal, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Australia, Egypt, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Thailand and Madagascar will represent their respective militaries at senior levels.

The UNTCC serves as a vital forum to address operational challenges, evolving threats, interoperability, inclusivity in decision-making and the role of technology and training in strengthening UN peacekeeping. As one of the largest contributors to UN missions, India is convening this high-level forum to deliberate on operational challenges, evolving threats, share best practices and build shared understanding on future peacekeeping. The conclave reflects the ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family).

The programme will feature an address by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, and Jean Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations (USG, DPO). Plenary sessions will feature Chiefs and Heads of Delegations putting forth their viewpoints. Defence Exhibitions for shared capacity building, bilateral and cultural exchanges will also feature during the conclave.

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/stage-set-for-global-peacekeeping-dialogue-as-15-army-chiefs-arrive-for-untcc-meet-1503498576.html>

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The Tribune  
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