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Defence News

India, Israel likely to ink MoU on tech transfer for Iron Dome, Iron Beam, advance missiles

Source: The Times of India, Dt. 26 Feb 2026

With PM Narendra Modi landing in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, India and Israel are on the cusp of signing a landmark defence agreement that will take security ties between the two “friendly countries” to new heights. It is believed that there won't be sale of any weapon this time, with the focus being on transfer of technologies for exclusive advanced weapons systems that Israel has not offered to any other country till now.

In his address to the Israeli Parliament Knesset, Modi said, “In today's uncertain world, a strong defence partnership between trusted partners like India and Israel is of vital importance.”



The latest Indo-Israeli defence cooperation, in the form of an MoU, is likely to have two dimensions: tie-up for defensive systems and collaboration for offensive weapons, according to local media in Israel.

In the field of defensive systems, deals are expected to focus on Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)'s Arrow missile defence system, Rafael's David's Sling (can handle medium-range missiles and drones up to 300km) and Iron Dome (can intercept short-range rockets up to 4 - 70 km), and Rafael and Elbit's Iron Beam (100 kW beam designed to kill hostile aerial threats up to 10 km). However, all these Israel companies are tightlipped about the intended deals.

In the field of offensive weapons, agreements are expected to be struck and, in some cases have already been inked, for Rafael's SPICE 1000 guidance kits, Elbit Systems' Rampage air-to-ground missiles, Ice Breaker naval cruise missiles and IAI's supersonic Air LORA missiles.

Taking lessons from the Pakistan conflict last May when Islamabad sent waves of Turkish drones and Chinese PL-15 long-range air-to-air missiles towards India to target its military and civilian assets, the Modi govt wants to fortify the country's borders with an impregnable missile shield. Though India possesses Russia's S400 missile shield, Israel-developed Barak systems and indigenous Akash system to thwart aerial attacks, the country needs more effective systems like Israel's Iron Dome and Iron Beam to make this shield impregnable and protect its vast 15,106-km land borders and 7,516.6-km coastline. India wants technology transfer to manufacture these

weapons under the 'Make in India' initiative in order to integrate them into its upcoming "Sudarshan Chakra" for a pan-India multi-layered shield by 2035.

There could be talks on acquisition of Golden Horizon, believed to be a successor of the Sparrow target missile family. Golden Horizon is a rare class of weapons designed to be released from aircraft. This missile can, therefore, easily be integrated with IAF's Sukhoi-30MKI jets. The missile system, with a strike range of 1,000-2,000 km and speeds that can reach Mach 5, is designed to penetrate underground bunkers, hardened military installations and even nuclear facilities. At such velocity, intercepting this missile with existing air-defence systems becomes extremely difficult. This makes it significantly faster than India's BrahMos cruise missile, which travels at Mach 3 and is widely regarded as the world's fastest operational supersonic cruise missile.

Talks may also happen on buying Israel's Iron Beam 100-kW-class laser weapon system, which will bolster India's air defences against drones and missiles. Iron Beam is also cost-effective as a 100-kW laser weapon costs just \$2 per shot. Another big announcement expected is the establishment of a security alliance: Israeli PM Netanyahu last Sunday told his cabinet that he envisaged India as part of a "hexagon of alliances" around the Middle East that would also include "Arab nations, African nations, Mediterranean nations — Greece and Cyprus — and nations in Asia." The intention, he said, is to unite against what he called "the radical axes" of Islam, including the version he sees as represented by Iran's regime.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/defence/news/india-israel-likely-to-ink-mou-on-tech-transfer-for-iron-dome-iron-beam-advanced-missiles/articleshow/128797194.cms>

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India, Israel to ink pact on defence cooperation

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 26 Feb 2026

India and Israel are set to deepen their defence ties as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu meet over a formal bilateral discussion in Tel Aviv on Thursday. The two sides are slated to sign a framework agreement on defence cooperation that will allow companies from both sides to collaborate at a deeper level. Sources said no major defence procurement deal was expected to be signed during the two-day visit. However, defence and security cooperation would be a key focus area.

India could also look to resolve issues of intellectual property rights hindering co-production and co-development of sensitive military technology. Modi's two-day visit to Israel kicked off today. He was received at the airport in Tel Aviv by Netanyahu and his spouse Sara, and accorded a ceremonial welcome. Following the arrival ceremony, the two Prime Ministers held a brief one-on-one meeting. "This is a bond of real friendship," said Netanyahu as he shook hands with Modi.

