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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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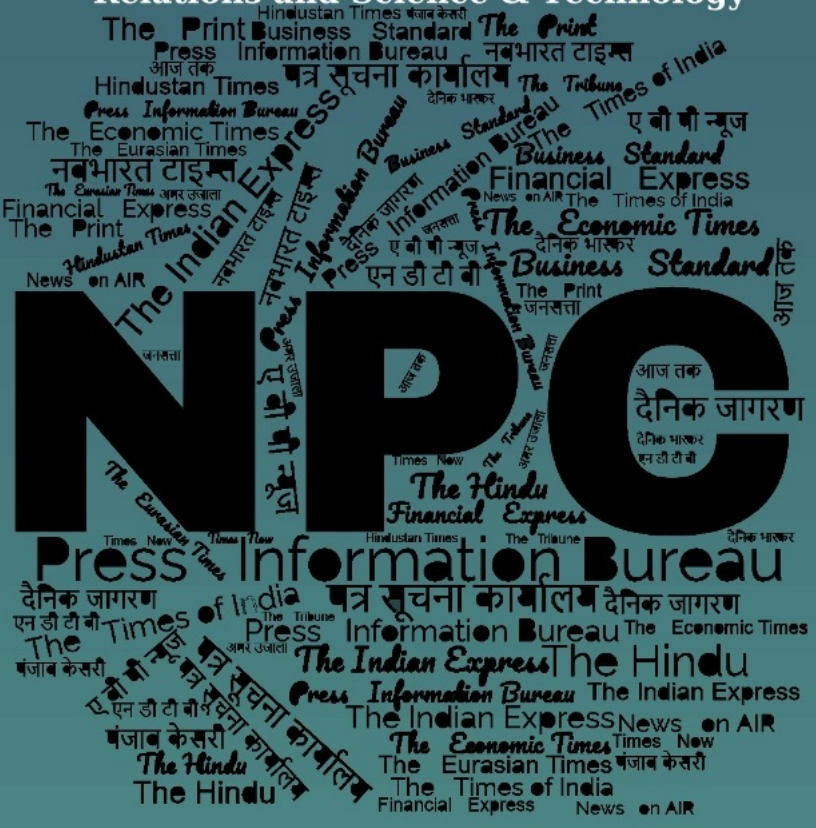

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परमाणु हथियार ले जाने में सक्षम कम दूरी की मिसाइल अग्नि-1 का परिक्षण

Source: Dainik Jagran, Dt. 23 May 2026

भारतीय **रक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ)** ने शुक्रवार को ओडिशा के चांदीपुर स्थित अब्दुल कलाम द्वीप से अग्नि-1 मिसाइल का परीक्षण किया। अग्नि-1 मिसाइल जमीन से जमीन पर मार करने वाली कम दूरी की स्वदेशी बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल है। ठोस ईंधन से चलने वाली यह मिसाइल 700 से 1200 किलोमीटर तक की दूरी पर स्थित लक्ष्य को नष्ट कर सकती है। यह अपने साथ 1000 किलोग्राम (एक टन) वजन तक के पारंपरिक और परमाणु हथियार ले जाने में सक्षम है।

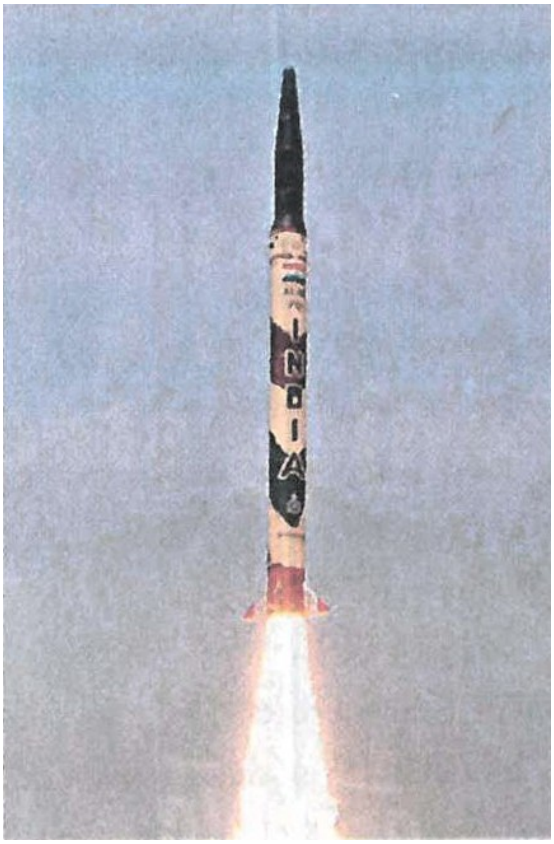

Fig: अग्नि-1 मिसाइल के परीक्षण का दृश्य

मिसाइल का वजन 12 टन है, जबकि लंबाई 2 मीटर है। इसमें ठोस ईंधन का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है जो इसे त्वरित प्रक्षेपण के लिए तैयार रखता है। परीक्षण के दौरान मिसाइल ने अपने सभी आपरेशनल और तकनीकी मानकों को सफलतापूर्वक पूरा किया, जिससे विश्वसनीयता और सटीकता की पुष्टि हुई। रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार, यह परीक्षण स्ट्रेटेजिक फोर्सेज कमांड के तत्वावधान में किया गया।

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India successfully test-fires Agni-1 ballistic missile from Odisha

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 23 May 2026

India on Friday successfully test-launched the short-range ballistic missile Agni-1 from the **Integrated Test Range in Balasore**, Odisha.

Fig: *File photo shows Agni-1 soaring into the sky.*

According to the Ministry of Defence, the launch, carried out under the aegis of Strategic Forces Command, validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile system. The successful trial marks another significant milestone in maintaining the operational preparedness and strategic deterrence capability of India's armed forces, it added.

