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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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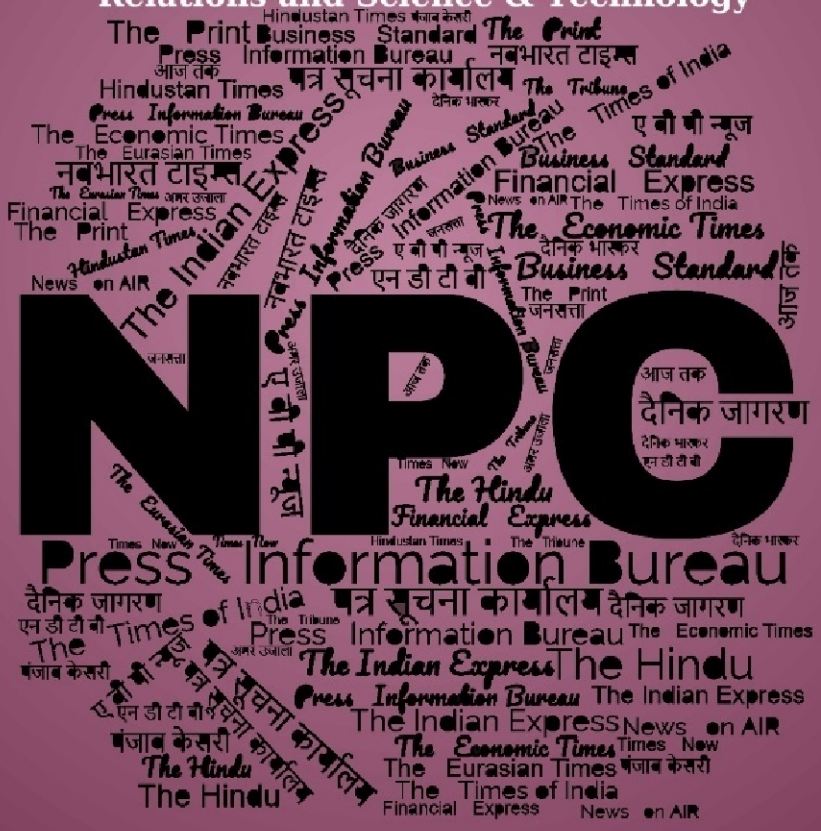

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Defence News

एससीओ बैठक में पश्चिम एशिया संकट पर होगी चर्चा

Source: Dainik Jagran, Dt. 28 Apr 2026

किर्गिज़स्तान में के बिश्केक में शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (एससीओ) देशों के रक्षा मंत्रियों की 28 अप्रैल को होने वाली बैठक में वैश्विक-क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा मुद्दों के अतिरिक्त पश्चिम एशिया में ईरान और अमेरिका-इजरायल युद्ध से उपजे वैश्विक हालात पर भी चर्चा होगी। रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व करेंगे।

ईरान युद्ध संकट के बाद एससीओ का यह पहला मंत्री स्तरीय सम्मेलन इस लिहाज से भी अहम है कि रूस को छोड़ अधिकांश देश अपनी ईंधन की जरूरतों के लिए मध्यपूर्व तथा खाड़ी के देशों पर निर्भर हैं। ईरान भी एससीओ का सदस्य है।

पश्चिम एशिया की वर्तमान स्थिति के कारण उत्पन भू-राजनीतिक उथल-पुथल के बीच इस वर्ष की एससीओ की यह बैठक हो रही है। यह संगठन इस क्षेत्र के सबसे प्रमुख राजनीतिक और आर्थिक मंचों में से एक है। वैसे बैठक के दौरन एससीओ के सदस्य देशों के रक्षा मंत्री क्षेत्र की रक्षा एवं सुरक्षा संबंधी कई मुद्दों पर विचार-विमर्श करेंगे। अंतरराष्ट्रीय शांति, आतंकवाद-रोधी उपायों और एससीओ सदस्य देशों के बीच रक्षा सहयोग से संबंधित मुद्दों पर भी चर्चा की जाएगी। रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार, बैठक में राजनाथ सिंह वैश्विक सुरक्षा चुनौतियों में भारत की वैश्विक शांति के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित करेंगे और सदस्य देशों के रक्षा मंत्रियों द्विपक्षीय वार्ताएं भीकर सकते हैं।

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Rajnath leads Indian delegation at SCO Defence Ministers' meet today

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 28 Apr 2026

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will lead the Indian delegation to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Tuesday. Defence Ministers of the member countries will deliberate upon issues concerning the defence and security of the region at the meet.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Ministry of Defence said that issues related to international peace, counter-terrorism and defence cooperation among SCO member states will also be discussed at the meeting.