The two sides are looking at deepening defence ties. Already, several Israeli companies are part of "make in India" programmes for drones, missiles and air defence. The aim is co-development and co-production, with Israeli companies providing the technical knowhow. Modi and Netanyahu will take forward the memorandum of understanding signed in November last year to expand the scope of bilateral defence ties between the two nations. This could mean that "make in India" would be a part of Israeli companies' global supplies.

Among the expected discussion is Israel helping India modify a commercial plane to be mid-air refueller for jets and planes of the IAF and the Navy. The two sides are expected to discuss Israel's

multi-layered missile defence system that includes the Arrow missile and the Iron Dome system — that offers layered air defence. Currently, India has been using the Russian S-400 anti-aerial threat system, systems based on Akash and Barak, and QRSAM systems.

Among drones, Elbit Hermes 900 drones are already being made in India while New Delhi is keen on having more SPICE-guided ammunition. India is Israel's largest defence purchaser for years, including 34 per cent of the total sales from 2020-2024, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Earlier at the hotel, Prime Minister Modi was accorded a warm welcome by members of the Indian community and representatives of the Jewish-Indian diaspora. The reception was marked by vibrant cultural performances by Indian and Israeli artistes, symbolising the enduring friendship between the two nations. A light-hearted moment between PM Modi and Netanyahu stole the spotlight. Soon after Air India One touched down at Ben Gurion Airport, Modi was greeted on the tarmac by Netanyahu. During their exchange, Netanyahu pointed toward his wife Sara and remarked to Modi, "See what she is wearing?" The comment referred to Sara's orange outfit that closely matched the saffron pocket square worn by the Indian PM.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/india/india-israel-to-ink-pact-on-defence-cooperation/>

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MILAN अभ्यास पूरा, भारतीय नौसेना ने दिखाया अपना दम

Source: NavBharat Times, Dt. 26 Feb 2026

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■ **नई दिल्ली** : दुनिया के कुल 74 देशों के साथ मिलकर इंडियन नेवी ने मिलन (MILAN) एक्सरसाइज पूरी की। एक हफ्ते की एक्सरसाइज और इंटरनेशनल फ्लीट रिव्यू के जरिए इंडियन नेवी ने न सिर्फ अपनी क्षमता दिखाई बल्कि दुनिया के साथ अपनी दोस्ती भी दिखाई। एक्सरसाइज MILAN इंडियन नेवी का प्रमुख बहुराष्ट्रीय समुद्री अभ्यास (मल्टीलेटरल मेरीटाइम

एक्सरसाइज) है। इसका समापन समारोह विशाखापत्तनम के तट के पास समंदर में स्वदेशी एयरक्राफ्ट कैरियर आईएनएस विक्रान्त में किया गया। इसमें अमेरिका का डेलीगेशन अपने समुद्री गश्ती विमान पी-8 के साथ शामिल हुआ तो ईरान की वॉरशिप भी एक्सरसाइज का हिस्सा बनी। रूस का वॉरशिप भी एक्सरसाइज का हिस्सा था। इंडियन नेवी 30 साल से ज्यादा वक्त से मालाबार एक्सरसाइज कर रही है, जिसमें यूएस, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, जापान शामिल हैं।



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इस एक्सरसाइज के जरिए इंडियन नेवी ने ये भी दिखाया कि भारत इतने बड़े स्तर पर आयोजन की क्षमता रखता है। नेवी, रक्षा मंत्रालय, विदेश मंत्रालय और राज्य सरकार के समन्वय में यह एक्सरसाइज पूरी हुई। 75 देशों की इसमें हिस्सेदारी रही।

स्वदेशी का प्रदर्शन

इस एक्सरसाइज के जरिए इंडियन नेवी ने स्वदेशी प्रॉडक्शन क्षमता का भी प्रदर्शन किया। स्वदेशी



एयरक्राफ्ट कैरियर विक्रान्त के साथ ही विशाखापत्तनम क्लास के डिस्ट्रॉयर, नीलगिरी क्लास के फ्रीगेट के जरिए नेवी ने भारत की शिप बिल्डिंग की क्षमता दुनिया को दिखाई। नेवी का डाइविंग सपोर्ट