Short Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni-1' was successfully test-launched from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha on May 22, 2026. Conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command, the launch validated all operational and technical parameters, reaffirming the…

— Ministry of Defence, Government of India (@SpokespersonMoD) May 22, 2026

Earlier, on May 8, India had successfully carried out a flight trial of an advanced Agni missile with a Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) off the coast of the State. The MIRV feature ensures that a single missile can deploy multiple war heads at different locations.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-successfully-test-fires-agni-1-ballistic-missile-from-odisha/article71011988.ece

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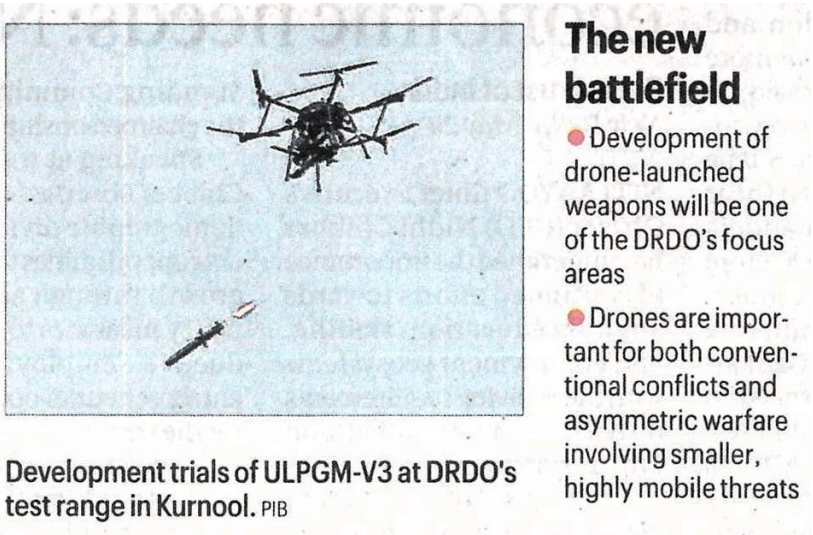
DRDO's new missile offers precision strikes, anti-drone combat

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 25 May 2026

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) last week carried out final development trials of the UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3. This will be followed by user trials by the armed forces.



Development trials of ULPGM-V3 at DRDO's test range in Kurnool. PIB

The new battlefield

- Development of drone-launched weapons will be one of the DRDO's focus areas
- Drones are important for both conventional conflicts and asymmetric warfare involving smaller, highly mobile threats

Significant upgrade

A DRDO scientist said that compared with the V1 and V2 variants, the ULPGM-V3 represents a significant advancement in India's indigenous drone-launched missile capability. The V1 was a basic free-fall precision missile and the V2 introduced propulsion, longer range, and mid-course target updates. The V3 adds the ability to engage both ground and aerial targets, including drones and helicopters. It also features more advanced target-seeking systems, im'proved day-and-night combat capability, and multiple warhead options for different battlefield roles, making it a far more versatile weapon for modern drone warfare.

The ULPGM-V3 is fitted with an advanced guidance system using multiple sensors to accurately track targets, allowing it to strike a wide range of threats. It can be deployed in both plains and high-altitude regions in the day or night. It is equipped with a two-way data link, enabling operators to change or update the target even after the missile has been launched.

Depending on the mission, the missile can be fitted with three types of warheads. These includean anti-armour warhead designed to destroy heavily protected tanks and armoured vehicles, even those fitted with special layers of protection used in modern battle tanks. It also Has a penetration-cum-blast warhead meant to pierce and destroy bunkers and fortified structures, and a prefragmentation warhead that disperses high-speed metal fragments overa large area to maximise damage. The missile can engage both stationary and moving targets in all weather conditions.

Network-centric warfare

DRDO has partnered with Bharat Dynamics Limited and Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited for development and production. The Ministry of Defence said that the missile has been produced entirely through the Indian defence ecosystem, involving DRDO laboratories and several Indian companies.

Officials said that the ULPGM-V3 has been developed primarily for the Army, with the air-to-ground mode for anti-tank roles and air-to-air modes for drone, helicopters, and other airborne targets. Asenior Army officer said systems like ULPGM-V3 are key, as drones are increasingly becoming central to modern warfare worldwide. Italso reflects the growing shift towards network-centric warfare, where drones, sensors, and command systems work together in real time to detect and strike targets with precision.

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Defence News

25-30 साल में सबसे बड़ा हथियार निर्यातक बनेगा भारत: राजनाथ

Source: Punjab Kesari, Dt. 24 May 2026

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने शनिवार को कहा कि कोई भी शक्ति भारत की अगले 25-30 वर्षों में हथियारों का सबसे बड़ा निर्यातक बनने से नहीं रोक सकती। पहले भारत को हथियारों का आयातक समझा जाता था। शिरडी में आयुध निर्माण इकाई का उद्घाटन करने के बाद सिंह ने कहा कि लक्ष्य रक्षा उत्पादन में निजी क्षेत्र की भूमिका को 50 प्रतिशत तक ले जाना है। उन्होंने कहा, निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी रक्षा क्षेत्र में केवल नट-बोल्ट के आपूर्तिकर्ता की ही नहीं है, बल्कि वह अत्याधुनिक हथियार प्रणालियों का निर्माता भी है। सिंह ने कहा कि जब सरकार की दूरदृष्टि और निजी क्षेत्र कानवाचार एक साथ मिलते हैं, तभी देश नई ऊंचाइयों पर पहुंचता है। उन्होंने कहा, भारत को गोला-बारूद और स्वचालन का केंद्र बनाने के लिए सभी को मिलकर काम करना होगा। वहीं प्रमुख रक्षा अध्यक्ष जनरल अनिल चौहान ने शनिवार को कहा कि भविष्य के युद्ध बहु-क्षेत्रीय होंगे, जहां लड़ाइयां भूमि, समुद्र, वायु और साइबर क्षेत्र के साथ-साथ मनोवैज्ञानिक तरीके से भी लड़ी जाएंगी। अहिल्यानगर जिले के शिरडी में एक रक्षा विनिर्माण इकाई के उद्घाटन के जनरल चौहान भी उपस्थित ये

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India to become major defence exporter in 25-30 years: Rajnath Singh

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 24 May 2026

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said India has the potential to emerge as a major global exporter of defence equipment within the next 25 to 30 years, asserting that countries with strong indigenous defence capabilities “write their own destiny”.