The SCO meeting this year comes in the backdrop of the global energy crisis amid the ongoing West Asia war. The Defence Ministry noted that the SCO, which is among the largest political and economic organisations in the region, might discuss measures to reduce the impact of the ongoing conflict.

The statement noted that Singh will highlight India's commitment towards global peace, amidst the prevailing global security challenges, and underline India's consistent stance on zero tolerance for

terrorism and extremism. He will likely hold bilateral talks with his counterparts from some of the participating countries on the sidelines of the meeting.

According to sources, the bilateral meetings are yet to be firmed up. It is not immediately known whether he will hold bilateral meetings with his Russian and Chinese counterparts. Singh had led a high-level Indian delegation at the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting at China's Qingdao on June 25 and 26 last year, where he had refused to sign the draft statement after the document omitted the reference to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, last year.

https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rajnath-leads-indian-delegation-at-sco-defence-ministers-meet-today-10659144/

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रक्षा खर्च में भारत दुनिया के शीर्ष पांच देशों में हुआ शामिल

Source: Dainik Jagran, Dt. 28 Apr 2026

बदलते वेश्विक सुरक्षा माहौल और क्षेत्रीय तनावों के बीच भारत ने अपने रक्षा खर्च में उल्लेखनीय बढ़ोती की है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय थिंक टैंक स्टाकहोम इंटरनेशनल पीस रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (सीपरी) की ताजा रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वर्ष 2025 में भारत का सैन्य व्यय 8.9 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 92.1 अरब डालर हो गया। इसके साथ ही भारत दुनिया के शीर्ष पांच रक्षा खर्च करने वाले देशों में शामिल हो गया है।

रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, वैश्विक रक्षा खर्च में भारत की हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर 2.9 प्रतिशत तक पहुंच गई है। अमेरिका, चीन, रूस और जर्मनी के साथ भारत अब उस समूह में शामिल है, जो मिलकर दुनिया के कुल सैन्य खर्च का लगभग 58 प्रतिशत वहन करता है।

विंशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि बीते वर्ष पाकिस्तान के साथ हुए सैन्य तनाव और बदलते सुरक्षा समीकरणों ने भारत को रक्षा तैयारियों पर ज्यादा ध्यान देने के लिए प्रेरित किया। इस दौरान लड़ाकू विमानों, ड्रोन और मिसाइल प्रणालियों के उपयोग ने आधुनिक युद्ध की दिशा भी स्पष्ट की। वैश्विक स्तर पर भी सैन्य खर्च लगातार बढ़ रहा है।

2025 में दुनिया का कुल रक्षा व्यय 2887 अरब डालर तक पहुंच गया, जो लगातार 11 वें वर्ष वृद्धि को दर्शाता है। इसके पीछे यूरोप और एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव, रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध और पश्चिम एशिया की अनिश्चितता प्रमुख कारण माने जा रहे हैं। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, पाकिस्तान का रक्षा बजट भी 11 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 11.9 अरब डालर हो गया है, जिसमें चीन से हथियार खरीद के नए सौदे शामिल हैं।

अमेरिका अब भी दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा सैन्य खर्च करने वाला देश बना हुआ है, हालांकि 2025 में उसका बजट घटकर 954 अरब डालर रह गया। वहीं चीन ने अपने सैन्य आधुनिकीकरण अभियान के तहत खर्च बढ़ाकर 336 अरब डालर कर लिया है। सीपरी के विश्लेषण में यह भी सामने आया कि 2025 में वैश्विक सैन्य भार (जीडीपी के अनुपात में रक्षा खर्च) बढ़कर 2.5 प्रतिशत हो गया, जो 2009 के बाद का उच्चतम स्तर है।

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India fifth-largest military spender in 2025 at $92.1 bn; Pakistan 31st with $11.9 bn: Sipri data

Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 28 Apr 2026

India was the fifth-biggest military spender in the world in 2025—after the United States, China, Russia and Germany—accounting for 3.2% of the global military expenditure last year, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) said in a report published on Monday.

