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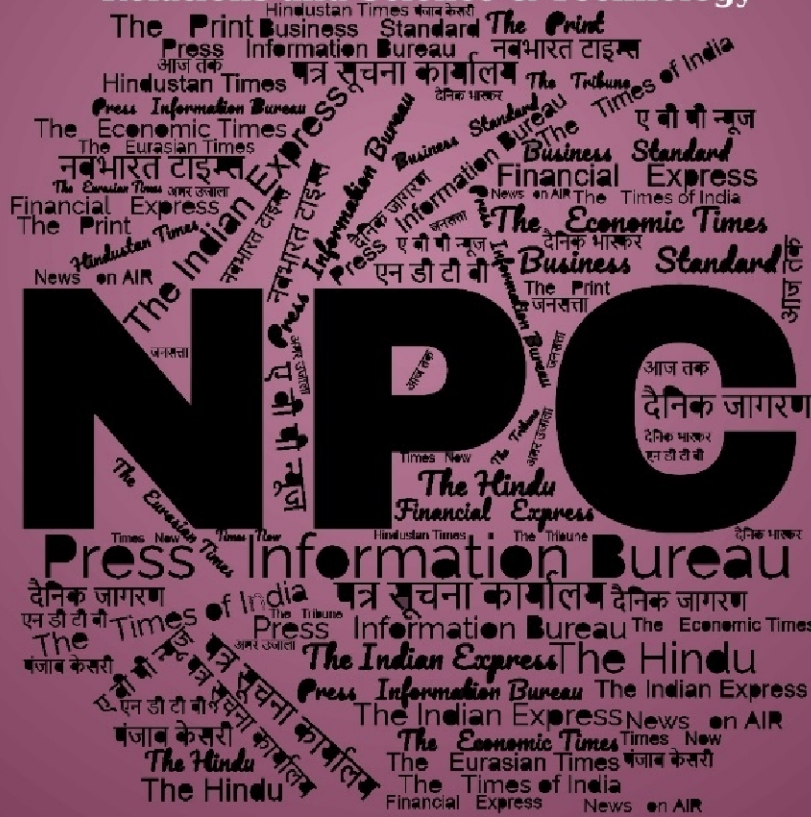
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समाचार पत्रों से चयनित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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

MoD inks Rs 975-cr deal for anti-mine equipment

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

The Ministry of Defence today inked a Rs 975 crore contract for equipment used by Army tanks to breach enemy minefields. Called the 'Trawl assembly', this is used by Army's T-72 and T-90 tanks. The Ministry of Defence said two contracts – one with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and the other with Electro Pneumatics and Hydraulics (India) Private Limited -- for the procurement of 'Trawl assembly' at an approximate cost of Rs 975 crore. The contracts were inked in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

The 'trawl' is a critical equipment **developed by DRDO** to enhance the minefield breaching capability of the Indian Army. It would generate additional capability of creating 'vehicle safe lanes' through minefields with anti-tank mines. "It would enhance the operational effectiveness of the Indian Army," the MoD said.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/india/mod-inks-975-cr-deal-for-anti-mine-equipment/>

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Defence News

India, South Korea plan 3rd phase of defence cooperation; eye collaboration in anti-aircraft guns, missile systems

Source: The Times of India, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

India and South Korea have agreed to broaden their defence partnership during the bilateral talks between PM Narendra Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Monday, as the two countries have planned for the third phase of cooperation that will emphasise greater technology transfer, co-development and joint design of advanced military systems. The two sides already co-manufacture the K9 Vajra, a specialised artillery gun, and now plan to extend the same manufacturing model to futuristic technologies.

Addressing a media briefing in Delhi, MEA secretary (East) P Kumaran said on Monday, "Korea supplies K9 Vajra systems, anti-aircraft systems. There are already two phases of supplies that have happened. We're looking at the third phase, which involves a greater technology transfer. We're also looking at other kinds of anti-aircraft guns and missile systems."

The K9 Vajra-T is a 155 mm, 52-calibre tracked self-propelled howitzer that forms a key component of the Indian Army's modern artillery capability. Manufactured in India by Larsen & Toubro with technology transferred from South Korea's Hanwha Aerospace, the system is based on the widely used K9 Thunder platform.

Equipped with a 155mm/52 calibre gun mounted on a 50-tonne chassis with all-welded steel armour up to 19 mm thick, K9 Vajra-T self-propelled howitzers can fire 47 kg shells at distances of up to around 50 km.