Addressing a gathering at Shirdi in Maharashtra, Singh flagged off the first batch of the ‘Suryastra’ universal rocket launchers from Nibe Ltd’s upcoming facility for induction into the Indian Army. The rollout marks partial fulfilment of a Rs 293-crore emergency procurement order awarded to the company in January.

Fig: *Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates the Missile Complex & Artillery Shell Production Line in Ahilyanagar on Saturday*

“We are witnessing not one or two, but several milestones today,” Singh said, referring to the launch of a modern artillery shell manufacturing facility with an annual capacity of five lakh shells, the foundation stone laying for a missile complex linked to the Universal Rocket Launching System, and the signing of a contract with the US-based BlackSky.

“As we have experienced, the country that manufactures its own weapons is the one that shapes its own destiny,” he said, adding that foreign firms were increasingly seeking partnerships and technology transfer agreements with Indian companies. Highlighting the transformation in India’s defence sector, Singh said the country had earlier depended heavily on imports for military equipment. “Gone are the days when India was known only for manufacturing nuts and bolts. Today, we are moving rapidly towards indigenous production of advanced weapon systems that strengthen the armed forces,” he said.

The minister said private-sector participation has increased to 25-30 per cent in defence manufacturing, and is expected to rise to nearly 50 per cent in the coming years. “The visit to this (missile) complex has reassured me of India’s capabilities,” he added.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, also at the event, said that Maharashtra was poised to become a leading hub for defence manufacturing in the country. “The Defence Minister has approved a defence corridor for Maharashtra. We already have defence hubs in Nashik, Pune, Ahilyanagar and Nagpur,” Fadnavis said. He said India has never attacked another nation but always delivered a strong response when provoked. “A strong and powerful nation alone can ensure security and stability, both domestically and globally,” he said.

Earlier in the day, Singh inaugurated Nibe Group’s Rs 3,000-crore defence manufacturing complex in Shirdi. Among others present were Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, DRDO Chairman Samir V Kamat and Nibe Group CMD Ganesh Nibe.

What is ‘Suryastra’?

According to the company, the ‘Suryastra’ system — developed using technology from Elbit Systems and in-house research and development — successfully underwent firing trials on May 18

and 19 at the integrated test range. The launcher features “shoot-and-scoot” capability and can fire multiple types of munitions, including precision-guided rockets with ranges between 150 km and 300 km, besides loitering munitions with operational ranges of up to 100 km.

Nibe Group Chief Technical Officer Balakrishnan Swamy said the Indian Army could eventually require seven to nine regiments of the ‘Suryastra’ system, potentially translating into orders worth nearly Rs 6,000 crore over the long term. The company also plans to invest Rs 10,000 crore in phases to expand manufacturing capacity, strengthen the local supply chain and generate around 5,000 jobs, he said.

Swamy further said an indigenous drone with a strike range of 1,000 km is expected to be ready for demonstration within six months. The project, he said, draws lessons from the battlefield deployment of Iran’s Shahed Kamikaze drones being used in conflicts involving the US and Israel.

https://indianexpress.com/article/india/mumbai/india-become-major-defence-exporter-25-30-years-rajnath-singh-10704761/

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Govt wants private sector share in defence production to rise to 50%: Rajnath Singh

Source: The Economic Times, Dt. 24 May 2026

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the private sector should eventually account for at least half of India's defence manufacturing capacity, up from about 30% currently, as the government pushes to expand domestic military production.

Speaking at the inauguration of a new defence manufacturing complex in Shirdi, Singh said private industry brings efficiency, research capabilities and a greater willingness to take risks. The facility, set up by Pune-based Nibe Defence, is expected to manufacture more than 500,000 155-mm artillery shells annually besides explosives, rockets and loitering munitions.

"This plant will undoubtedly, while meeting the operational needs of our armed forces, also represent a major step towards strengthening India's defence industry," Singh said. It will use powerful explosive compound RDX and modern propulsion technology to make advanced explosives, he said.

The ammunition park signals Nibe's entry into manufacturing long range attack systems, small arms, earth observation satellites and precision attack drones. The minister also flagged off Nibe's first Suryastra long-range multi-barrel rocket launcher system being delivered to the Indian Army. The system, made in India with technology transfer from an Israeli partner, can strike targets at a range of 150-300 km.

"We will be delivering the entire system this year," said Balakrishnan Swamy, chief technology officer at Nibe Defence. The army's order for Suryastra, placed using emergency procurement powers invoked after Operation Sindoor, is valued at under ₹300 crore, he said. "We are looking for a larger order of 7-9 regiments of the Suryastra that is likely to be valued at more than ₹6,000 crore," Swamy said.

Nibe also plans to produce a range of loitering munitions, starting from a smaller size that will hit targets at 100 km, to a larger weapon that can go up to a distance of 1000 km. A new joint venture to assemble and launch earth observation satellites was also announced during the event.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/govt-wants-private-sector-share-in-defence-production-to-rise-to-50-rajnath-singh/articleshow/131284936.cms?from=mdr

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A nation that makes its own weapons writes its destiny: Rajnath Singh

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 24 May 2026

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday (May 23, 2026) said that countries capable of producing their own weapons shape their own future, as he inaugurated NIBE Group's Defence Manufacturing Complex in Shirdi, Maharashtra, in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The newly inaugurated complex will manufacture advanced artillery systems, missile and space technologies, rocket systems, energetic materials, and autonomous defence platforms, strengthening India's push towards self-reliance in defence production.

According to the Defence Ministry, a major highlight of the event was the flagging off of India's first 300-km Universal Rocket Launching System, Suryastra. The foundation stone for a dedicated missile complex for the system was also laid. Indigenous TNT Plant Technology, RDX Plant Technology, and a Renewable Bio-Energy Compressed Biogas Plant were unveiled during the ceremony. NIBE Group also exchanged an MoU with Black Sky for cooperation in satellite assembly.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Singh said future wars would increasingly be determined by advancements in munitions, automation, and emerging technologies rather than merely the size of armed forces. Referring to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, developments in West Asia, and Operation Sindoor, he said modern warfare has underlined the strategic importance of indigenous technological capabilities.

