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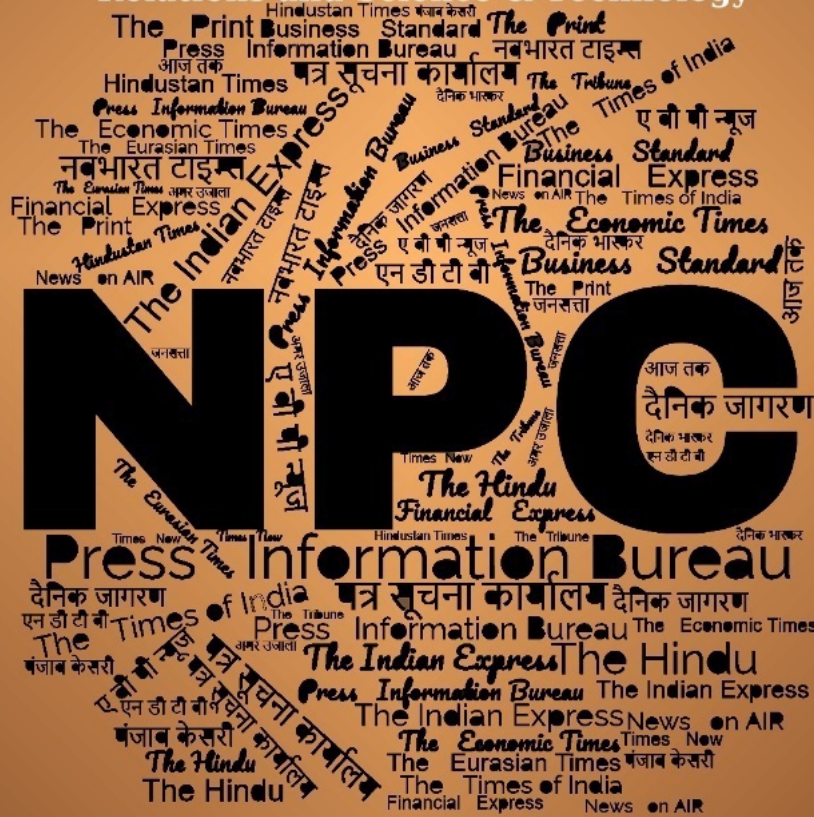
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# समाचार पत्रों से चयनित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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# Defence News

## India pivots defence attache networks to focus on exports

Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 24 Mar 2026

### India pivots defence attache network to focus on exports

Rahul Singh

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** India has reworked its defence attache network abroad to drive military exports, focusing on countries likely to buy weapons and systems from India rather than those selling military hardware to it, officials aware of the matter said on Monday.

The targeted reshuffle took place in phases and will help India boost its defence exports and meet targets, the officials said. India is seeking to double its defence exports to ₹50,000 crore by 2029-30 — the figure reached ₹23,682 crore in the financial year 2024-25, representing a 12% increase over the previous year.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan discussed the reshuffle of the defence attaches during an interaction with the Parliament standing committee on defence, which tabled its latest report in the Lok Sabha last week.

"As far as the role of military diplomacy is concerned, it is a new thing and to play a role of an exporter, we have reshuffled our defence attaches. There were a large number of attaches in the countries (from) which (we) were importing equipment. They have been withdrawn and now have



CDS General Anil Chauhan

been distributed to those countries where defence equipment is likely to be exported," Chauhan told the panel.

This implies India is reducing its military diplomatic presence in countries such as Russia, France, Israel and the US, while increasing such visibility in regions with export potential including South-east Asia, Africa and Latin America. In 2021-2025, Russia was India's top supplier of military hardware, accounting for 40% of the country's arms imports, followed by France (29%) and Israel (15%).

India sold military hardware to around 100 countries in 2024-25, with the private sector and defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) contributing ₹15,233 crore and ₹8,389 crore to exports,

respectively, according to official data. More than 100 local firms and DPSUs are exporting military hardware including missiles, artillery guns, rockets, armoured vehicles, offshore patrol vessels, personal protective gear, radars, surveillance systems, ammunition, components, and systems/sub-systems.