The Army has successfully deployed K9 Vajra-T in high-altitude, mountainous terrain, specifically in Ladakh and the northeastern border. These 155mm/52-calibre tracked guns were originally designed for desert warfare but after successful trials in 2021, are now operationalised in hilly areas to enhance long-range, rapid-deployment firepower.

Kumaran said, "The earlier two phases of cooperation were primarily oriented towards direct acquisitions and progressive localisation, but Phase III will take the relationship even further with advanced manufacturing and technology transfer."

"Co-development and technology transfer, co-design, etc of next-generation defence systems are some other areas where we want to explore cooperation. Then there are possibilities of co-operation on procurement of defence hardware, telecom equipment, cyber security..." he said.

While the production of artillery weapons systems such as the K9 Vajra has been the highlight of this joint venture, there are ongoing talks on developing air defence systems, which include both anti-aircraft guns as well as missile platforms to tackle new aerial threats such as drones.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-south-korea-plan-3rd-phase-of-defence-cooperation-eye-collaboration-in-anti-aircraft-guns-missile-systems/articleshow/130429331.cms>

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रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह तीन दिन की जर्मनी यात्रा पर बर्लिन पहुंचे

Source: Jansatta, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह तीन दिन की जर्मनी यात्रा पर मंगलवार को म्यूनिख पहुंचे और इसके बाद सिंह बर्लिन पहुंच गए। सोशल मीडिया पर एक पोस्ट में उन्होंने बताया कि उन्हें जर्मन वायुसेना के विशेष विमान से म्यूनिख से बर्लिन लाया गया और लड़ाकू विमानों ने उनकी सुरक्षा की बर्लिन पहुंचने पर उन्हें सैन्य सम्मान दिया गया। राजनाथ सिंह जर्मनी के रक्षामंत्री बोरिस पिस्टोरियस और अन्य वरिष्ठ नेताओं के साथ द्विपक्षीय वार्ता करेंगे ताकि दोनों देशों के बीच रणनीतिक रक्षा साझेदारी को और मजबूत किया जा सके।

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In Berlin, Rajnath beckons German industry to 'co-create, co-innovate, co-develop' in India

Source: The Times of India, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

Addressing German parliamentarians in Berlin, Rajnath Singh on Tuesday beckoned the industry there, saying "Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not merely a procurement programme, it is an invitation to co-create, co-develop, and co-innovate".

Upon his arrival in Germany, Rajnath was welcomed at the Berlin airport with military honours. He was flown in a special German Air Force aircraft, escorted by fighter jets, during his flight from Munich to Berlin. During his three-day visit, Rajnath is set to hold talks with his German counterpart, Boris Pistorius, and other senior leaders.

Addressing the German parliamentary standing committee, Rajnath made a strong pitch for enhanced collaborations between defence industrial ecosystems of the two countries. He asserted

that the “world today is faced with new security threats, and the technological transformation has made the situation highly complex and intricately connected. A new approach with the willingness to adapt to the changing environment is the need of the hour”.

Pointing out that India is witnessing an unprecedented transformation in the defence sector, he said increased partnerships with the German industry can yield significant mutual gains.

“We recognise the established strengths of Germany’s leading industrial enterprises, while also admiring the vigour and dynamism of the renowned German Mittelstand (small & medium-sized companies) in advanced and emerging technologies. In India too, our start-ups and enterprising private companies are rapidly enhancing and complementing the capabilities of our larger and established defence enterprises. This is an area where India and Germany naturally complement each other, and our partnership can deepen further,” he said.

To deal with modern-day global challenges, Rajnath underscored the need for coordinated responses and trusted strategic partnerships. “PM Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Mr Friedrich Merz have placed strong emphasis on advancing this strategic partnership. We also see a clear convergence of views at the EU level, reflected in the growing momentum to engage with India, including through the India–EU Defence and Strategic Partnership,” he said.

He said India and Germany are not only strategic partners, but also consequential voices in shaping the global discourse of the present times. “We are established democracies bound by shared values, and dynamic economies driven by resilience, innovation, and a determined industrial spirit. As lawmakers and esteemed members of the committee, your guidance, voice, and support can further strengthen and enrich the future course of our defence and strategic cooperation.”