India's military spending stood at $92.1 billion last year, an 8.9% increase over the previous year, according to the report. When India launched Operation Sindoor against Pakistan last year, the armed forces made a raft of emergency procurements to stay battle-ready.

Sipri data shows India's neighbours also increased their military spending: China, the world's second-largest military spender, increased its spending by 7.4% to $336 billion; Pakistan's military spending increased by 11% to $11.9 billion and it was the 31st-biggest spender among the 40 countries listed.

The top three military spenders—the USA, China and Russia—spent a combined $1,480 billion, or 51% of the global total, the report said, adding that global military expenditure increased to $2,887 billion in 2025. "The main contributor to the global increase in military spending in 2025 was a 14% rise in Europe to $864 billion. Spending by Russia and Ukraine continued to grow in the fourth year of the war in Ukraine, while ongoing rearmament efforts by European NATO members led to the sharpest annual growth in spending in Central and Western Europe since the end of the Cold War," the report said.

The latest report comes at a time when India's arms imports have recorded a decrease. 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, said a Sipri report published in March. India's arms imports are driven by its tensions with China and Pakistan, said the report on "Trends in International Arms Transfers."

Over the past decade, India has shifted its arms relations away from Russia towards Western suppliers, especially France, Israel and the United States, said the March report, which compared data over two five-year periods. "The largest share of Indian arms imports during 2021-25 came from Russia, at 40%—a significantly smaller share than in 2016-20 (51%) and almost half of that in 2011-15 (70%). India is increasingly turning to Western suppliers."

Russia, France and Israel are the top suppliers of military hardware to India. On February 1, India hiked its defence spending by more than 15% in the backdrop of Operation Sindoor, setting aside ₹7.85 lakh crore for the critical sector in the Union Budget for 2026-27, including a capital outlay of ₹2.19 lakh crore to boost the capabilities of the armed forces with new weapons and systems including fighter planes, transport aircraft, helicopters, warships, submarines, artillery guns, smart weapons, missiles, rockets and a variety of unmanned systems.

https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-fifth-largest-military-spender-in-2025-at-92-1-bn-pakistan-31st-with-11-9-bn-sipri-data-101777337128370.html

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India hands over two search-rescue watercraft to Sri Lanka

Source: The Times of India, Dt. 28 Apr 2026

To boost maritime relations, India has handed over to Sri Lanka two personal watercraft (PWC) to further enhance Sri Lankan Coast Guard's (SLGC) capabilities in near shore search and rescue, the Indian high commission in Sri Lanka said on Sunday.

On the handover of the two vessels, the Indian embassy said, "GoI assistance enhances Sri Lanka Coast Guard capability in near-shore Search and Rescue (SAR). Defence Adviser Indian SL handed over two PWCs along with safety gears to director operations at SLCG Headquarters in Mirissa."

To enhance interoperability, the two navies also held diving exercise 'IN-SLN DIVEX 2026' in Colombo from April 21-27. The exercise, in which INS Nireekshak participated, brought together diving teams from the two navies to undertake a series of specialised underwater operations and training drills.

Commanding Officer Commander of INS Nireekshak Cdr Sailesh Tyagi held discussions with Sri Lanka's Rear Admiral SJ Kumara, Flag Officer Commanding, Western Naval Area, on issues of mutual interest and avenues for deeper cooperation. Beyond operational engagements, the visit included social interactions, sports fixtures and joint yoga sessions designed to foster camaraderie and goodwill between the personnel of both navies.

