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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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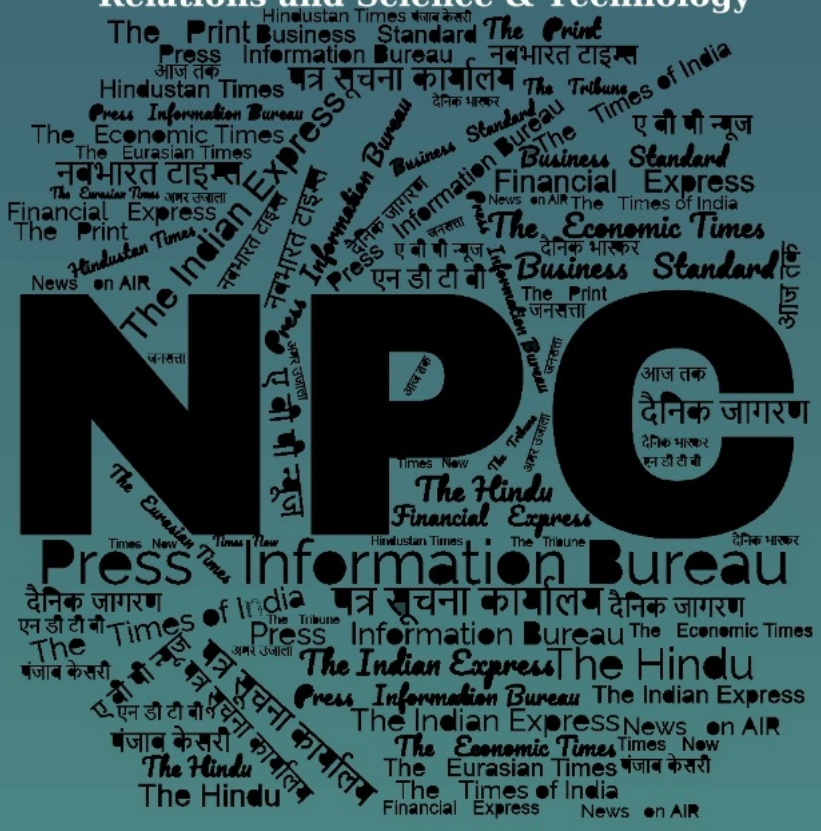

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Defence News

हेलीकॉप्टर स्क्वाड्रन आईएनएस 335 'ऑस्प्रेज़', भारतीय नौसेना में शामिल

Source: Punjab Kesari, Dt. 18 Dec 2025

पणजी, (पंजाब केसरी): भारतीय नौसेना ने बुधवार को नौसेना प्रमुख एडमिरल दिनेश त्रिपाठी की उपस्थिति में आईएनएस हंसा नौसैनिक अड्डे पर पनडुब्बी रोधी एमएच-60आर (रोमियो) हेलीकॉप्टरों के दूसरे स्क्वाड्रन-आईएनएएस 335 'ओस्प्रे' को सेवा में शामिल किया।

स्क्वाड्रन को औपचारिक सलामी के बाद नौसेना में शामिल किया गया। इस अवसर पर अपने संबोधन में नौसेना प्रमुख ने कहा कि बढ़ते राष्ट्रीय समुद्री हितों की सुरक्षा के लिए समुद्री सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना आवश्यक है। सिंह ने कहा, "आज की यह शुरुआत एक बेहद महत्वपूर्ण क्षण में हो रही है - 2025 में भारत सरकार द्वारा 'फ्लीट एयर आर्म' के गठन को मंजूरी दिए जाने के 75 वर्ष पूरे हो गए। इस निर्णय से नौसेना की विमानन इकाई में गति आई जिससे हमारी नौसेना एक शक्तिशाली और बहुआयामी बल बन गई और हमें समुद्र में निर्णायक बढ़त प्राप्त हुई।"