Rajnath pointed out that the current geopolitical instability can no longer be viewed as regional matters. Their consequences are global in scope, he said, describing them as not localised disturbances, but serious developments with far-reaching implications for energy security, food security, and global economic stability, apart from the immense humanitarian cost they entail.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/in-berlin-rajnath-beckons-german-industry-to-co-create-co-develop-co-innovate-in-india/articleshow/130429338.cms>

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Indian CDS hold talks with UK military officials

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

The Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, has held a wide range of high-level discussions with military counterparts and ministers on the evolving nature of conflict and countering emerging challenges in the Indo-Pacific in London this week. General Chauhan called on Luke Pollard, UK Minister of State (MoS) for Defence Readiness & Industry, and Seema Malhotra, MoS for Indo-Pacific, as part of what has been described as a “landmark” visit.

The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) said the meetings were aimed at taking forward the India-UK partnership, with a focus on the bilateral Defence Industrial Roadmap and technology and security initiatives. “Discussions centred on evolving nature of conflict and deepening military-to-military cooperation,” the HQ IDS stated.

“Both sides emphasised enhancing cooperation in Cyber, Intelligence and Space domains, including information resilience and specialised exchanges. The exchange reaffirmed a shared commitment to resilient, future-ready forces and a strengthened India-UK strategic partnership,” it said. General Chauhan was accorded a Ceremonial Step Line when he was received by Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton in London on Monday.

“Great to discuss UK-India defence and security cooperation with India’s Chief of Defence Staff General Chauhan today. The UK and India are working together to promote peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond, as set out by Prime Ministers Keir Starmer and Narendra Modi last year,” Sir Richard said in a social media statement.

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Indian Army chief holds talks with US Army’s Pacific head

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

The Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, held high-level talks with General Ronald P. Clark, Commanding General of the United States Army Pacific, in Honolulu, the capital of Hawaii, focusing on strengthening defence cooperation and advancing a shared vision for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Upon arrival at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, General Dwivedi was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour. “The COAS undertook an aerial tour of Oahu island to gain insights into the U.S. Army’s training ecosystem and multi-domain operational readiness,” the Indian Army posted on social media platform X.

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BEML secures Rs 590 crore order from defence ministry

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

State-owned BEML on Tuesday announced securing a new order worth Rs. 590 crore for the supply of trawl assemblies to the Indian Army. In this regard, a formal contract agreement was signed between senior officials of the Ministry of Defence and BEML Ltd in the national capital on Tuesday, the company said in a statement.

“In a significant boost to India’s defence preparedness and indigenous manufacturing capabilities, the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, has awarded a Rs. 590 crore contract to BEML Limited for the supply of trawl assemblies for deployment on the Indian Army’s T-72 and T-90 tanks,” the statement said.

Equipped with multi-layered clearing mechanisms, these trawl systems will significantly enhance the operational effectiveness of the armed forces in combat zones by creating safe passage, thereby enhancing the mobility, survivability, and operational momentum of mechanised forces and offering a decisive advantage in modern battlefield environments, BEML said.

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जापान ने बदली नीति, घातक हथियारों के निर्यात पर लगे प्रतिबंध हटाया

Source: *Dainik Jagran*, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

जापान ने द्वितीय विश्वयुद्ध के बाद से जारी अपनी शांतिवादी नीति में बड़ा बदलाव किया है। उसने घातक हथियारों के निर्यात पर लगे प्रतिबंध को हटा दिया है। उसने यह कदम चीन और उत्तर कोरिया की आक्रामकता के बीच देश के हथियार उद्योग को मजबूत करने के प्रयास के तहत उठाया है।

प्रधानमंत्री साने ताकाइची की कैबिनेट ने मंगलवार को इस संदर्भ में फैसला लिया। कैबिनेट की ओर से नए दिशा-निर्देशों को मंजूरी मिलने के साथ ही जापान द्वारा विकसित युद्धपोतों, लड़ाकू ड्रोन और अन्य हथियारों की बिक्री की राह में मौजूद अंतिम बाधाएं भी दूर हो गई हैं। मुख्य कैबिनेट सचिव मिनोरु किहारा ने पत्रकारों से कहा, 'तेजी से बदलते सुरक्षा परिदृश्य के बीच नई नीति जापान की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करेगी और क्षेत्रीय शांति व अंतराष्ट्रीय शांति के साथ ही स्थिरता में अहम योगदान देगी। चीन ने इस नीति में बदलाव की आलोचना की है, लेकिन ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने इसका स्वागत किया है।

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Japan opens doors to global arms market in a change of its post-war pacifist policy

Source: *The Hindu*, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

Japan on Tuesday scrapped a ban on lethal weapons exports, a major change in its postwar pacifist policy as the country seeks to build up its arms industry amid worries over Chinese and North Korean aggression. The approval by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's Cabinet of the new guideline clears a final set of hurdles for many arms sales, including of Japanese-developed warships, combat drones and other weapons.