The Defence Minister emphasised that India's private sector has evolved from being a minor contributor to becoming a key innovator in defence manufacturing. He noted that private sector participation in defence production has now reached nearly 25-30%, with the government aiming to raise it to 50% in the coming years.

Highlighting reforms introduced over the past decade, Mr. Singh cited liberalised FDI norms, the Strategic Partnership Model, Positive Indigenisation Lists, and innovation-focused initiatives such as iDEX, ADITI, and the Technology Development Fund as major drivers of indigenous capability development. He said the new defence complex would create employment opportunities, strengthen MSMEs and ancillary industries, and empower local youth with advanced technological skills, while significantly boosting India's future warfare capabilities and strategic preparedness.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/a-nation-that-makes-its-own-weapons-writes-its-destiny-rajnath-singh/article71015027.ece

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CDS Anil Chauhan says future wars will span cyber, cognitive domains; pitches Shirdi as defence manufacturing hub

Source: The Times of India, Dt. 24 May 2026

Chief of defence staff Anil Chauhan on Saturday said future wars will be fought across multiple domains including land, sea, air, cyberspace and cognitive warfare, as he inaugurated the NIBE Defence Manufacturing Complex in Maharashtra's Shirdi and described the city as an emerging hub of defence manufacturing and technological innovation.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, General Chauhan said modern warfare was rapidly evolving beyond conventional manpower and platform-centric operations, with technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, robotics, drones and cyber systems shaping the battlefield of the future.

"Future wars will be multi-domain where land, sea, cyberspace, cognitive warfare, and air will operate together," he said. He added that future battlefields would no longer remain confined to geographical spaces. "The battlefield of today will no longer be limited to a geographical space, but information networks, digital ecosystems, cyber infrastructure, and data environments will also become part of this battle space," he said. General Chauhan said technological innovation, speed and adaptability would determine strategic advantage in future conflicts.

"Artificial Intelligence, robotics, cyber systems, drones, autonomous platforms, space technologies, precision strike weapons, and information dominance are giving a decisive shape to the battlefield of the future," he said. Speaking about the newly inaugurated defence manufacturing facility, the CDS said Shirdi, long associated with spirituality and faith, would now also gain recognition for industrial and defence growth.

"The city of Shirdi is known across the country for faith and spirituality. But from today onwards, this city will also be known as a hub of defence manufacturing, industrial growth, technological innovation, and national security. This is truly a wonderful confluence of faith and future technology," the CDS said.

Highlighting India's defence production capabilities, General Chauhan said domestic defence manufacturing had reached nearly Rs 1.27 lakh crore, while defence exports crossed Rs 38,000 crore, with Indian-made defence products being exported to more than 100 countries.

Describing Nibe Limited as an example of the growing confidence in India's private defence sector, he pointed to the company's work in missile systems, ammunition, autonomous platforms and emerging technologies. The CDS also urged young engineers and innovators to contribute towards building a "Viksit Bharat".

"The future belongs to those who create change. You are the power of India. You are the architects of Viksit Bharat," he said. Defence minister Rajnath Singh and Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis were also present at the inauguration ceremony in Shirdi.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/cds-anil-chauhan-says-future-wars-will-span-cyber-cognitive-domains-pitches-shirdi-as-defence-manufacturing-hub/articleshow/131278790.cms

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India shortlists three private firms to build next-gen stealth fighter jets

Source: The Economic Times, Dt. 25 May 2026

The government will shortly issue tenders to three private sector companies that have been shortlisted to develop and manufacture next-generation fighter jets under the Advanced Multirole Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.

People familiar with the matter said technical and legal terms have been finalised and three companies - Tata Advanced Systems Limited, Larsen & Toubro and Bharat Forge - are likely to receive the tenders by this month-end. The companies had earlier been shortlisted for the contract based on their technical competency. The earlier shortlist had left out public sector Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd from the competition.

The winner of the contract will now be decided on commercial bids presented by the three companies. The winner will work with the Aeronautical Development Agency to produce five prototypes of AMCA at a new testing facility being built in Andhra Pradesh.

The people said the new facility is expected to be ready within a year, with a target of getting the prototypes manufactured and flown by 2032. The same facility is also likely to be used to develop unmanned combat aircraft under the Ghatak programme that was also recently cleared by the defence ministry.

The people cited above said once AMCA prototypes are proven, a larger tender would be issued by the Indian Air Force for acquisition of a significant number of the jets. This tender is likely to see wider industry competition, including a bid by HAL. However, the company selected to develop the prototypes will have a natural advantage for the larger order as well.

The defence ministry has allocated an indicative budget of ₹15,000 crore for the prototype stage. The final order, however, is expected to be in several multiples of that, once the aircraft is proven and ordered by IAF.

The new, fifth generation fighter jet, is slated to become India's mainstay aerial platform from the mid-2030s. After development, IAF is expected to order 120 jets in the first batch, with deliveries slated to start by 2035. The new jets will incorporate the latest military technologies, including stealth, AI integration, long-range targeting capabilities and the ability to jointly operate with unmanned aerial systems.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-shortlists-three-private-firms-to-build-next-gen-stealth-fighter-jets/articleshow/131295767.cms?from=mdr

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Major Abhilasha to get UN Gender Advocate Award

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 24 May 2026

Indian peacekeeper serving with the UN mission in Lebanon, Major Abhilasha Barak, has been named the recipient of a prestigious military gender advocate award by the world body.