नौसेना प्रमुख ने आगे कहा कि इससे भी अधिक महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि ठीक 64 वर्ष पहले, वर्ष 1961 में 17/18 दिसंबर की रात को विजय अभियान शुरू किया गया था जिसके तहत भारतीय नौसेना के जहाज़ पुर्तगालियों से गोवा को मुक्त कराने के लिए उसमें प्रवेश कर गए थे। उन्होंने याद दिलाया, "वहां भी नौसेना के विमानों ने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई थी, जिसमें तत्कालीन आईएनएएस विक्रांत (अपनी विमानन शाखा के साथ) गोवा के मार्गों की सुरक्षा कर रहा था।"

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Navy commissions second MH-60R copter squadron, the 'Ospreys', at INS Hansa

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 18 Dec 2025

INAS 335, the 'Ospreys', the second Indian Naval Air Squadron to operate MH-60R helicopters, was commissioned at INS Hansa, Goa, on December 17, 2025. The ceremony was presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), marking another major milestone in the modernisation of Indian naval aviation. The commissioning follows the induction of the first MH-60R helicopter squadron at Kochi, Kerala, in March 2024. With the induction of the versatile, multi-role MH-60R helicopter on the western seaboard as the first operational squadron, the Navy has significantly enhanced its rotary wing combat and surveillance capabilities.

Addressing the gathering, Admiral Tripathi said the commissioning assumes special significance as 2025 marks 75 years since the Government of India approved the formation of the Fleet Air Arm, a historic decision that gave wings to naval aviation and transformed the Navy into a potent, multi-dimensional force. He highlighted that the maritime environment today is increasingly complex and contested, shaped by shifting geopolitics, rapid technological advances and an expanding spectrum of threats, ranging from grey zone activities to supply chain disruptions at sea.

Recalling earlier capability additions at INS Hansa, the CNS noted that the Navy had commissioned its second P-8I maritime patrol aircraft squadron at the same airbase in 2022, significantly augmenting shore-based fixed-wing operations across multiple domains. Complementing the P-8I fleet, the Navy is also progressing the acquisition of 15 MQ-9B Sea Guardian remotely piloted aircraft, which will enhance persistent maritime surveillance and comprehensive maritime domain awareness across India's maritime areas of interest.

Rafale fighter aircraft

In this context, Admiral Tripathi underlined the importance of the recent signing of the contract for 26 Rafale-M carrier-borne fighter aircraft, which will strengthen the Navy's long-range maritime strike, land attack and fleet air defence capabilities. Although INAS 335 was formally commissioned at Goa, the MH-60R helicopters have already demonstrated their operational effectiveness during Operation Sindoor, TROPEX-25 and the recently concluded Tri-Services Exercise 2025.

The Commissioning Warrant for the squadron was read out by Captain Dhirender Bisht, the Commanding Officer, and the ceremony was marked by a traditional water cannon salute. The event was attended by senior naval officers, veterans and distinguished guests. The MH-60R is an all-weather, day-and-night capable helicopter designed for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW), Search and Rescue (SAR), Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) and Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP). The induction of INAS 335 will significantly augment the Navy's integral aviation capabilities on the western seaboard.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/navy-commissions-mh-60r-helicopter-squadron-inas-335-ospreys-at-ins-hansa/article70408025.ece

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चाबहार बंदरगाह पहुंचा भारतीय तटरक्षक बल का जहाज़ 'सार्थक'