It has been largely welcomed by Japanese defence partners like Australia and attracted interest from Southeast Asia and Europe. U.S. Ambassador to Japan George Glassion X called the move a "historic step" that will help enhance the defence capabilities between the allies. Officials say the new arms transfer rules would contribute to deepening of military and defence equipment cooperation with Japanese partners and to the regional deterrence.

"No country today can defend peace and safety by itself and needs partners to support each other," Ms. Takaichi said on X. "There is no change to our 80-year history as a pacifist nation and its pledge," she said, promising strict standards to its promotion of arms exports. The defence industry is one of 17 strategic areas targeted for growth under the Takaichi government. The government also has increased funding for Startups and academic research.

China laments move Beijing criticised the change in policy. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said the global community including China will "resolutely resist Japan's reckless moves toward a new type of militarism."

Opponents at home also say the change violates Japan's pacifist constitution enacted after the Second World War and will increase global tensions and threaten the safety of the Japanese people.

The new policy will “ensure safety for Japan and further contribute to the peace and stability in the region as the security environment around our country rapidly changes,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said. Japan has long prohibited most arms exports. It has made recent changes because of rising global and regional tensions, but exports were limited to five areas: rescue, transport, alerts, surveillance and minesweeping.

The new guidelines scrap those limits and allows the export of equipment such as fighter jets, missiles and destroyers. For now, such exports will be limited to 17 countries that have signed defence equipment and technology transfer accords with Japan. They also must be approved by the National Security Council, and the government will monitor how the weapons are managed afterward. Japan remains committed to strict screening and export controls to third countries and will not offer lethal weapons to countries at war, officials said, but granted that exceptions could be made to limit

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Japan’s lifting of arms export limits opens options for India

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

Japan on Tuesday ended six-decades of self-imposed restrictions on selling and sharing military technology, opening up possibilities for India, its long-standing partner, on aero-engines and marine engines. Japan also holds cutting-edge technology on specialised sea-planes, conventional submarines and has quality ship-building techniques.

India and Japan, had in January this year, discussed several defence equipment projects, however, progress hinged upon Tokyo’s easing of the export regulatory controls imposed since 1967. Today this changed. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi posted on X about the changes made to the rules in her country. “We amended the ‘three principles on transfer of defense equipment and technology’ and their ‘guidelines’ for implementation,” she said.

Until now, the transfer of Japan-produced military products was limited to search and rescue, transportation, surveillance and mine countermeasures. “With this amendment, transfers of all defence equipment will in principle become possible,” the Japanese PM said. Tokyo is looking to strategically promote equipment transfers while making even more rigorous and cautious judgments.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/japans-lifting-of-arms-export-limits-opens-options-for-india/>

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The Iran model of warfighting: Should India adopt It?

-By Gaurav M Tripathi, VSM, Air Commodore (Retired)

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

US Vice President JD Vance has left Pakistan with his team after the failure of talks with the Iranian delegation led by Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi and Speaker Mohammed Bagher Ghalibaf. Negotiations are continuing through Pakistan, even as operations remain suspended, and the world hopes for the early and assured restoration of maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. However, analyses of the extended military operations have started appearing in the

media. Ordinarily, third-party conflicts are best suited to study by military professionals, as they can be undertaken dispassionately. Further, Iran's success in holding off the mighty US-Israel combine is certainly worthy of attention.

Unfortunately, most analyses have been somewhat simplistic and have tended to link desired outcomes in the Indian scenario with recommendations cherry-picked from the Iranian experience, but without context. This has led to a flawed narrative gaining ground—that drones and missiles can replace expensive fighters, and that if Iran can take on a superpower, then that is the path India must follow. This narrative is based on certain notions whose correctness is questionable. These are, firstly, that a drone/missile-based approach is more cost-effective than one based on fighters; secondly, that drones and missiles will be effective in creating the required effects at the military/operational level; and lastly, that they can generate the strategic impact needed to achieve the desired political outcome. However, direct transplantation to the Indian scenario may not work. It begins with the difference in the notion of victory. For Iran, faced with a vastly superior grouping of adversaries, matching them was never an option. It therefore adopted an ultra-defensive strategy of resilience based on force protection and counter-attacks using drones and missiles.