Fig: *Major Abhilasha Barak*

Barak has been honoured with the 2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for her outreach efforts with women and girls during her deployment in the West Asian nation. Barak is serving with the Indian Battalion as the Commander of the Female Engagement Team in UN Interim Force in Lebanon. She will be honoured at the UN headquarters on May 29.

https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/india/major-abhilasha-to-get-un-gender-advocate-award/

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सैन्य क्षमताओं का विकास तेज करना होगा: एयर चीफ

Source: Punjab Kesari, Dt. 25 May 2026

भारतीय वायुसेना के प्रमुख एयर चीफ मार्शल ए पी सिंह ने मजबूत और स्वदेशी सैन्य क्षमताओं के विकास के लिए आत्मनिर्भता को एक रणनीतिक आवश्यकता बताया है। वह शनिवार को यहां 48वें उड़ान परीक्षण पाठ्यक्रम के पूरा होने के अवसर पर आयोजित समारोह में बोल रहे थे। बेंगलुरु में 48वें उड़ान प्रीक्षण पाठ्यक्रम के 4 परीक्षण पायलटों और छह उड़ान परीक्षण अभियंताओं ने 48 सप्ताह के कठोर बहुविषयकप्रशिक्षण पाठ्यक्रम को पूरा करने के बाद वायुसेना परीक्षण पायलट स्कूल (एएफटीपीएस) से स्नातक को उपाधि प्राप्त की।

रविवार को जारी एक आधिकारिक बयान के अनुसार, इस वर्ष स्नातक पाठ्यक्रम में 17 अधिकारियों का समूह शामिल हुआ। इनमें से भारतीय वायुसेना के 14 अधिकारी, भारतीय सेना का एक अधिकारी और भारतीय नौसेना के दो अधिकारी शामिल हैं। ये स्नातक उपाधि धारी विमान और प्रणाली परीक्षण प्रतिष्ठान के विमानन विंग में शामिल होंगे, जो भारतीय वायुसेना की प्रमुंख इकाइयों, में से एक है। बयान में कहा गया है, 'स्वदेशी सैन्य क्षमताओं के विकास के लिए 'आत्मनिर्भरता' को एक रणनीतिक आवश्यकता बताते हुए सिंह ने स्वदेशीकरण अभियान को बढ़ावा देने और एयरोस्पेस क्षेत्र कोमजबूत करने के लिए परीक्षण दल पर आने वाली भारी जिम्मेदारी पर प्रकाश डाला।

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IAF Chief A.P. Singh bats for self-reliance in defence capabilities

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 25 May 2026

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Chief of IAF, has emphasised self-reliance as a strategic necessity for developing resilient indigenous defence capabilities. He was speaking during the 48th Flight Test Course graduation ceremony in Bengaluru on Saturday (May 23, 2026).

Eleven test pilots and six flight test engineers of the 48th Flight Test Course graduated from the Air Force Test Pilots School (AFTPS) on completion of a rigorous 48-week multidisciplinary training curriculum.

According to an official statement issued on Sunday (May 24, 2026), this year the graduating course comprised a cohort of 17 officers, including 14 officers from the Indian Air Force, one officer from the Indian Army, and two officers from the Indian Navy. These graduates will join the Aviation Wing of the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment, which is one of the premier units of the Indian Air Force.

"Emphasising 'Atmanirbharta' as a strategic necessity for developing resilient indigenous defence capabilities, Mr. Singh highlighted the onerous responsibility that the test crew needs to shoulder to proliferate the nation’s indigenisation drive and strengthen the aerospace ecosystem," the statement said.

The IAF Chief highlighted the need to optimise 'design to delivery' time cycles while upholding the highest standards of safety and quality of equipment. He further stressed the importance of professional competence to ensure that aircraft and systems meet the operational requirements of the services, while urging the officers to uphold the virtues of honesty, integrity, precision, and excellence.

He also exhorted the graduating officers to continue toiling hard with focus, and reminded them of the crucial role that they would go on to play towards capability building and modernisation of the Indian Armed Forces.

The Chief of Air Staff highlighted the onerous responsibility that the test crew needs to shoulder to proliferate the nation’s indigenisation drive and strengthen the aerospace ecosystem. Mr. Singh, who is a distinguished alumnus of the 17th Flight Test Course, presented certificates to all graduating officers and awarded trophies to the meritorious performers.

This year, the prestigious 'Suranjan Das Trophy' for the best all-round student test pilot was awarded to Squadron Leader K.K. Singh, while the 'Chief of the Air Staff Trophy' for the best student test pilot in flight evaluation was awarded to Sqn Ldr Aditya Jamdagni.

The 'Maharaja Hanumanth Singh Sword' for the best all-round student flight test engineer was awarded to Wing Commander Abhinav Kumar. Wg Cdr Pranav Sharma was awarded the 'Dunlop Trophy' for best student flight test engineer in flight evaluation, and the 'Kapil Bhargava Trophy' for the best student in ground subjects was awarded to Sqn Ldr Paras Sharma.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/iaf-chief-ap-singh-bats-for-self-reliance-in-defence-capabilities/article71017397.ece

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India, Cyprus upgrade ties to Strategic Partnership, sign pacts on defence cooperation, cyber security

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 23 May 2026

INDIA AND Cyprus agreed to elevate their bilateral ties to Strategic Partnership, unveiled a 5-year roadmap for defence cooperation (2026-2031), decided to establish a cyber security dialogue and strengthen cooperation on maritime transport, space and health as Prime Minister Narendra Modi met visiting President of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides in the Capital on Friday.

The two sides signed six pacts, including an MoU on establishing a joint working group on counter-terrorism, in the field of diplomatic training, on innovation and technology, establishment of official coordination and cooperation on Search and Rescue (SAR), on higher education and research and cultural cooperation from 2026-2030.

According to top Cypriot officials, the two countries also exchanged notes on Turkey's influence in the region as there is a shared "concern" — Turkey had backed Pakistan last year and it has a strained relationship with Cyprus.

Officials said Cyprus is keen to procure military equipment from India, including drones and missiles, which "have been tested" last year during Operation Sindoor against Pakistan. After the bilateral meeting, Prime Minister Modi said, "We are today elevating our trusted relationship to the level of a Strategic Partnership."

"And today, as India and Europe embark upon a new golden era in their relations, Cyprus is not only holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union but is also emerging as a vital investment gateway between India and the entire European continent," the PM said.

Cyprus President Christodoulides underlined "strengthening the longstanding bonds" and "deepening and expanding" strategic cooperation with India. "Today I'm not here only in my capacity as President of the Republic of Cyprus, I'm also here in my capacity as a President of the member state of the European Union that proudly holds the presidency of the council, and so these paths cross at the juncture when both our bilateral relations and the European Union-India relations have made leaps of progress over the last year. We are here to put more building blocks to these two partnerships."

