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समाचार पत्रों से चयनित अंश
Newspapers Clippings

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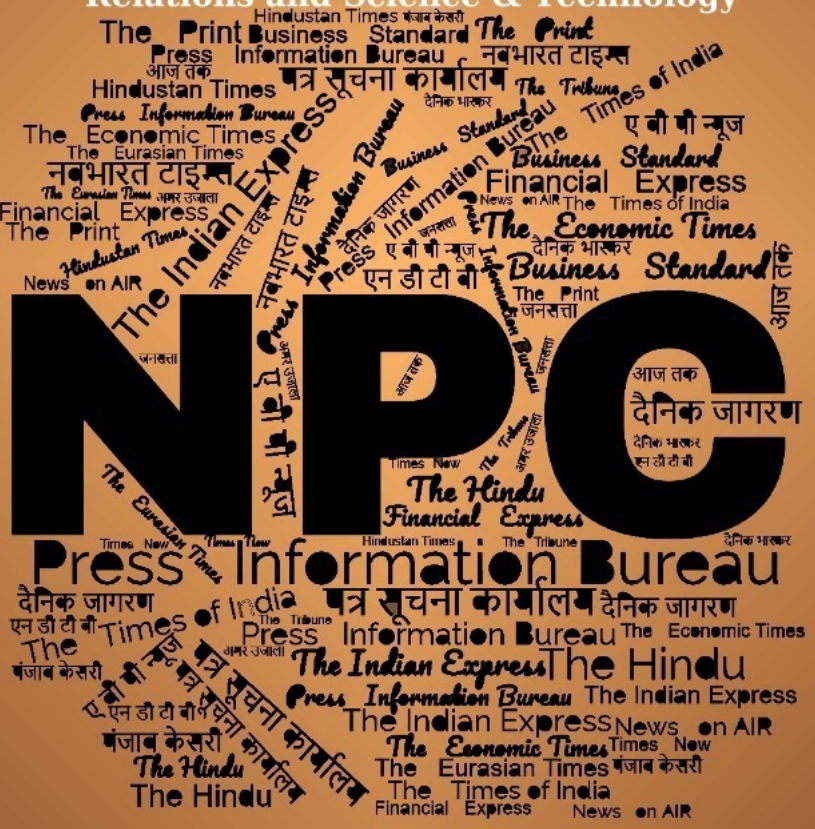

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CONTENTS

Defence News

Keel laying of two Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels for ICG

Source: Press Informtion Bureau, Dt. 18 Mar 2026

The keel laying ceremony of Yard 16402 & 16403, the second and third ship of six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), was held at M/s YMPL, Ratnagiri on March 17, 2026.

With a range of 5,000 nautical miles, these ships will be capable of achieving a maximum speed of 23 knots. Measuring 117 meters in length and having a strength of 11 officers and 110 men, it will also feature state-of-the-art machinery and advanced technological systems, including AI-based predictive maintenance systems, Remote Piloted Drones, Integrated Bridge System (IBS), and Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).

This ship is being indigenously designed, developed, and constructed by MDL under the Buy (Indian-IDDM) category, in line with the government's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. The contract for the construction of six Next Generation OPVs was concluded on December 20, 2023.

This initiative marks a key milestone in the ICG's ongoing efforts to enhance its operational capabilities and bolster coastal security. The addition of a new fleet of NGOPVs will further ensure strengthening the ICG's role in safeguarding India's maritime interests.

The ceremony was presided over by IG Sudhir Sahni, TM, DDG (M&M), in the presence of senior officials from Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and MDL.

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INDIAN NAVY CONTINUES IOS SAGAR INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN MARITIME PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIAN OCEAN NATIONS

Source: Press Infromation Bureau, Dt. 18 Mar 2026

Reaffirming India's commitment to collaborative maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, the second edition of Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR commenced on 16 Mar 2026.