Source: Punjab Kesari, Dt. 18 Dec 2025

तेहरान, (एजेंसियां) : भारतीय तटरक्षक बल का जहाज सार्थक खाड़ी देशों में अपनी चल रही विदेशी तैनाती के तहत ईरान के रणनीतिक बंदरगाह चाबहार में पहुंचा। उन्होंने बताया कि बंदरगाह पर रुकने के दौरान अपतटीय गश्ती पोत सार्थक समुद्री सुरक्षा और संरक्षा में संस्थागत संबंधों को मजबूत करने और आपसी समझ को बढ़ाने के लिए कई गतिविधियों में जुड़ा रहेगा।अधिकारियों ने बताया कि चाबहार बंदरगाह में प्रवेश करने वाला यह जहाज इस क्षेत्र में भारत की बढ़ती समुद्री भागीदारी को रेखांकित करता है। चाहबार बंदरगाह पर यह भारतीय तटरक्षक बल के जहाज की पहली यात्रा है। आईसीजी ने बताया कि सार्थक मंगलवार को चाबहार बंदरगाह पर पहुंचा और यह 19 दिसंबर तक बंदरगाह पर ही रहेगा। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया, 'बंदरगाह पर आगमन के दौरान आईसीजी का जहाज सार्थक ईरानी नौसेना और अन्य ईरानी समुद्री एजेंसियों के साथ कई तरह की पेशेवर और सामुदायिक गतिविधियों में हिस्सा लेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि इनमें शिष्टाचार भेंट और पेशेवर बातचीत शामिल हैं, जिनका उद्देश्य संस्थागत संबंधों को मजबूत करना और समुद्री सुरक्षा में आपसी समझ को बढ़ाना है।'

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ICG ship Sarthak makes first port call at Iran’s Chabahar

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 18 Dec 2025

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship Sarthak, an offshore patrol vessel, entered Chabahar port in the Islamic Republic of Iran on Tuesday (December 16, 2025) for a four-day visit till December 19. Strategically located, Chabahar is a deep-water port that provides India with a direct maritime gateway to Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia.

According to the Ministry of Defence, marking the first-ever visit of an Indian Coast Guard ship to Chabahar, the port call underscores India’s growing maritime engagement in the region and its ability to support secure supply lines to Afghanistan and Central Asia. The visit is aligned with India’s SAGAR and MAHASAGAR vision of fostering secure, cooperative and inclusive maritime engagements.

During the visit, ICG ship Sarthak will engage in a range of professional and community-oriented activities with the Iranian Navy and other Iranian maritime agencies. These include courtesy calls and professional interactions aimed at strengthening institutional linkages and enhancing mutual understanding in maritime safety and security.

Key highlights of the port call include joint training activities in maritime search and rescue, maritime law enforcement and marine pollution response. A marine pollution response

demonstration in Chabahar harbour, focusing on oil spills and hazardous and noxious substances spills, will showcase coordinated response mechanisms. MRCC-to-MRCC coordination drills, a table-top exercise and joint visit, board, search and seizure drills will further enhance interoperability and operational preparedness between the two sides, it added.

Indian Coast Guard ship Sarthak, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, arrived in Chabahar port Iran, on December 16, 2025, for a four-day visit.

In addition to professional engagements, the visit will feature sports fixtures and a beach walkathon with the participation of embarked National Cadet Corps cadets. These activities align with the national Puneet Sagar Abhiyan, aimed at promoting marine environmental awareness and coastal cleanliness. The port call at Chabahar follows the ship's earlier visit to Kuwait, where ICG ship Sarthak interacted with the Kuwait Coast Guard, highlighting the Indian Coast Guard's expanding footprint and constructive engagement with regional maritime partners.

The four-day visit of ICG ship Sarthak to Chabahar reflects India's commitment to strengthening maritime cooperation, promoting a rules-based maritime order, and contributing to peace, stability and sustainable development across the wider Indian Ocean Region and the Gulf.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/icg-ship-sarthak-makes-first-port-call-at-irans-chabahar/article70407823.ece

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Indian Army contingent leaves for India-U.A.E. joint exercise Desert Cyclone II

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 18 Dec 2025

An Indian Army contingent has departed on Wednesday (December 17, 2025) for the United Arab Emirates to participate in the second edition of the India-United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone II, scheduled to be held at Abu Dhabi from December 18 to 30, 2025.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the Indian contingent comprises 45 personnel, primarily drawn from a battalion of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment. The U.A.E. Land Forces will be represented by a contingent of similar strength from the 53 Mechanised Infantry Battalion. The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability and further strengthen defence cooperation between the Indian Army and the U.A.E. Land Forces. The joint training will focus on sub-conventional operations in an urban environment under a United Nations mandate, enabling both forces to operate together in peacekeeping, counter-terrorism and stability operations, it added.