The light combat aircraft (LCA Mf-1A), advanced light helicopter and light combat aircraft also hold export potential, the officials said.

The defence attaches represent not only the DPSUs but the entire country including the private sector, the CDS told the committee, adding that clear instructions had been issued for them to represent everyone.

The country is also tapping the export potential of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, the officials said. India and Indonesia are close to an agreement on the supply of the BrahMos missile system, though crucial elements such as the pricing and number of batteries to be supplied remain to be finalised. If the deal goes ahead, Indonesia will be only the second foreign customer for the BrahMos missile jointly developed by India and Russia. India signed a deal worth almost \$375 million in January 2022 to equip the Philippine

Marines with three batteries of the missiles.

India is also positioning itself as a global shipbuilding hub and has called upon international partners to tap the potential of the country's vibrant industry to co-develop next-generation maritime capabilities, and create sustainable technologies and resilient supply chains.

Several policy reforms have been ushered in by the government in the past few years to boost the Indian defence industry, including simplification of the industrial licensing procedure, removal of parts and components from the license regime, and simplification of export authorisation.

In all, 1,762 export authorisations were issued by the government in FY 2024-25 compared to 1,507 in the previous year, a growth of 16.92%, the data shows. The number of exporters also jumped 17.4% in this period.

India's arms imports fell 4% between 2016-20 and 2021-25, but the country remains the world's second largest importer of military hardware, accounting for 8.2% of global weapon imports, according to a recent Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report.

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## Over half dozen Navy warship escorting indian-flgged vessels in Gulf region

Source: Indian Express, Dt. 24 Mar 2026

### Over half dozen Navy warships escorting Indian-flagged vessels in Gulf region

Amrita Nayak Dutta

New Delhi, March 23

OVER HALF a dozen warships of the Indian Navy have been deployed close to the Gulf region to safely escort tankers carrying fuel to India over the last few days. The Indian Express has learnt. The strength of this task force of the Indian Navy is being augmented or reduced based on specific requirements, depending on the evolving situation, it is learnt.

The Navy had earlier escorted two vessels, two Indian-flagged LPG tankers — very large gas carriers (VLGCs) Shivlik and Nanda Devi — following the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran amid the ongoing West Asia conflict.

On Monday, the Navy was tasked with escorting two other Indian-flagged LPG tankers — Pine Gas and Jag Vasant — as they crossed the Strait of Hormuz. According to the ship

tracking data, the two LPG tankers were nearing the waters between Iran's Larak and Qeshm islands as of Monday noon.

Based on specific requirements for tankers, warships that are sailing close to the area at the time are being tasked with safely escorting the specific tanker crossing the region.

The vessels also take a specific amount of time to reach close to the strait, depending on where they are coming from, before they are escorted. For instance, if they are sailing from Kuwait, it takes about 1.5 days to reach the area, after which a warship escorts them.

The Indian merchant vessels are constantly in contact with the Navy. It is learnt, and the Navy has been continuously tracking their location and movement.

Once Jag Vasant and Pine Gas exit the Strait of Hormuz, 20 Indian vessels would remain in the Persian Gulf.

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## IAF to train UK Royal Air Force pilots : British Air chief

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 24 Mar 2026\

**IAF to train UK Royal Air Force pilots: British Air Chief**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
New Delhi

Britain's Air Chief Marshal Sir Harv Smyth on Monday hailed a new move that will facilitate the Indian Air Force (IAF) train pilots of the UK's Royal Air Force as the two sides are looking at boosting overall defence ties in the face of emerging security challenges.

The Chief of the Air Staff, presently on a three-day visit to India, held wide-ranging talks with his Indian counterpart Air Chief Marshal AP Singh.

Air Chief Marshal Smyth met his Indian counterpart to discuss evolving security threats and ways to further strengthen the partnership between the two air forces, according to a British readout. Smyth is in India to boost military ties in the face of "emerging security challenges," it said.