The Indian Navy assumed the chair of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in Feb 2026. Therefore, this Edition includes participation from 16 IONS nations of the Indian Ocean Region(IOR).

The initiative builds on India's long-standing maritime cooperation efforts and reflects the Government of India's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), while also advancing the broader framework of MAHASAGAR – Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across the Regions.

IOS SAGAR is designed as a unique operational engagement programme that enables naval personnel from Friendly Foreign Countries to train and sail together onboard an Indian Naval Ship. By integrating international participants into shipboard activities and professional training modules, the initiative promotes practical cooperation, interoperability and shared understanding of maritime operations.

As part of the current edition of IOS SAGAR, naval personnel from 16 Friendly Foreign Countries will participate in the programme.

The programme will commence with professional training interactions at Indian Naval training establishments in Kochi, where participants will be exposed to key aspects of naval operations, seamanship practices and maritime security concepts. This phase will be followed by deployment onboard an Indian Naval Ship, where international participants will sail together with Indian Navy personnel and take part in operational activities at sea.

During the voyage, the ship will undertake maritime engagement activities and port visits, enabling interaction with partner navies and maritime agencies across the region. These engagements are intended to strengthen professional linkages, encourage exchange of best practices and foster a deeper understanding of shared maritime challenges.

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India may join 6th generation fighter jet consortium

Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 19 Mar 2026

India may join 6th-gen fighter jet consortium

Rahul Singh
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India is likely to join a global consortium developing a sixth-generation fighter aircraft — the world's most advanced — because the Indian Air Force (IAF) does not want to lag in deploying this capability to meet future air threats, said Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan.

The IAF, the world's fourth largest, has zeroed in on two global consortia — the UK, Italy and Japan / France, Germany, and Spain — hoping to join forces with one of them to develop the sixth-generation fighter aircraft, Chauhan told a Parliamentary panel that submitted a report in Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

"To ensure we don't lag behind, we will try to partner with one of the consortia and start considering the sixth-generation fighter right now," the CDS told the Parliamentary standing committee on defence.

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Army, Northeast Frontier Railway hold scenario planning excercise

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 19 Mar 2026

Army, Northeast Frontier Railway hold scenario planning exercise

TONY DAS
Guwahati

A scenario planning exercise was held in Guwahati under 101 Area and HQ Eastern Command, the Indian Army's largest command covering Northeast Bharat.

This vital conference between the Army and Northeast Frontier Railway focused on understanding mutual strengths and optimising resources. The primary goal was to align working mechanisms to ensure rapid, coordinated responses during any national crisis.

The session brainstormed diverse contingencies to bolster operational preparedness across the sensitive Eastern sector. Significant emphasis was placed on developing dual-use infrastructure, a strategic move designed to enhance logistics while ensuring substantial expenditure savings for the Government.

Senior officers from NFR, Eastern Command, and Army HQ attended to draw critical lessons in synergy and inter-agency coordination. By streamlining these processes, the exercise developed a higher level of confidence among stakeholders.

This collaborative framework ensures that both the military and railways can seamlessly integrate their efforts, providing a unified and efficient front during times of criticality.

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India balances US, Russia ties with parellel naval engagements

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 19 Mar 2026

India balances US, Russia ties with parallel naval engagements

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 17

Despite global tensions across multiple flashpoints, India continues to balance its military ties with diverse partners. It is currently engaging simultaneously with the militaries of the US and Russia at Guam and Visakhapatnam, respectively.

Two warships — Sovershenny and Rezky — from the Vladivostok-based Russian Pacific Fleet arrived at the eastern port of Visakhapatnam on March 14. The ships' crews will participate in cultural and sports events with Indian naval personnel, while also restocking supplies. The vessels, which departed Vladivostok on February 12, are on a long-distance Asia-Pacific deployment.

Meanwhile, at Guam — a US base in the western Pacific Ocean — the Indian Navy has joined an anti-submarine warfare exercise hosted by the US, along with fellow Quad partners Japan and Australia. New Zealand is also participating in the multinational exercise, 'Sea Dragon 2026', at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. The drills began on March 9 and will continue for nearly three weeks.