During the nearly two-week-long exercise, troops from both sides will train together on a wide range of tactical drills, including fighting in built-up areas, heliborne operations and detailed mission planning. The exercise will also see the integration of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and counter-UAS techniques for the conduct of operations in urban settings. Building on the momentum generated by the successful visit of the Commander, U.A.E. Land Forces, on October 27 and 28, 2025, and the Commander, U.A.E. Presidential Guard, from December 15 to 19, 2025, Exercise Desert Cyclone II is expected to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between India and the U.A.E.

The conduct of Desert Cyclone II underscores the deepening strategic partnership and military diplomacy between the two countries. It reaffirms their shared commitment to regional peace, security and stability, while promoting mutual understanding of tactics, techniques and procedures and contributing to the development of interoperable military capabilities.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indian-army-contingent-leaves-for-india-uae-joint-exercise-desert-cyclone-ii/article70408078.ece

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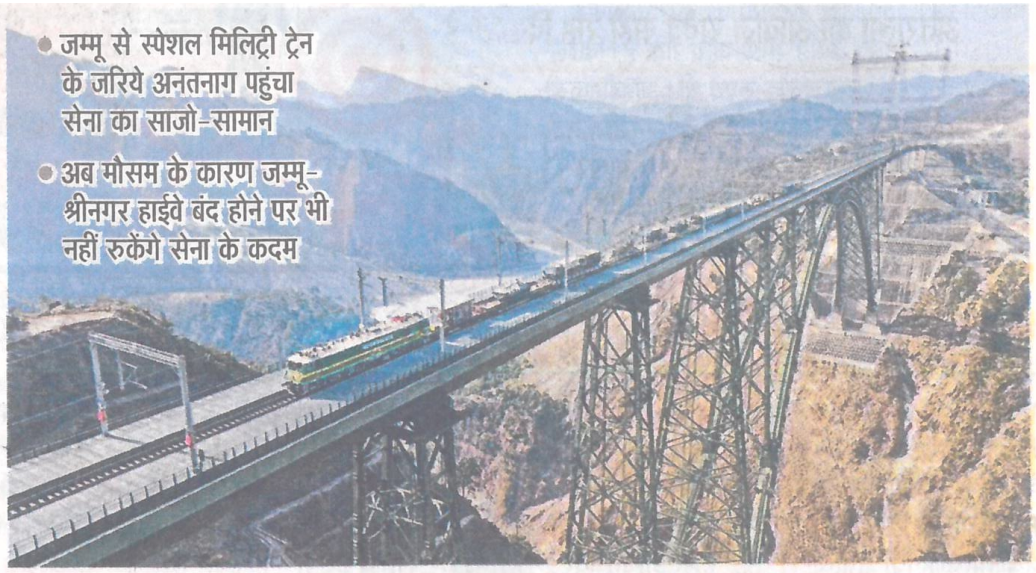
ट्रेन से पहली बार कश्मीर पहुंची तोपें और टैंक

Source: Dainik Jagran, Dt. 18 Dec 2025

विवेक सिंह ● जागरण

- जम्मू से स्पेशल मिलिट्री ट्रेन के जरिये अनंतनाग पहुंचा सेना का साजो-सामान
- अब मौसम के कारण जम्मू-श्रीनगर हाईवे बंद होने पर भी नहीं रुकेंगे सेना के कदम



रियासी में विश्व के सबसे ऊंचे रेलवे के आर्च पुल से कश्मीर की ओर टैंक, तोपें ले जाती रेलगाड़ी ● सौ : सेना

जम्मू : भारतीय सेना ने एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि हासिल की है। युद्ध की स्थिति में अब देश के किसी भी हिस्से से बड़े टैंक, तोपखाने और इंजीनियरिंग उपकरण तुरंत कश्मीर में सीमा तक पहुंचाए जा सकेंगे। जम्मू-श्रीनगर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग पर बरसात, बर्फबारी, भूस्खलन या अन्य मौसम की चुनौतियों के बावजूद सेना की गतिविधियों में कोई रुकावट नहीं आएगी। मंगलवार को विजय दिवस के अवसर पर सेना ने पहली बार स्पेशल मिलिट्री ट्रेन के जरिये जम्मू से अनंतनाग तक टैंक, भारी तोपखाने और अन्य सैन्य उपकरणों को सफलतापूर्वक पहुंचाया। यह कदम सीमाओं की रक्षा के लिए सेना की त्वरित तैनाती और आधुनिक व्यवस्था का एक बड़ा उदाहरण है।