As part of humanitarian outreach, India will hand over two BHISM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri) cubes to Sri Lankan authorities. These portable medical units are equipped to handle up to 200 emergency cases and come with essential medicines and basic surgical capabilities. The Indian Navy will also provide 50,000 rounds of 9 mm ammunition to the Sri Lankan Navy.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-hands-over-two-search-rescue-watercraft-to-sri-lanka/articleshow/130564242.cms

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Maritime security: Need to have proactive doctrine

-by Kripa Nautiyal (retired Additional Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, defence and strategic expert, alumnus of the United States Naval War College)

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 28 Apr 2026

The ongoing tensions in the Gulf and the looming spectre of a blockade in the Strait of Hormuz serve as a stark reminder that global sea lanes are neither inviolable nor immune to disruption. For India, a nation whose economic lifelines are inextricably tied to the seas, this is not a distant geopolitical abstraction but an immediate strategic concern. With a coastline stretching over 11,000 kilometres, an expansive Exclusive Economic Zone, and a vast network of islands, India's maritime geography is both an asset and a vulnerability.

Over the decades, the country has painstakingly built a credible coastal security architecture. Yet, credibility alone is no longer sufficient. The emerging security environment demands a decisive doctrinal shift—from a reactive posture to a proactive, preventive, and integrated maritime strategy. India's coastal security framework has evolved less through anticipation and more through

adversity. The establishment of the Coast Guard in 1978 marked the beginning of a structured maritime law enforcement presence. The absence of an integrated, multi-agency security grid became painfully evident in 1993, when the Mumbai serial blasts were facilitated by the clandestine landing of arms and explosives along the Maharashtra coast. This incident forced policymakers to acknowledge the coastline as a critical security frontier, leading to enhanced patrolling efforts. However, these measures, while important, were incremental and insufficient to address systemic vulnerabilities. The Kargil conflict in 1999 triggered a broader reassessment of national security, including maritime dimensions, but it was the attacks of 26/11 that exposed the full extent of India's coastal security lapses. The response in the aftermath was substantial and transformative. Initiatives such as the Coastal Security Scheme, the establishment of Joint Operations Centres, the National Command Control Communication and Intelligence (NC3I) network, and the National Maritime Domain Awareness project significantly strengthened India's maritime security infrastructure.

The integration of marine police forces, the deployment of coastal radar chains, and the expansion of surveillance capabilities further enhanced situational awareness. In recent years, India has continued to build upon this foundation. Investments in offshore patrol vessels, maritime reconnaissance aircraft, and information-sharing platforms such as the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region have improved operational readiness.

Agreements with multiple countries to share white shipping information have expanded India's maritime reach beyond its immediate waters. Collectively, these measures have created a system that is both robust and credible. Yet, despite these advancements, the fundamental orientation of India's coastal security remains reactive. The current model measures success primarily through enforcement metrics—patrol hours logged, distances covered, and quantities of contraband seized. While these indicators are important, they reflect a focus on intercepting threats after they have materialised rather than preventing their emergence. A purely interdiction-based approach, no matter how efficient, cannot achieve lasting security outcomes. A proactive maritime security strategy requires a fundamental redefinition of both objectives and metrics. Instead of focusing solely on immediate enforcement outcomes, success must be evaluated in terms of sustained reductions in illegal maritime activities, disruption of criminal networks, and resilience of coastal ecosystems. This approach recognises that security threats at sea are often rooted in economic, social, and governance deficits on land.

Central to this shift is the need to transform coastal communities from passive subjects of security measures into active partners. Fishermen, harbour workers, and coastal traders possess granular, real-time knowledge of local maritime activity that no technological system can fully replicate. A fisherman noticing an unfamiliar vessel lingering offshore or unusual patterns in maritime movement can provide critical early warnings. Institutionalising such community-based intelligence through formal reporting mechanisms, legal protections, and prompt response systems is not a peripheral initiative—it is a strategic imperative. Depleting fish stocks, rising operational costs, limited access to credit, and lack of insurance push many in coastal communities towards smuggling or other illegal enterprises. By investing in marine insurance schemes, cooperative credit structures, and alternative livelihoods such as aquaculture and coastal tourism, the state can reduce the incentive base for criminal recruitment. In this sense, ministries dealing with fisheries, finance, and labour become as critical to maritime security as traditional defence and law enforcement agencies.