Two Russian warships, Sovershenny and Rezky, docked at Visakhapatnam. RUSSIAN EMBASSY

These engagements come against the backdrop of tensions in West Asia. While the US and Israel are aligned against Iran, India has, for the past two weeks, hosted the Iranian warship IRIS Lavan at Kochi; the vessel and some of its crew remain in India. Meanwhile, the US and its NATO allies remain at odds with Russia over the ongoing war in Ukraine.

At Guam, all five participating navies are deploying long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft such as the Boeing P-8 and its variants, which are capable of tracking submarines. These aircraft can generate a shared operational picture of the maritime domain and enable seamless communication between forces.

According to a US Navy statement, Sea Dragon 2026 is aimed at enhancing aircrew proficiency in anti-submarine warfare, progressing from simulated targets to detecting and tracking a live submarine.

India has been steadily refining its military ties with both the US and Russia. In November last year, India and the US discussed ways to enhance bilateral and multilateral exercises, including adding complexity such as simulated submarine hunts and tracking "enemy vessels", to strengthen maritime cooperation and advance shared strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific.

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Science & Technology News

PARLIAMENT QUESTION: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION SCHEME

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 18 Mar 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, 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). DST has also notified Anusandhan National Research Foundation (Utilization of Research, Development and Innovation Fund) Financial Rules 2026.

The scheme being operationalized through a Special Purpose Fund (SPF) established within the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), uses a two-tiered funding structure. Under this mechanism, the SPF will be the first level custodian of RDI Fund and will channels funds to Second Level Fund Managers (SLFMs). 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, for development of technologies at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4 and above in sunrise sectors. These include energy security, energy transition and climate action; deep technologies such as quantum computing, robotics and space; artificial intelligence and its applications in agriculture, health and education; biotechnology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, pharmaceuticals and medical devices; and the digital economy, including digital agriculture.

With regard to strengthening the digital agriculture sector, the Scheme supports relevant sub-sectors such as Digital Agriculture (AgriTech), precision agriculture and soil health, AI-enabled agriculture solutions, remote sensing, smart irrigation, climate-smart input optimization, digital soil health monitoring and advisory systems, agri-data and yield analytics platforms, drone-based solutions for crop monitoring, spraying and land mapping, digital farm-to-market value chains, blockchain-based produce traceability and contract farming platforms, and other technology-driven interventions aimed at improving productivity, sustainability and resilience in the agriculture sector. The Scheme also provides flexibility to include additional sub-sectors, based on the recommendations of the concerned Ministries/Departments and subject to necessary approvals.

A 'Krishi Sewa' mobile application has also been developed to support farmers in agricultural activities. advanced AI, sensor systems, and UAVs have been integrated for farm mechanization, processing, and value addition. Additionally, the 'Kisan-Sarathi' portal, a multimedia, multilingual digital agricultural advisory platform has been implemented through 731 KVKs under ICAR to provide localized extension services.

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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Why OpenAI, Anthropic are hiring chemical, weapons experts

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 19 Mar 2026

AI ENTERS MODERN WARFARE: U.S. MILITARY USING ANTHROPIC'S CLAUDE IN ITS ATTACK ON IRAN

Why OpenAI, Anthropic are hiring chemical, weapons experts

Soumyarendra Barik
New Delhi, March 18

AMID REPORTS that artificial intelligence (AI) tools were being used by the United States military in its ongoing war on Iran, top AI companies like OpenAI and Anthropic are looking to hire experts who can help suggest guardrails when their software is being used in situations like military conflicts.

Anthropic, for instance, is looking to recruit a chemical weapons and high-yield explosives expert to try to prevent "catastrophic misuse" of its software.

OpenAI is hiring a researcher in "biological and chemical risks".