Positioning Europe as a factor of stability, he said, "In these times of growing geopolitical uncertainty, I firmly believe that the partnership between the European Union and India must become stronger, because this relationship is no longer driven only by economics. It is evolving at a fast pace into a broader, comprehensive, strategic partnership grounded in shared interests, shared responsibilities and a common commitment to stability, resilience and prosperity… Together the European Union and India can play a defining role not only for our regions but also for global stability and prosperity."

"In our discussions today, the Prime Minister and I reaffirmed that our relations have entered a new era over the past year, accelerated by the visit of PM Modi to Cyprus… What began as a strategic vision is now evolving into a concrete partnership, a partnership already producing tangible results across key areas, including security, defence, technology, innovation, maritime cooperation, education and economic connectivity," the Cyprus President said.

PM Modi said, "We are delighted that, over the past few years, military exchanges and training cooperation between our two countries have witnessed significant growth. Today, we have also

resolved to further strengthen our cooperation in the domains of cyber security, maritime security and counter-terrorism." About the investment target, Modi said they aim to double it once again over the next five years.

"Cyprus ranks among India's top 10 investors; over the past decade, investment from Cyprus into India has nearly doubled. The level of trust between our two nations has deepened. The India-European Union Free Trade Agreement has opened up a host of new possibilities. Capitalizing on this potential, we aim to double this investment once again over the next five years," the PM said.

India and Cyprus also agreed to speed up negotiations on the mobility pact. "Indian professionals and students residing in Cyprus are further reinforcing the bonds between our peoples. To further consolidate these ties, we have reached a consensus to conclude, at the earliest, a comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership, alongside a Social Security Agreement," said PM Modi.

The two sides are also working towards the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) project. "We will work in tandem to ensure connectivity through key initiatives such as the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor," said PM Modi.

President Christodoulides said, "We have continuous conversations with the Prime Minister about regional connectivity initiatives, including, of course, the IMEEC… I consider this a visionary initiative reflecting the growing importance of trusted interconnection between the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe. And Cyprus, located at the crossroads of three continents and the gateway to Europe stands ready to contribute actively to this shared vision, a vision of connectivity, a vision of openness, a vision of partnership."

About broader regional and international developments, the President said, "Our shared commitment to international law, the United Nations Charter, and of course effective multilateralist principles that matter today more than ever before, and in this context, allow me to sincerely thank the Prime Minister (Modi) on behalf of Cyprus and the Cypriot people. We deeply value India's longstanding support to our efforts to reunify Cyprus… support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus."

Modi said, "Today, we also held discussions on global issues. Be it Ukraine or West Asia, we remain steadfast in our support for the early cessation of conflict and for peace initiatives. We also share a consensus that, in order to address mounting global challenges, the reform of global institutions is both urgent and imperative."

Projecting the ties as a hub for innovation, Modi said, "This Strategic Partnership…will create new opportunities for Indian companies across Cyprus's infrastructure, energy and agriculture sectors. Furthermore, it will attract fresh investment into India's rapidly expanding shipping and maritime sectors. Together with Cyprus, we will accelerate the vision of transforming GIFT City into a global financial and services hub."

https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-cyprus-upgrade-ties-to-strategic-partnership-sign-pacts-on-defence-cooperation-cyber-security-10703545/

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India finalises request letter for 114 Rafales, to send it to France soon

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 25 May 2026

India has finalised the Letter of Request (LoR) for the procurement of 114 Rafale fighter jets for the IAF and is expected to send it to France “very soon”, within the “next few weeks”, The Indian Express has learnt. Around 90 jets from this set of 114 are to be manufactured in India through a collaboration between the French manufacturer Dassault Aviation and an Indian company, while the rest will arrive in fly-away condition.

Senior officials said that soon after France responds to the LoR, India will formalise the Request for Proposal (RFP) for acquisition. An LoR is a formal government-to-government document used to initiate such procurement, under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) or Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) route, outlining the capabilities, quantities and technical requirements needed.

In such procurements, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) first grants its approval, following which the LoR is issued. Once the foreign government responds, mentioning the price, availability and logistical support, negotiations take place between the two sides. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has to grant approval before the final contract is signed.

In this case, the LoR came three months after the DAC cleared the long-awaited proposal to buy the Rafales under an inter-governmental deal. IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh is scheduled to visit France early next month before Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits later in June.

The IAF already operates 36 Rafales, and the Navy is set to induct 26 Rafale M aircraft for carrier operations over the next few years. The procurement of additional Rafales will help minimise logistical and training costs.

The indigenous content of the jets would be nearly 50 per cent. While having complete access to the source code is unlikely, India has been negotiating to obtain the Interface Control Documents (ICD) for the jets, to be able to integrate indigenous weapons such as Astra and BrahMos-NG. An ICD is a technical blueprint on how an aircraft’s onboard systems communicate with external weapons, sensors and equipment. The Government is aiming to sign the contract by the end of this year, once commercial negotiations conclude and the CCS approves the acquisition.

The process for the acquisition of modern fighter jets for IAF has picked up over the past year after a long wait of nearly 18 years. The Rafales will be critical in filling the gap in the IAF’s fighter squadron strength, which stands at 29 against the sanctioned strength of 42. They are expected to bridge this capability gap until the maturity of India’s indigenous fighter programmes, LCA Mk1A, LCA Mk2 and the fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

The AMCA is expected to enter service only after 2035, and planners are considering procuring a separate fifth-generation fighter in the interim. Russia has provided details of its fifth-generation jet Su-57, but India is yet to make a decision.

https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-finalises-request-letter-for-114-rafales-to-send-it-to-france-soon-10706123/

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क्वॉड देशों की मीटिंग 26 को, समुद्री सुरक्षा परबात

Source: NavBharat Times, Dt. 23 May 2026

क्वॉड (Quad) देशों के विदेश मंत्रियों की एक अहम बैठक होगी। भारत इसकी मेजबानी कर रहा है। 26 मई को होने वाली इस बैठक में इंडो-पेसिफिक क्षेत्र में सुरक्षा, विकास और रणनीतिक सहयोग को मजबूत करने पर चर्चा होगी।