It invested heavily in subterranean storage, reportedly going as deep as 500 m. This was key to its success, as it ensured survival and enabled retaliation. This infrastructure did not come cheap. Estimates for tunnels at 50 m depth in Tehran range from \$150-188 million for a 5 km stretch. Deeper tunnels in remote mountains would cost more. Most estimates suggest 30 or more such 'cities', while some even mention 'hundreds'. Were India to adopt a similar posture, the investment required would be at least two to three times higher. The notion of drones and missiles offering a cost advantage therefore, falls flat. Secondly, US forces in the Gulf region are based at a limited number of locations and within specified areas of shared bases, as per relevant intergovernmental agreements. These factors severely constrained the US ability to disperse assets or move them frequently, and offered Iran a set of fixed, discrete, well-defined targets. Launching missiles and drones in large numbers against such targets provides a reasonable chance of success. However, Pakistan would be able to disperse rapidly across its territory. China presents an even greater challenge and already possesses extensive subterranean protective infrastructure, along with a dense air defence ecosystem. Creating the same operational impact with drones and missiles would therefore be far more difficult for India than it was for Iran.

Thirdly, Iran operated under a unique set of conditions: a superpower adversary with a maximalist notion of victory (regime change); a hardline, faith-based polity for which direct conflict with the US and Israel was seen as an opportunity rather than a threat; a dominant position with respect to a major choke point; and numerous significant economic and strategic targets within range. It adopted a counter-value targeting approach, including against neutral third-party maritime traffic, effectively closing the Strait of Hormuz and delivering a major economic shock globally. Amplified by social media—and contrasted with perceived US overconfidence and questionable legality—this created a strategic impact disproportionate to the actual military effects. It is difficult to identify any parallel between such a setting and the Indian context. Kamikaze drones and missiles also cannot perform reconnaissance (ISR), visual interception, signalling, air policing, or be switched 'wave to wave' between domains (land to sea), or between roles within the same sortie, with extended range through refuelling. The economics also favour reusable platforms (such as fighters or UCAVs) over single-use systems like kamikaze drones or missiles. There is a reason why reusable launch systems, such as those pioneered by SpaceX, are widely pursued. Furthermore, Iran's approach effectively ceded control of its sovereign airspace to the US and Israel, allowing their air

forces to conduct largely unrestricted operations. If India were to adopt a similar approach, it could result in the decimation of its land and sea offensive capabilities, severely undermining deterrence.

In sum, the cost argument does not hold, as a successful ultra-defensive posture requires substantial investment in protective infrastructure. The operational effects achieved by Iran cannot be reliably replicated in the Indian context. Finally, the strategic impact of those effects cannot be achieved by India due to fundamentally different targeting philosophies, domestic political considerations, and relative power equations with its adversaries.

That said, drones and missiles do have a significant role to play. They enable scale, expand the threat spectrum, and can overwhelm adversaries. They can shape the battlefield and support more precise and heavier ordnance delivery by reusable platforms, whether manned or unmanned. The Indian Air Force anticipated this and supported several start-ups in developing indigenous swarm capabilities under its Mehar Baba initiative (2019-2021). It also has multiple ongoing programmes for both kamikaze drones and missiles. The optimal approach lies in a nuanced mix of capabilities, rather than simplistic doctrines that could commit the country to an ultra-defensive strategy with little prospect of victory and a limited ability to avoid defeat.

<https://dailypioneer.com/news/the-iran-model-of-warfighting-should-india-adopt-it>

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India's silent heroism in Korean war to be honoured with new memorial in South Korea

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

Seventy-five years after India played a stellar role in non-combat role during Korean war, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit South Korea next month for the joint inauguration of a War Memorial being built to commemorate India's participation in the War. When the Korean War broke out in June 1950, India, then a newly independent country, tested out its nascent foreign policy of Non-Alignment.

While India did not contribute combat troops, its influence on the war's outcome was noted globally. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made the strategic decision not to send combat battalions, fearing that military involvement would compromise India's neutral status. Instead, India dispatched the 60th Parachute Field Ambulance, an airborne medical unit. Led by Lt Col AG Rangaraj, the unit arrived in November 1950. Their impact was immediate: called 'Parachute Doctors', they frequently dropped behind or near enemy lines to treat the wounded.