पहले सेना के साजो-सामान को सड़क मार्ग से कश्मीर पहुंचाने में कई दिन लगते थे, जिसमें काफी मेहनत करनी पड़ती थी। भारी ट्रैफिक के कारण बड़े टैंक और तोपों को मंजिल तक पहुंचाना आसान नहीं होता था, लेकिन अब ऊधमपुर-श्रीनगर-बारामुला रेल लिंक से सैन्य साजो-सामान का कश्मीर पहुंचाना एक बड़ी रणनीतिक उपलब्धि बन गया है। रेल से कश्मीर तक पहुंचने वाले टैंक और तोपों को अब सड़क मार्ग से कारगिल और लेह तक पहुंचाना भी आसान होगा। सीमांत क्षेत्र में नई सड़कें और पुलों के निर्माण से पहले ही सैन्य क्षमता में वृद्धि हुई है। सेना के साजो-सामान को रेलगाड़ी से कश्मीर पहुंचाने के ट्रायल के दौरान टैंक, आर्टिलरी गन और डोजर जैसे भारी सैन्य उपकरणों को सुरक्षित रूप से पहुंचाया गया। यह ट्रेन रियासी जिले में बने विश्व के सबसे ऊंचे रेलवे आर्च पुल और देश के पहले केबल ब्रिज से भी गुजरी।

माना जा रहा है कि ऊधमपुर-श्रीनगर-बारामुला रेल लिंक परियोजना न केवल लोगों की आवाजाही को आसान बनाएगी।

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Special military train ferries tanks, artillery guns to Valley

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 18 Dec 2025

The Army on Wednesday said it achieved a major logistics milestone as it inducted tanks and artillery guns into Kashmir by a military special train, said officials. In a post on X, the Army called the development a step towards “enhancing capabilities along the borders”. The Army used the vital Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) for the movement. Trains are the fastest way to transport these weapons as road transport is limited and tank transporters that use roads have limited speed capabilities.

As part of the exercise, tanks, artillery guns and bulldozers were moved from Jammu region to Anantnag in South Kashmir. The Army said this milestone was achieved in close coordination with the Ministry of Railways. It highlighted the “transformational impact” USBRL project in enabling rapid logistics build-up and strengthening operational readiness along the northern borders.

The exercise validated that units, men, machines and heavy equipment can be sent from plains to Srinagar or Baramulla, further easing transportation to Kargil and Ladakh sectors. The USBRL became fully operational on June 6 and the Army ran its first freight train in September, carrying 753 metric tonnes of advance winter stocking (AWS) load for units and formations stationed in Jammu and Kashmir.

The special train chugs on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link.

Before the railway line came up, logistic support to Kashmir depended upon road convoys and these were often disrupted due to snowfall and landslides. Built at a cost of Rs 43,780 crore, the 272-km rail link was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June. The line cuts through some of the most challenging terrain in the Himalayas and provides all weather connectivity to Kashmir.

https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/artilleryguns/special-military-train-ferries-tanks-artillery-guns-to-valley

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Science & Technology News

Parliament Question: Establishment of Quantum Fabrication and Central Facilities

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 17 Dec 2025

Under the National Quantum Mission, two major state-of-the-art Quantum Fabrication and Central Facilities have been established at IIT Bombay and IISc Bengaluru to indigenise the fabrication of quantum computing chips and quantum sensors. Two additional small-scale facilities have also been set up at IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur. The aims and objectives of these facilities are as follows:

1. Quantum Sensing & Metrology facilities at IIT Bombay and IIT Kanpur – accelerate breakthroughs in quantum sensing by enabling advanced sensor platforms for societal and strategic applications.
2. Quantum Computing fabrication facility at IISc Bengaluru – enables fabrication of quantum computing chips based on superconducting, photonic and spin qubits, which are central to building scalable quantum architectures.