The moves come as AI systems are seen rapidly becoming embedded in modern warfare — from intelligence processing to battlefield planning.

The growing use of AI in warfare has come under intense scrutiny after reports emerged that Anthropic's AI model Claude was used by the US military during operations against Iran, even as Washington and the company remain locked in a bitter dispute over the technology's military applications.

Claude, a large language model developed by the AI startup Anthropic, has been widely deployed across US national security agencies for tasks such as intelligence analysis, operational planning and cyber operations. United States Department of Defense systems have used the technology in modelling battle scenarios and analysing intelligence data.

Anthropic's AI model Claude was used by the US military during operations against Iran. REUTERS FILE

However, tensions escalated earlier this year after the Pentagon designated Anthropic as a "supply chain risk", effectively ordering federal agencies to phase out the company's technology within six months.

The decision followed disagreements over how the military could use Claude, with Anthropic insisting on safeguards preventing the AI from being used for mass domestic surveillance or for developing fully autonomous weapons systems.

Despite the order, multiple reports suggest that Claude continued to play a role in the US military campaign in Iran.

The AI system is believed to have been used for tasks such as target identification, intelligence assessment and simulating possible battlefield outcomes during airstrike planning. The revelations have sparked controversy because the alleged use of the technology came after the Trump administration directed federal agencies to stop using Anthropic's AI tools, highlighting the military's reliance on advanced artificial intelligence systems for modern warfare.

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India's semicon market to reach $300 b by 2035: Report

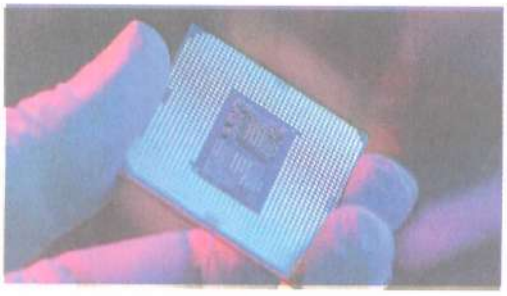
Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 18 Mar 2026

India's semicon market to reach $300 b by 2035: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

India's semiconductor market is projected to nearly triple to $ 120 billion by 2030 and reach $ 300 billion by 2035, driven by the exponential adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), automotive growth, and data centre expansion, according to a report by Deloitte.

India, which currently imports over 90 per cent of its semiconductor needs, is poised for a structural shift as local production is expected to meet more than 60 per cent of domestic demand by the end of 2035, the report titled 'Technology, Media, and Telecommunications Predictions 2026' said.



"India's semiconductor market is estimated at $ 45â"50 billion in FY2024â"25 and has been growing at a CAGR of 20 per cent over the past three years. The market is predicted to reach $ 120 billion by 2030 and $ 300 billion by 2035, driven by AI, automotives, data centres, and electronics manufacturing. "By 2035, India is expected to host 4-5 silicon fabs, 8-10 compound fabs, 1-2 display fabs and 20-25 OSAT facilities, supported by ISM and state-level incentives," the report said, adding that by 2035, 60 per cent of the country's domestic semiconductor demand is expected to be met through local production.

By 2035, various segments, such as mobile phones, automotive, computing, and data centres, are expected to account for more than 70 per cent of the total semiconductor demand in the country.

Supported by the Government's India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), the sector has already attracted over $ 19 billion in manufacturing investments across 10 approved projects, which include eight Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facilities, one compound fab, and one semiconductor fab.

Another 18-20 proposals with a total investment of $ 20-25 billion are currently in the pipeline at various stages, Deloitte pointed out. "Over the next five years, the semiconductor industry in India is predicted to attract an additional $ 50 billion in capital investment," the report stated, adding that another $ 75-80 billion investment is expected between 2030 and 2035 that will enable ecosystem expansion.