विदेश मंत्रालय ने बताया कि विदेश मंत्री एस जयशंकर के निमंत्रण पर ऑस्ट्रेलिया की विदेश मंत्री पेनी वॉन्ग, जापान के विदेश मंत्री तोशिमित्सु मोटेगी और अमेरिका के विदेश मंत्री माकों रुबियो दिल्ली पहुंचेंगे और बैठक में हिस्सा लेंगे। बैठक के दौरान बहुपक्षीय चर्चा के साथ ही अहम द्विपक्षीय बातचीत भी होंगी। ऑस्ट्रेलिया, जापान और अमेरिका के विदेश मत्री अलग-अलग जयशंकर से मुलाकात करेंगे। इसके अलावा बे प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी से भी मुलाकात कर सकते हैं।

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High Commissioner-designate Dinesh Trivedi holds talks with Army Chief

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 23 May 2026

Indian High Commissioner-designate to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi, met Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi to discuss key bilateral issues, including border security and military-to-military cooperation between India and Bangladesh. According to a statement shared by the Indian Army on Friday, the interaction focused on “strengthening India-Bangladesh defence ties, border security and enhancing military-to-military engagement.”

Diplomatic sources confirmed that the meeting took place on Thursday, ahead of Trivedi assuming his new diplomatic assignment in Dhaka. On April 27, India’s Ministry of External Affairs announced the appointment of Dinesh Trivedi as the next High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh.

He is expected to take up the post shortly, likely in early June, according to diplomatic sources. Outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, has been appointed as India’s next Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union.

He is expected to travel directly from Dhaka to Brussels later this month. Dinesh Trivedi previously served as Union Minister for Railways and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare during the UPA Government while representing the Mamata Banerjee-led All India Trinamool Congress.

He resigned from the Trinamool Congress in February 2021 and later joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in March 2021. The meeting comes at a time when India and Bangladesh continue to engage closely on regional security, border management and strategic cooperation in South Asia.

https://dailypioneer.com/news/high-commissioner-designate-dinesh-trivedi-holds-talks-with-army-chief

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India’s new ‘top guns’ for tomorrow’s fighter jets take off from Bengaluru

Source: The Statesman, Dt. 25 May 2026

In a setting that feels straight out of a defence aviation thriller, India has quietly trained and graduated its next generation of elite test pilots and flight test engineers — the people who will decide how tomorrow's fighter jets, helicopters and aerospace systems actually perform in real skies.

At Bengaluru’s Air Force Test Pilots School, 17 officers — drawn from the Indian Air Force, Indian Army and Indian Navy — completed an intense 48-week course that pushes them into one of the most demanding roles in military aviation: testing aircraft that are still being designed, refined, or pushed to their absolute limits.

These are not combat pilotsin the usual sense. They are the first humans to fly experimental machines, where every sortie is about discovering what works, what fails, and what needs to be rebuilt.

The graduation ceremony itself carried a symbolic weight. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, who once walked the same training path as part of the 17th Flight Test Course, returned as Chief Guest - now leading the Indian Air Force. His message tied the moment to India’s bigger ambition: building indigenous defence capability under Atmanirbharta, where Indian aircraft and systems are designed, tested, and perfected within the country.

Among the newly graduated officers, top honours went to those who stood out in both flying and technical evaluation marking them as the “best of the best” in a field where precision and judgment candirectly impact national defence capability.

Beyond the awards and ceremony, the deeper storyline is clear: India is steadily building a specialised backbone of aerospace testers — the unseen force behind every new fighter jet, upgraded weapon system, and next-generation aircraft entering service. In simple terms: before any aircraft becomes operational in the Indian armed forces, this is the group that flies it first, breaks it first, and ensures it is ready for the real world.

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138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee Meeting Takes Place at Ahmedabad

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 22 May 2026

The 138th Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) meeting was conducted at Ahmedabad on May 21, 2026 under the Chairpersonship of Director General Indian Coast Guard, Paramesh Sivamani, to review and strengthen the security framework for India's offshore installations and critical energy infrastructure.

The Committee focused on enhancing maritime domain awareness, strengthening inter-agency coordination, augmenting surveillance capabilities and improving joint response mechanisms to effectively address emerging offshore security challenges. During the meeting, deliberations were held on the evolving global and regional security environment, modern warfare dynamics including unmanned and drone-enabled threats, and the expanding offshore exploration activities in the Andaman & Nicobar region.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Director General Hydrographer, DG Shipping, Intelligence Bureau, Oil & Natural Gas Commission and State Police forces.

The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of all stakeholders towards ensuring robust security of India's offshore assets and critical maritime infrastructure.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2264230&reg=3&lang=1

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Science & Technology News

चीन ने तीन अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को मिशन पर भेजा, इनमें से एक यात्री सालभर तक स्टेशन पर रहेगा

Source: Dainik Jagran, Dt. 25 May 2026

चीन ने रविवार को अपने अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन पर तीन अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को भेजा, जिनमें से एक सालभर तक वहां रहेगा। यह देश के लिए एक रिकार्ड अवधि होगी, जिससे अंतरिक्ष में दीर्घकालिक मानव शरीर विज्ञान का अध्ययन संभव हो सकेगा। चीन 2030 तक मानवयुक्त चंद्रमा लैंडिंग कीअपनी महत्वाकांक्षा की दिशा में काम कर रहा है।

शेनझोउ-23 यान को उत्तर-पश्चिम चीन के जियुकुआन उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण केंद्र से लांग मार्च-2एफ वाई23 वाहक राकेट का उपयोग करके रात 11:08 बजे (स्थानीय समय) पर लांच किया गया। पेलोड विशेषज्ञ ली जियायिंग चीनी अंतरिक्ष मिशन में भाग लेने वाली हांगकांग की पहली अंतरिक्ष यात्री हैं। अन्य दल के सदस्य कमांडर झू यांगय्ू और पायलट झांग युआनझी हैं, दोनों पीपुल्स लिबरेशन आर्मी से हैं।

इन अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों में सेकिसी एक को तियांगोंग अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन पर एक वर्ष तक रहना होगा, जोअब तक के सबसे लंबे अंतरिक्ष अभियानों में से एक है। हालांकि, यह 1995 में एक रूसी अंतरिक्ष यात्री द्वारा बनाए गए 14-1/2 महीने के रिकार्ड से कम है। चीन कई बार अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन पर यात्रियों को भेज चुका है, लेकिन यह प्रक्षेपण अमेरिका के साथ चंद्रमा पर पहुंचने की बढ़ती होड़ के बीच हो रहा है।

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China sends astronaut on year-long space mission as it eyes 2030 moon landing

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 25 May 2026

CHINA SENT three astronauts to its space station on Sunday, one ofwhom will stay fora year, arecord length forthe country, enablingthe study of long-duration human physiology in space as Beijing works towards its ambition of a crewed moon landing by 2030.