3. Quantum Materials & Devices fabrication facility at IIT Delhi – drives indigenous development of quantum materials and device fabrication for scaling various quantum technologies.

A total expenditure of Rs. 720 crore is expected to be incurred in the establishment of the Quantum Fabrication and Central Facilities.

The Quantum Fabrication and Central Facilities at IIT Bombay, IISc Bengaluru, IIT Kanpur and IIT Delhi are being implemented in a phased manner under the National Quantum Mission. Following project approval, each institution initiated the procurement, installation and commissioning of specialised cleanrooms, cryogenic systems and advanced fabrication equipment sourced from national and international suppliers. As per current assessments, the implementation timelines across centres indicate completion around 2028. These facilities are being established for world-class quantum fabrication and device-development capabilities within the country, enabling researchers and startups for development of prototype quantum processors, sensors and materials indigenously.

Under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), industry–academia collaboration forms a core part of the implementation framework. Four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) established at IISc Bengaluru (Quantum Computing), IIT Madras in association with C-DOT (Quantum Communication), IIT Bombay (Quantum Sensing & Metrology) and IIT Delhi (Quantum Materials & Devices)—bring together academic institutions, R&D organisations, startups and industry through 14 Technical Groups and 17 Project Teams involving 152 researchers from 43 institutions. These T-Hubs are engaged in technology development, entrepreneurship and industry collaboration, and international partnerships. DST has also supported eight quantum start-ups—QuNu Labs, QPiAI, Dimira Technologies, Prenishq, QuPrayog, Pristine Diamonds, Quanastra and Quan2D Technologies— enabling wider national and global engagement in quantum technology development.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2205358&reg=3&lang=1

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Parliament Question: National Mission to Promote Innovation, Research and Technological Development

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 17 Dec 2025

Government has implemented various missions to promote innovation, research, entrepreneurship and technological development among youth, young researchers, scientists, academicians in the country.

The Government has launched the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) scheme to support cutting edge technology, deep-tech projects and startups. The main objectives of the RDI scheme are to encourage the private sector to scale up research, development and innovation, finance transformative projects, support acquisition of technologies which are critical or of high strategic importance and facilitate setting up of Deep-Tech Fund of Funds. The scheme is led by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) as the nodal department. With an outlay of Rs. 1 lakh crore in next 6 years, the RDI scheme targets sunrise sectors including energy security and transition, and climate action; deep-technology including quantum computing, robotics and space; artificial intelligence and its application in agriculture, health and education; biotechnology,

biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, pharma, medical devices; and digital economy including digital agriculture.

The DST is implementing the National Quantum Mission (NQM) with an outlay of ₹6003.65 crore for a period of eight years. Under the Mission, four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) have been established located at IISc Bengaluru (Quantum Computing), IIT Madras in association with C-DoT (Quantum Communication), IIT Bombay (Quantum Sensing & Metrology) and IIT Delhi (Quantum Materials & Devices). The T-Hubs support technology development, human resource development, entrepreneurship and industry collaboration and international collaboration through 14 Technical Groups and 17 Project Teams. Entrepreneurship and industry engagement are integral components of NQM. DST has issued dedicated guidelines to support quantum start-ups through funding, access to facilities and mentorship. Seven start-ups have been supported so far, with a rolling Call for Proposals to further strengthen the quantum ecosystem.

The DST is implementing the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), which was approved by the Union Cabinet with an outlay of Rs. 3660 Cr. Under this mission, 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) have been established in reputed academic institutions across the country. Each TIH specializes in advanced technology domains such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning (ML), Robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), Cybersecurity, Quantum Technologies, FinTech, etc. More than 800 Startups have been benefitted under the mission.