In February this year, the UK and India signed an agreement under which the Indian Air Force will deploy three qualified flying instructors to Royal Air Force (RAF) Valley in the UK - the training base for British fast jet pilots.

The two air chiefs will also travel to Air Force Station in Gwalior to understand IAF's operational procedures and best practices in countering new-age aerial threats.

"It is a privilege to visit India and further strengthen our defence partnership, hosted by my esteemed colleague and good friend, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh," Smyth said.

"The planned arrival this September of Indian Air Force Qualified Flying Instructors at RAF Valley - joining the IAF instructor already contributing at RAF College Cranwell - illustrates the depth of trust, shared professionalism, and mutual commitment that underpin our relationship," he said.

Smyth said these exchanges, together with expanding training and operational cooperation, demonstrated the enduring bonds between the Royal Air Force and the Indian Air Force.

"Our shared dedication to security, stability, and technological excellence. I look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to deepen the cooperation between our air forces in the years ahead," he said.

Commodore Chris Saunders, a defence adviser at the British High Commission, said the visit by the UK Chief of the Air Staff emphasises the significance of the UK-India defence relationship.

"Embedding IAF instructors within our instructor cadre at RAF Valley and RAF College Cranwell, as well as those from other Services, alongside increasingly complex air exercising and multi-domain cooperation, represents a tangible and substantive strengthening of defence ties in all domains," he said.

"As the fourth and most senior flag-rank visitor from the UK to India in 2026, this visit clearly signals the strategic importance both nations place on developing a strong defence partnership," Saunders added.

Air Chief Marshal Smyth is also expected to hold discussions with other members of India's civil and military



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## Science & Technology News

### “TDB-DST supports Indigenous Cybersecurity Solution for Secure Data Transfer Across Air-Gapped Networks”

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 23 Mar 2026

The Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, has extended financial support to Matisoft Cyber Security Labs Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi for the project titled “Development of an Advanced Open-Source Framework Sanitization Tool Facilitating Secure Transfer of Data Between Multiple Air-Gapped Networks.” The project is aimed at developing an indigenous cybersecurity solution to enable secure and controlled data exchange across highly sensitive, air-gapped environments, particularly in defence and critical infrastructure sectors.



The proposed solution focuses on the development of a USB sanitization and data transfer control software, specifically designed to meet the stringent security requirements of organisations such as the Indian Navy. The system ensures that only verified and sanitized data is transferred between isolated networks, thereby mitigating risks arising from malware, unauthorized data access, and zero-day cyber threats.

The technology integrates multiple in-house developed cybersecurity capabilities—including Data Loss Prevention (DLP), Endpoint Detection & Response (EDR), and Content Disarm & Reconstruction (CDR)—into a unified platform. The system comprises seven core modules, including centralized policy control, real-time threat monitoring, file sanitization, secure licensing, automated updates, and system installation frameworks. Together, these modules provide comprehensive protection by scanning, analysing, and neutralizing potentially harmful content while preserving the usability of files.

Designed to operate without internet connectivity, the solution is particularly suited for deployment in air-gapped environments where conventional cloud-based security systems are not viable. It also maintains detailed audit logs, enforces strict USB usage policies, and ensures compliance with organizational cybersecurity protocols.

The entire technology stack has been developed indigenously by the R&D team of Matisoft Cyber Security Labs Pvt. Ltd., reinforcing India's capabilities in building secure and self-reliant cyber defence systems for strategic applications.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary, TDB, stated that secure digital infrastructure is critical for national security in an increasingly interconnected world. He noted that TDB's support to indigenous cybersecurity solutions will enable the development and deployment of advanced technologies tailored to India's defence and critical infrastructure needs, while reducing dependence on foreign systems.

Founder of Matisoft Cyber Security Labs Pvt. Ltd. expressed appreciation for the support and stated that the project will enable the company to strengthen its product capabilities and accelerate deployment of a robust, scalable, and indigenous cybersecurity solution for highly sensitive environments.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2243913&reg=3&lang=1>

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The Tribune  
The Statesman  
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