By 1952, the war had reached a stalemate. The primary obstacle to a ceasefire was the issue of Prisoners of War (POWs). India proposed a Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (NNRC). The plan suggested that prisoners who refused to go home should be handed over to a neutral body to decide their fate. Initially rejected by both sides, the resolution eventually became the blueprint for the 1953 Armistice Agreement. India's ability to talk to both Washington and Beijing—at a time when they were not talking to each other—was the key that unlocked the peace process.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/top-headlines/indias-silent-heroism-in-korean-war-to-be-honoured-with-new-memorial-in-south-korea/>

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India marks a year since Operation Sindoor

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

“Some boundaries should never be crossed. India does not forget,” was the Indian Army’s terse message on social media on the eve of the first anniversary of the terror carnage in Pahalgam, Kashmir, on April 22. Twenty-six people, mostly tourists, were gunned down in 2025 by Pakistan-based terrorists in the incident, sparking countrywide outrage.

As the nation pays tributes to the innocent victims, the Army’s social media post on X also said “When boundaries of humanity are crossed, the response is decisive. Justice is Served. India Stands United. #SindoorAnniversary #JusticeEndures #NationFirst”. The post, heavily symbolic, also carried a digital poster bearing a silhouetted image of the map of India with the caption “SOME BOUNDARIES SHOULD NEVER BE CROSSED”.

The ‘O’ in the word ‘CROSSED’ was depicted by a bowl carrying a dash of sindoor (vermilion), and a tagline at the bottom printed in crimson hue, read, “INDIA DOES NOT FORGET” with a red line drawn at the bottom. As a tribute to those who lost their lives in the attack that took place in the meadows of Baisaran valley, a memorial has been erected in the hill resort of Pahalgam. Built of black marble, it bears the names of the 26 victims — 25 tourists and local ponywallah Adil Shah — and has been constructed along the banks of the Lidder river.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had reportedly chosen the name sindoor for the punitive strikes as part of Operation Sindoor launched on May 7, last year. The objective was to destroy terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK).

In his first public reaction to the massacre, Modi on April 24, last year, had said, “India will identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers” Addressing a public rally in Madhubani district, Bihar, he then switched over to English from Hindi and said “Today from the soil of Bihar I say to the whole world. India will identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers. We will pursue them to the ends of the Earth.”

He then went on to say “India’s spirit will never be broken by terrorism. Terrorism will not go unpunished. Every effort will be made to ensure that justice is done. The entire nation is firm in this resolve.” ‘

“Everyone who believes in humanity is with us. I thank people and leaders of countries who have stood with us,” the Prime Minister said as he acknowledged the reaction of world leaders after the attack. The military action, lasting four days, saw the armed forces destroying several Strategic airfields and installations across the border, besides killing nearly 100 terrorists hiding in camps there.

After launching the decisive military operation, the Indian Army in a post on X at 1:51 am on May 7 had said, #PahalgamTerrorAttack Justice is Served. Jai Hind!” along with a digital poster that carried the name ‘OPERATION SINDOOR’. One of the Os in ‘SINDOOR’ was portrayed as a bowl carrying a dash of ‘sindoor’. Pakistan later also launched offensives against India, and all subsequent counter-offensives by India were also carried out under Operation Sindoor. The military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, lasting nearly 88 hours, halted after they reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.

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IAF's Sirsa unit fired Barak-8 last May to shoot down Pak

Source: The Times of India, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

Had it not been for the quick response of an IAF unit based in Haryana that managed the Barak-8 surface-to-air missile system, a Pakistani ballistic missile, which may have had Delhi as its target, would have inflicted considerable damage at the height of the Indo-Pak conflict in May last year.

On the first anniversary of April-22 Pahalgam terrorist attack that claimed lives of 26 civilians and led to India launching Op Sindoor against Pakistan, TOI has learnt that it was Air Commodore Rohit Kapil, Air Officer Commanding (AOC) of 45 Wing in Sirsa — a forward IAF base close to Pakistan border — and his team that had successfully intercepted and destroyed the Pakistani ballistic missile (presumably a Fatah missile or Shaheen-II variant) over Sirsa airspace with their Barak-8 missile system. The Pakistani missile may have had Delhi as its target. Security forces retrieved parts of the missile from Sirsa on May 10, with videos of its parts strewn on the ground going viral.