The DST through 'NIDHI' (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations) program has extended end-to-end startup support to nurture startups from ideation to commercialization. It includes a variety of program components for Startups like PRAYAS (PRomoting and Accelerating Young and ASpiring technology entrepreneurs) - prototyping grant for early-stage innovative ideas, hand-holding support to startups through Technology Business Incubators, seed funding and acceleration support for rapid scaling of startup businesses.

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) under DST has been able to strengthen Industry-Academia linkages through their various programs. One of the key mechanisms adopted to bridge the gap between academic research and market-appropriate products is the structured support across Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs). Under the new framework, ANRF is supporting research from basic and early-stage development, i.e. up to TRL-4, while the RDI scheme is mandated to support projects from TRL-4 and above, to advance prototypes, pilot demonstrations, and scale-up activities. This coordinated approach enables a smooth transition from laboratory research to commercially deployable technologies.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a flagship initiative setup in 2016 to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. The AIM has taken a holistic approach to ensure creation of a problem-solving innovative mindset in schools and creating an ecosystem of entrepreneurship in universities, research institutions, private and MSME sector.

Moreover, the Government has also recently approved major national programmes such as the India AI Mission and Centres of Excellence in AI, further strengthening the innovation and emerging technology ecosystem alongside DST's missions.

AIM has launched the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) program. ATL is a state-of-the-art space established in a school with a goal to foster curiosity and innovation in young minds, between grade 6th to 12th across the country through advanced tools and technologies such as Internet of Things, 3D printing, rapid prototyping tools, robotics, miniaturized electronics, do-it-yourself kits

and many more. The aim is to stimulate a problem-solving innovative mindset within the children of the ATL and nearby communities. Till date, AIM has established 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs in schools across the country.

Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) - business incubators have been established by the AIM at universities, institutions and corporates to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among young innovators of the country. These Atal Incubation Centres aim to foster world-class innovation and support dynamic entrepreneurs, who want to build scalable and sustainable enterprises. The AIM has successfully operationalized 72 AICs across India. These AIC enable startups by providing technical facilities, resource-based support, mentorship, funding support, partnerships and networking, co-working spaces and lab facilities among others.

Around 56% of ATLs are located in rural areas, and over 1,175 ATLs have been established in Aspirational Districts, ensuring that innovation access reaches underserved and remote regions. Lakhs of students have engaged in ATL-based innovation activities nationwide, which clearly showcase high utilisation and impact of these facilities in both urban and rural areas.

Under NIDHI Technology Business Incubator (NIDHI TBI) program, TBIs are established in premier academic institutions for providing incubation support to the early-stage startups. The support to these startups is provided in terms of technical and business mentoring, intellectual property rights, legal, regulatory, funding, etc. Under the NIDHI Inclusive Technology Business Incubator (NIDHI iTBI) program, iTBIs have been established in the academic institutions in tier-2 and tier-3 cities to increase inclusivity of entrepreneurship ecosystem across the country. Since inception 85 NIDHI TBIs / iTBIs have been established.

The Government has launched several schemes to provide financial support to young researchers across the country. Under the INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) programme of DST, support is provided at multiple levels to attract and retain talented youth in science and strengthen the national R&D base.

The INSPIRE Fellowship is offered to students who secure 1st Rank in university-level examinations in Basic & Applied Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, as well as to INSPIRE Scholars who obtain at least 70% marks at the M.Sc. level and are admitted to recognised PhD programmes. The Fellowship is tenable for a maximum of five years (two years as JRF and three years as SRF). INSPIRE Fellows receive Rs. 37,000/- per month + admissible HRA and Rs. 20,000/- annual contingency during JRF, and Rs. 42,000/- per month + admissible HRA and Rs. 20,000/- annual contingency during SRF.

The INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship provides opportunities to post- doctoral researchers in the age group of 27–32 years (with relaxations for SC/ST/Women and benchmark disability categories). Each Faculty Fellow receives Rs. 1,25,000/- per month with an annual increment of Rs. 2,000/- along with a research grant of Rs. 35 lakhs over five years to establish an independent research programme.