Governance of littoral spaces also requires urgent attention. Corruption within port and harbour ecosystems represents a significant security vulnerability. Illicit consignments that pass through compromised administrative systems pose risks equivalent to those that evade detection at sea. Strengthening regulatory oversight through measures such as biometric crew identification, universal vessel tracking systems, and independent audits of port authorities is essential.While joint exercises involving the Navy, Coast Guard, intelligence agencies, and other stakeholders are valuable, their effectiveness depends on the institutionalisation of lessons learned into everyday operations. India's vision of regional cooperation, articulated through initiatives like SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), provides a strong conceptual framework. However, translating this vision into operational reality requires deeper collaboration with neighbouring countries, including joint surveillance, coordinated enforcement actions, and shared intelligence mechanisms. Without such cooperation, enforcement efforts risk merely displacing criminal activities across maritime borders rather than eliminating them. Ultimately, the imperative for India is clear. The seas surrounding the country are becoming increasingly contested and complex, shaped by geopolitical tensions, economic competition, and transnational threats. A reactive approach, however sophisticated, will always remain one step behind evolving challenges. India stands at a juncture where it can either continue to refine its reactive systems or embrace a transformative approach that anticipates and mitigates threats before they materialise. The choice will determine not only the security of its coastline but also the resilience of its broader strategic and economic future.

https://dailypioneer.com/news/maritime-security-need-to-have-proactive-doctrine

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Theaterisation the right way

-by Air Cdre Gaurav Tripathi (Retd) (Director (Ops), Veda Aeronautics)

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 28 Apr 2026

Theaterisation or the reorganisation of the Indian military into triservices' 'integrated theatre commands' is nearing realisation. This would possibly be the most profound restructuring of the armed forces since Independence. Astonishingly, it was written into policy, not on the basis of, any detailed internal, broad-based study that established its need, but essentially on a 'narrative'.

Public discourse slowly established that theaterisation was the solution for lack of jointness among India's defence services. This gained momentum with China's establishment of theatre commands in 2016. Eventually, this became a policy commitment when it was written into the charter of the CDS.

It may be prudent to pay special attention to some critical aspects before the proposalis firmed up. Firstly, theatres should ideally be strategic constructs. That is, the actual detailed planning of military operations in each of the three domains of land, air and sea must still be done by the domain specialist 'operational' commanders (like the heads of the various single service commands at present).

The theatre commander's role must be that of someone who provides the overarching strategic guidance, ensuring jointness in planning and finally resolving dissonance if any. He must add balance and ensure cooperation and coordination, rather ' than take over operations planning

himself. An Air Marshal planning a sea campaign will be as much ‘at sea’ as a General planning an air campaign will be 'in a spin’!

Secondly, by usage and practice, theatres have generally been large in geographical expanse. Consequently, they have usually also been geographically distinct. Certainly, the US medel indicates this. But, most models in the Indian discourse proposed four or more theatres. Delineation would require necessary inter-theatre application of forces, defeating the very purpose of theaterisation.

Thirdly, land and sea operations have generally had very little overlap in the Indian context. The designation of the Maritime Theatre’ further reinforces the disconnect.

Lastly, in both the US and Chinese models, the command line of theatre commanders who command field forces and the advice line of service chiefs who are tasked with raise, train and sustain functions merge in a political functionary.

In the US, it is the Secretary of War and in China, it is the Central Military Commission whose chair is the President. In India, open-source chatter has some how putthe CDS at the confluence of both these channels. So what can be done to address these issues?

If available inputs are to be believed, theatre commanders will be four-star ranks. This automatically puts them at the strategic level of command, with protocol and charter (hopefully) to engage with all organs of government and society while operational commanders concentrate on specialist planning. They would link theatre-level military strategy to national strategy. This is a good development. Care must be taken when deciding Areas of Responsibility (AsOR).

One aspect is possibly the litmus test of whether the theatres are actually ‘joint’ or just ‘joined’. Decision-makers must aim for a truly joint framework, especially for the Western Theatre Command. Naval operations within 800-to-1,000 km of the Pakistan coast must be handled by the western theatre command as these would require close coordination with air and land operations. The last aspectneeds a giant leap of faith on the part of the political leadership.