The swift action by 45 Wing of IAF averted a major attack and showed the effectiveness of India's integrated air defence network, which the Modi government is now working to expand to a pan-India level under the Sudarshan programme. The proposed multi-layered Sudarshan will fuse existing, indigenous and advanced systems — such as Russian S-400s, Barak-8 MRSAM and the indigenous Project Kusha interceptor system — to protect Indian cities, strategic assets and infrastructure from drones, cruise missiles and hypersonic threats.

Not many knew about Air Commodore Kapil and his team's vigilant action during last year's conflict, but it may have saved many lives. For his role in air defence as AOC of 45 Wing in Sirsa, Air Commodore Kapil was on August 14 chosen for the Yudh Seva Medal by President Droupadi Murmu. Commissioned as a fighter pilot on June 20, 1998, he is a Su-30MKI pilot and Cat 'A' qualified flying instructor and has also commanded an operational Su-30MKI squadron.

On the eve of the Pahalgam attack anniversary on Tuesday, the Indian Army cautioned Pakistan through a stern message on X: "When boundaries of humanity are crossed, the response is decisive". The message carried a digital poster bearing a silhouetted image of India's map with the caption 'Some Boundaries should Never Be Crossed'.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/iafs-sirsa-unit-fired-barak-8-last-may-to-shoot-down-pak-ballistic-missile-that-may-have-had-delhi-as-target/articleshow/130429297.cms>

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INS Sunayna arrives at Jakarta under Indian Navy's IOS Sagar Initiative, strengthening maritime ties with Indonesia

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 21 Apr 2026

Indian Navy's INS Sunayna, an Offshore Patrol Vessel deployed under the IOS SAGAR initiative, arrived at Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 Apr 2026, marking the third port call of its operational deployment to the Indian Ocean Region. The ship, with a multinational crew from 16 Friendly Foreign Countries onboard, transited the narrow Malacca and Singapore Straits prior to arrival, demonstrating high standards of interoperability and navigational proficiency.

IOS SAGAR is a practical expression of India's vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) and embodies the ethos of "leadership through partnership, strength through unity and progress through peace." The mission completed its Harbour Phase from 16 to 29 March 2026 in India and is currently progressing through the Sea Phase (Apr–May 2026), which includes port calls at multiple Friendly Foreign Countries in the Indian Ocean Region.

During the port call at Jakarta, the ship will engage with the Indonesian Navy (TNI AL) through professional, social and sporting interactions. The Commanding Officer, INS Sunayna called on the senior leadership at Kodaeral III (Naval Regional Command III). Planned activities include professional exchanges, joint Yoga sessions, sporting events, ship visits by stakeholders and a deck reception. A Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Indonesian Navy is scheduled on departure.

The initiative underscores India's Neighbourhood First policy and vision of MAHASAGAR, reaffirming that "a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific is in the interest of all nations".

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2254169®=3&lang=1>

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Science & Technology News

NASA's Curiosity rover finds building blocks of life on Mars

Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 22 Apr 2026

A Nasa rover has discovered more building blocks of life on Mars after carrying out a chemistry experiment never before conducted on another planet, scientists said on Tuesday. The organic molecules are not definitive evidence of past life, the Nasa-led team emphasised, because they could also have formed on the red planet or crash-landed on meteorites.

But it proves that these important clues to Martian history have been preserved on the surface for more than three billion years, they added. Back then, the surface of Mars was thought to have been dotted with huge lakes and rivers full of liquid water, a key ingredient for life as we know it.

Nasa's Curiosity rover landed in a former lake bed called the Gale crater in 2012, and has been searching for signs of possible past life since. The car-sized rover carried two tubes of a chemical called TMAH, which can break apart organic matter to see what it is made out of. "This experiment's never been run before on another world," Amy Williams, an astrobiologist working on the Curiosity mission said. The experiment, conducted in 2020, detected more than 20 organic molecules, including several that had never before been confirmed on Mars. These included a molecule called benzothiophene, which has also been found in meteorites and asteroids.

"The same stuff that rained down on Mars from meteorites is what rained down on Earth, and it probably provided the building blocks for life as we know it on our planet," Williams said. Another molecule containing nitrogen "is a precursor to how DNA is eventually built," she added. "We're seeing the building blocks for life - prebiotic chemistry on Mars - preserved in these rocks for billions of years."

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