During the period 2022–23 to 2025–26 (as on November 2025), a total of 11,726 INSPIRE Fellows and 1,172 INSPIRE Faculty Fellows have benefited under the scheme, with an expenditure of over Rs. 730.76 crore, which reflects sustained Government investment in building India’s young scientific workforce.

The ANRF also supports young researchers through competitive grants, post-doctoral funding, research career initiation grants, and programmes aimed at strengthening research ecosystems across universities and institutions. The Prime Minister’s Early Career Research Grant (PM-

ECRG) provides flexible research funding of up to Rs. 60 lakhs for a period of three years to support early-career investigators. The ANRF National Post-Doctoral Fellowship (N-PDF) provides Rs. 80,000/- per month (Rs. 50,000 per month for candidates who have submitted their Ph.D. thesis and are awaiting the degree) along with research contingency and applicable HRA for a tenure of up to two years. ANRF also implements Inclusivity Research Grants (IRG) to provide dedicated financial support to researchers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to undertake research in frontier areas.

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Parliament Question: Scheme for Indian Origin Researchers and Scientists

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 17 Dec 2025

Ministry of Science and Technology has formulated several schemes to encourage Indian-origin researchers and scientists working in foreign countries to return and contribute to research and innovation in India. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) implements a VAIBHAV (Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik) Fellowship Programme exclusively for Indian Diaspora [Non-Resident Indian (NRI)/ Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)] to undertake collaborative research in Indian Institutions. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) through Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship (RRF) and Early Career and Intermediate Fellowships (ECIF) provide attractive avenues and opportunities to Indian researchers of high calibre, who are residing in foreign, to work in Indian Institutes/Universities of their respective interest and domain. Ramanujan Fellowship of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) is another scheme for brilliant Indian scientists and engineers aiming to return to India from abroad forundertaking competitive R&D. The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has created 50 positions of Scientists/Technologists to be filled laterally from eminent Scientists/Technologists of Indian Origin (STIO) working abroad. The position has been designated as Outstanding Scientist (STIO).

The VAIBHAV Fellowship envisages collaboration between scientists of Indian Diaspora and Indian Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), Universities and/ or public funded scientific institutions. The VAIBHAV Fellow would identify an Indian Institution for collaboration and may spend up to two months in a year for maximum 3 years. Since 2023, 3 calls have been announced and 35 fellows from 11 countries such as USA (18), UK (5), Australia (3), Canada (2) and one each from Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Japan and Singapore have been awarded. Presently the DBT RRF scheme is supporting 166 ongoing fellows who were working across 27 countries such as Australia (2), Belgium (4), Canada (3), Chile (1), China (1), Columbia (1), Czech Republic (1), France (2), Germany (10), Ireland (1), Israel (12), Italy (2), Japan (4), Netherlands (1), Philippines (1), Qatar (1), Russia (1), Scotland (1), Singapore (4), Slovenia (1), South Korea (2), Spain (4), Sweden (8), Switzerland (5), Taiwan (2), UK (11) and USA (80).

The schemes like VAIBHAV provide attractive fellowship (₹4 lakh per month, 1–2 months/year, for 3 years), travel support, accommodation support (upto ₹7500 per day), consumables and accessories, contingency, and institutional overhead expenses (₹5 lakh per year) to support the VAIBHAV Fellow. The DBT RRF Program has the provision to support up to 75 outstanding Indian scientists from overseas each year. The selected fellows are entitled to a fellowship of ₹1.35 lakh per month, Research and Contingency support of ₹13,00,000 per annum, and institutional

overheads of ₹50,000 per annum, for a period of three years. Necessary and adequate budgetary provisions have been made under the plan programs of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

All the schemes are being implemented to encourage Indian-origin researchers and scientists working in foreign countries to return contributes to the Government's objective of strengthening national scientific and technological capabilities by enabling the repatriation of trained manpower, augmenting research output in cutting-edge domains, and fostering global-standard expertise within the country. The schemes also help reduce brain drain by providing a structured pathway for overseas scientists to re-establish their careers in India, thereby promoting a self- reliant and innovation-driven research landscape. The areas of research involved are all aligned with the different National Missions.

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