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Top US General pushes deeper ties with India

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 28 Apr 2026

Atop US military commander, Gen Kevin Schneider, has emphasised the US commitment towards deepening its strategic defence partnership with India and advancing a shared vision for a secure and stable Indo-Pacific. General Schneider is the Commander, Pacific Air Forces & Air Component Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command. During the visit (April 19-25), General Schneider focused on advancing logistics cooperation between the two countries.

Strengthened logistics frameworks and agreements enable more seamless coordination, improving readiness and supporting rapid, coordinated responses to humanitarian crises and regional contingencies. This growing cooperation enhances both nations’ ability to deliver timely assistance and maintain operational presence across the Indo-Pacific. General schneider engaged with senior Indian defence leaders to explore opportunities to expand operational collaboration.

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राफेल के लिए एयरफोर्स को चाहिए स्वदेशी फ्लाइट डेटा रिकॉर्डर एनालिसिस टूल

Source: NavBharat Times, Dt. 28 Apr 2026

इंडियन एयरफोर्स को अपने फाइटर जेट राफेल के लिए ऐसा फ्लाइट डेटा रेकॉर्डर (FDR) एनालिसिस टूल चाहिए जो तेज हो साथ ही ऐसी दिक्कतो की भी पहचान कर सके जो पहले से पता ना हो। इंडियन एयरफोर्स ने स्वदेशी इंडस्ट्री से इस पर काम करने को कहा है ताकि एयरफोर्स की जरूरते हो सकें। एयरफोर्स ने स्वदेशी इंडस्ट्री से है से कहा कि वे राफेल फाइटर जेट के लिए एक तेज़ FDR एनालिसिस टूल विकसित करे, जिसमे सॉफ्टवेयर के साथ ही जरूरी हार्डवेयर जैसे लैपटॉप और अन्य उपकरण भी शामिल हो। इस टूल को बनाने के लिए नए सिरे से डिवेलप करने की जरूरत है ताकि मौजूदा FDR प्रोसेसिंग क्षमता को और बेहतर बनाते हुए विश्लेषण को तेज़ किया जा सके। बढ़ गई है।

पुराने विमानो मे फोटोग्राफिक फिल्म सॉफ्टवेयर आधारित FDR से सॉलिड-स्टेट FDR में अपग्रेड होने और एयरफोर्स मे रफेल, C-130, C-170, C-295, चिनूक और अपाचे जैसे नए आधुनिक विमानों के शामिल होने से डेटा की मात्रा काफी बढ़ गई है। पारंपरिक FDR विश्लेषण सॉफ्टवेयर पहले से ज्ञात समस्याओं को तो संभाल सकता है लेकिन नई या अनजानी दिक्कतों को पहचानने में यह कमजोर है। राफेल विमान के लिए राफेल बनाने वाली कंपनी से जो FDR एनालिसिस सॉफ्टवेयर मिला है वह करीब 400 उड़ान से जुड़े पैरामीटर को प्रोसेस करता है। यह डिजिटल डेटा को फिजिकल वैल्यू में बदलता है और स्टैटिक, डायनामिक और श्री डी मोड में विश्लेषण करने की सुविधा देता है।

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INS Sudarshini concludes port call at Las Palmas, Canary Islands

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 27 Apr 2026

The Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship, INS Sudarshini, concluded a landmark three-day port call at Las Palmas, Canary Islands, on 26 Apr 2026, marking a pivotal milestone in its Lokayan 26 transoceanic expedition. The visit to the Spanish archipelago provided an important avenue for maritime diplomacy and professional engagement. The Commanding Officer, INS Sudarshini, called on RAdm Santiago de Colsa Trueba, Chief of Canary Islands Naval Command. The exchange highlighted the strengthening bilateral ties and the deepening partnership between the two navies.