The Shenzhou-23 vessel launched at 11:08 pm using the Long March-2F Y23 carrier rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, with three Chinese astronauts on board. Payload specialist Li Jiaying, a former Hong Kong police inspector, is the first astronaut from the city to take part ina Chinese space mission. The other crew members are commander Zhu Yangzhu and pilot Zhang Yuanzhi, both from the People's Liberation Army's astronaut division.

One of the three is to stay on the Tiangong spacestation for a year, one of the longest space missions ever but short of the 14-1/2-month record set by a Russian cosmonautin 1995, That astronaut will be decided later, depending on the progress of the mission, the China Manned Space Agency said on Saturday.

China has sent astronauts to its space station almost a dozen times, but this launch comes amid an accelerating race to the moon with the US, which has warned about what it alleges are Beijing's plans to colonise and mine lunar territory and resources. NASA is seeking to achieve acrewed moon landing in 2028, two years ahead of China. The US aims to establish along-term lunar presence as a stepping stone to eventual human exploration of Mars.

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Cost Effective High-Performance Thermal Battery Material Developed For Clean Energy Storage

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 22 May 2026

Researchers have developed a cost-effective, efficient thermal energy storage material that can significantly improve the efficiency of thermal batteries used in concentrated solar power plants and industrial waste heat recovery systems.

Effective thermal energy storage (TES) systems are essential for efficient utilization of concentrated solar power (CSP) and capturing industrial waste heat. Scientists are trying to develop materials with enhanced specific heat capacity, thermal conductivity, and operating temperature range for improved performance of the TES system.

Researchers at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous institution of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have developed a cost-effective, scalable process to produce spinel nano composite Phase Change Material (PCM) with an unprecedented increase in specific heat capacity for thermal energy storage applications.

The process developed by ARCI team led by Dr. Mani Karthik, employs a simple co-precipitation method to produce spinel-type metal oxide nanoparticles with controlled particle size. These nanomaterials exhibited excellent thermal stability and uniform dispersion, making them suitable for producing high-performance nanocomposite PCM.

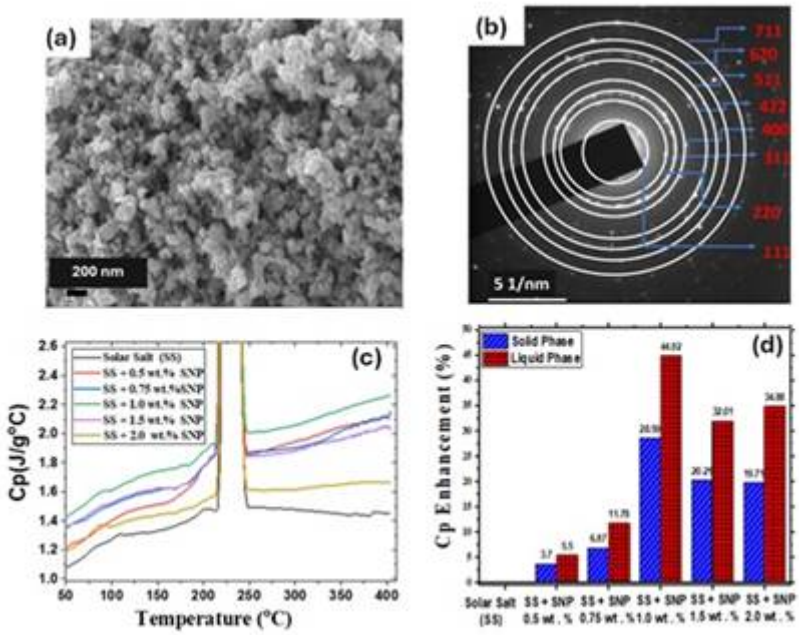

***Fig**: (a) HR-TEM image of spinel nanoparticles, (b) Selected Area Electron Diffraction (SAED) pattern of spinel nanoparticles, (c) Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) profile, (d) Cp enhancement of Spinel-PCM nanocomposite*

By the addition of only 1% spinel oxide nanoparticles to the PCM, the nanocomposite phase change material showed a remarkable increase in the specific heat capacity (ability to store the thermal energy) as high as 45% when compared to the PCM without nanocomposites.

When these nanoparticles are well dispersed in the PCM, they significantly improve its thermal properties by increasing the specific surface area. This leads to the formation of a stable spinel oxide layer at the interface, which increases surface energy and contributes to the nanocomposite's higher specific heat capacity compared to the base PCM.

As a result, the material can store more thermal energy per unit mass, improving energy storage efficiency. This improvement results in smaller storage tanks with reduced construction materials, which significantly lowers both capital and operational costs.

Overall, this development offers a compact and cost-effective thermal energy storage solution, paving the way for next-generation materials with superior performance.

This research published in the Materials Today Chemistry (Elsevier) aligns with India’s clean energy objectives and the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiative by advancing indigenous expertise in next-generation energy storage materials. Furthermore, the superior thermal capacity of these

materials enables the development of more compact, high-performance, and cost-efficient thermal energy storage systems.

Publication link: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mtchem.2025.103282

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2263974&reg=3&lang=1

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The Tribune
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The Indian Express
The Times of India
Hindustan Times
नवभारत टाइम्स
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