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The environmental cost of the Artificial Intelligence

Source: The Statesman, Dt. 19 Mar 2026

The environmental cost of the Artificial Intelligence

RUDRANI CHATTERJEE
Kolkata, 17 March

Artificial intelligence is widely seen as the defining technological revolution of the digital age. Yet the systems powering this revolution depend on something far less futuristic – enormous quantities of electricity, water, and computing hardware. Behind every AI-generated response lies a network of data centres filled with energy-hungry servers that must be constantly cooled to prevent overheating. As generative AI spreads rapidly across industries and becomes one of the most capital-intensive segments of tech, scientists are beginning to scrutinise the environmental footprint of the infrastructure that sustains it.

Beneath the sleek interface of AI lies a voracious appetite for electricity. Research from Massachusetts Institute of Technology estimates that training the GPT-3 language model alone consumed roughly 1,287 megawatt-hours and generated around 552 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. Much of this demand comes from large data centres housing thousands of high-performance processors operating continuously. Globally, such facilities already consume hundreds of terawatt-hours each year, rivaling the energy use of some mid-sized countries. According to the same research, a single generative AI query may use roughly five times more electricity than a conventional Google search. With each new model and query, electricity demand – and carbon impact – climbs further.

Data centres generate immense heat, necessitating sophisticated cooling systems. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, cooling large-scale AI infrastructure can consume millions of litres of water annually, with demand rising sharply as AI adoption grows. Recent projections from the World Economic Forum suggest that accelerated AI use could drive global water withdrawals associated with digital workloads to an additional 4.2-6.6 billion cubic metres by 2027 – equivalent to four to six times Denmark's annual water withdrawal, highlighting how rapidly this unobtrusive footprint could scale. In regions already facing water scarcity, this surge in demand could make AI infrastructure a significant driver of resource stress.

AI hardware also depends on rare earth minerals and specialised processors. Mining and manufacturing these components are resource- and energy-intensive, producing significant industrial waste. Rapid hardware turnover contributes to mounting electronic waste, projected to reach 74 million tonnes globally by 2030, according to the International Energy Agency.

The AI boom heralds unprecedented opportunities, yet companies now confront a fundamental dilemma – can this surge in digital ambition coexist with the exhaustible resources of our planet?

For business leaders, AI's industrial footprint is increasingly a vector of operational and strategic risk. Rising electricity prices, volatile mineral markets, and tightening regulations – from carbon pricing to ESG reporting mandates – translate these environmental factors into tangible financial exposure. "These are no longer abstract environmental concerns, they are material risk factors," says Rupan Nag, Innovation Engineer, R&D-RAN Solutions at TEOCO, and Senior Advisor at Tekplay.ai. "Freshwater availability is fast becoming a gating variable for digital infrastructure growth. When millions of litres of water consumption run up against regulatory limits and community resistance, it creates tangible bottlenecks in permitting and operations. Investors and credit agencies are increasingly embedding water risk into their models, which means infrastructure strategy is now directly linked to capital access and valuation."

The central paradox is clear – AI promises infinite productivity, yet its infrastructure is constrained by finite resources. For investors and executives alike, the question is which companies can translate sustainability into scalable advantage. But operationalising sustainable AI at scale is far from trivial. The pace of AI adoption is outstripping the industry's capacity to build resource-efficient systems. "Current trajectories are simply not sustainable," notes Dr R Rajkumar, Associate Professor at the School of

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India Eyes Global Collaboration for Common 6G Tech Standard: Scindia

Source: The Economic Times, Dt. 19 Mar 2026

India Eyes Global Collaboration for Common 6G Tech Standard: Scindia

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India aims to collaborate with global bodies such as the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to create a common technical framework for sixth-generation (6G) technology to ensure global interoperability across devices, networks and services, said communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

"6G will not only represent exponential jumps in speed and latency, but I really believe it's the next leap for human civilisation from a digital and technology perspective... This new exponential leap goes beyond connectivity; it relates to the concepts of intelligence, immersiveness and limitless possibilities," Scindia said on Wednesday.

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