During the port call, the ship was open to visitors, drawing large numbers from the local community and the Indian diaspora. Showcasing India's proud seafaring legacy, the visitors were provided a guided tour of the ship, sharing invaluable experiences of ocean sailing and bonds of friendship across the ocean. INS Sudarshini now proceeds to her next destination – Mindelo, Cape Verde, which will be the final African stopover prior embarking on the trans-Atlantic passage. Having completed seven port calls and maritime engagements with the Navies of West Asia, Mediterranean, Europe, and Africa, the voyage epitomises Indian Navy's commitment to building Bridges of Friendship and mutual trust across the nations.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2255920&reg=3&lang=1

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Science & Technology News

India's space race heats up: New venture from Hyderabad signals next big leap

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 28 Apr 2026

India's space economy is moving into a decisive phase—defined by scale, speed, and growing global ambition. Over the years, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched more than 430 foreign satellites, steadily building a reputation for cost-efficient and reliable missions. What began as a largely scientific pursuit is now evolving into a commercially competitive space programme, at a time when the global space economy is projected to cross the $1 trillion mark by 2040.

This shift is unfolding against a rapidly changing global backdrop. The rise of reusable launch technologies, led by SpaceX, has dramatically lowered costs and turnaround times, forcing spacefaring nations to rethink their strategies. India, however, appears to be keeping pace. High-profile missions such as Chandrayaan, along with record-setting multi-satellite launches and a steadily growing private ecosystem, point to a clear strategic pivot—one that aims to capture a larger share of the global launch and satellite services market.

Demand is surging across sectors, from broadband connectivity and earth observation to defence-linked space infrastructure. In this environment, India's combination of affordability, reliability, and a more open policy framework is increasingly positioning it as a serious contender on the global stage.

At this crucial juncture, defence-linked sources suggest that India could soon witness another milestone. By May 2026, the country may see the rollout of its first full-stack private aerospace venture by the name of Astramile Aerospace. The proposed venture brings together a diverse founding team—an Indian Army veteran, former scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & ISRO and Hyderabad-based entrepreneur Neetu Malhotra. If realised as planned, the company could mark a significant step forward in India's private participation in the space sector.

Astramile Aerospace is expected to position itself alongside existing players like Skyroot Aerospace and Agnikul Cosmos, while seeking to distinguish itself through a fully integrated, end-to-end aerospace model. Unlike many startups that focus on a single segment, the company is reportedly aiming to combine launch capabilities with satellite manufacturing under one umbrella.

According to sources familiar with the plans, the venture is working on both nano and micro satellite platforms. Nano satellites in the 10–50 kg range and micro satellites between 100–500 kg are expected to serve a wide spectrum of applications, including earth observation, telecommunications, agriculture, and defence.

To support this, the company is setting up a state-of-the-art cleanroom facility for precision manufacturing, alongside advanced vibration and thermal vacuum testing systems required for space-grade qualification. The broader manufacturing ecosystem is being designed to handle the

entire lifecycle—from assembly and calibration to final flight readiness—effectively creating a vertically integrated operation across both payloads and launch systems.

On the propulsion front, Astramile is planning near-term testing of a reusable semi-cryogenic engine-based launch vehicle to insert small satellites weighing between 800 to 1000 kilograms into the Lower Earth Orbit (LEO). This platform is expected to eventually support deep-space missions. Notably, around 80% of the venture's components are expected to be indigenously sourced, aligning closely with India's push for self-reliance under Hon PM's initiative of Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Make in India.

Headquartered in Hyderabad, the company is also planning a 100-acre integrated aerospace campus in Andhra Pradesh. The facility is expected to house design, R&D, and manufacturing operations, with a strong emphasis on sustainability—ranging from renewable solar energy use to zero liquid discharge systems and closed-loop water management.

Currently self-funded, Astramile Aerospace is in the process of raising seed or Series A round. Its roadmap outlines a phased investment strategy leading up to its first launch, tentatively in 2029. In the longer term, the company is targeting over 10 orbital launches annually, scaling satellite production to as many as 25–30 units per year, and expanding into global markets.

Going by the current plans, Astramile Aerospace is likely to become a key player in India's evolving space ecosystem—at a time when the country is not just participating in the global space race, but steadily working to shape it.

https://dailypioneer.com/news/indias-space-race-heats-up-new-venture-from-hyderabad-signals-next-big-leap

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