वेसल निस्तार भी इसमें शामिल हुआ। ये स्वदेशी डाइविंग सपोर्ट वेसल है।

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MILAN 2026 concludes successfully; closing ceremony onboard INS Vikrant marks maritime milestone

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 25 Feb 2026

Exercise MILAN 2026, the Indian Navy's premier multilateral maritime exercise, culminated on 25 Feb 2026 with a closing ceremony conducted onboard India's indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

The ceremony was presided over by Rear Admiral Alok Ananda, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF). Commanding Officers and officers from all participating units attended the ceremony, marking the successful completion of the exercise and celebrating the enduring bonds forged across the vast expanse of the Bay of Bengal.

Held under the theme 'Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration', MILAN 2026 witnessed participation on an unprecedented scale, comprising 42 ships and submarines and, 29 aircraft. These also included 18 ships from the participating Friendly Foreign Countries. Further, apart from integral helicopters onboard the Friendly Foreign Country ships, maritime patrol aircraft from France, Germany and USA also participated.



MILAN 2026 commenced with a Harbour Phase that featured bilateral engagements, Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) programme and the International Maritime Seminar (IMS). Professional interactions were complemented by cultural exchanges, cross-deck and outstation visits.

Technological demonstrations and the MILAN of Young Officers (MOYO) interaction facilitated the exchange of best practices, while friendly sports fixtures enabled informal interaction. This was followed by the Sea Phase, which comprised high-intensity operational drills focused on advanced warfare disciplines including integrated air defence and antisubmarine warfare exercises, maritime interdiction operations, surface strike coordination, communication exercises, and cross-deck flying operations, enhancing interoperability and collective readiness.

Live firings as part of surface gun shoots and FPM drills as well as anti-air firings were also undertaken. Emphasis was placed on real-time coordination, joint mission planning and logistical support at sea. Friendly Foreign navies participated in high-tempo tactical manoeuvres alongside Indian Naval Ships, reflecting growing convergence of maritime interests towards ensuring safe and secure seas. The exercise validated seamless coordination, rapid response capabilities and best practices, aligned with the vision of MAHASAGAR - Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.



During the closing ceremony onboard the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, Commanding Officers of all participating ships expressed their deep appreciation for the professional conduct and meticulous planning that characterised MILAN 2026. They unanimously affirmed that the exercise had comprehensively achieved its training objectives and operational aims, significantly enhancing interoperability, mutual understanding and collective maritime readiness.

The successful culmination of MILAN 2026 stands as a testament to the shared commitment of participating navies towards strengthening cooperative mechanisms, fostering enduring partnerships for safe and secure seas.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2232853®=3&lang=1>

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CDS Addresses the Annual Seminar on ‘MITRA’ at CDM, Secunderabad

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 25 Feb 2026

“As warfare expands from the physical to the synthetic and cognitive realms, the Indian Armed Forces need to transition from net-centric operations toward Intelligent Warfare and move beyond Multi-Domain Operations (MDO) to All Realm All Domain Operations (ARADO)” the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan emphasized in his address at the College of Defence

Management (CDM), Secunderabad on February 24, 2026. Inaugurating the annual seminar on the theme 'Multi-Domain Integrated Technologically-Empowered Resilient Armed Forces (MITRA)', CDS highlighted the 'Third Revolution in Military Affairs,' characterized by Convergence Warfare that fuses contact and non-contact, kinetic and non-kinetic, and old and new domains across all levels of conflict. He also emphasized on the need to establish non-nuclear strategic deterrence, ensuring the ability to win at every level of escalation.

CDM hosted the annual seminar on February 24-25, 2026 with Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, as 'Knowledge Partner'. This year's theme 'MITRA' underscores the evolving role of military & war fighting strategies in an increasingly complex geopolitical and technological landscape.



The seminar served as a strategic platform to align contemporary conflict lessons with India's unique operational environment, focused on self-reliance and structural reform, with an objective to develop MITRA armed forces that are Multi-domain in vision, Integrated in action, Technology-empowered in execution, and Resilient in purpose. With the participation of senior defence officials, scholars, industry partners and practitioners, the CDM Annual Seminar 2026 fosters intellectual discourse and strategic foresight for developing the comprehensive national power under the realm of MITRA for administration and management of future contestations and resilient India.

Established in December 1970, the College of Defence Management (CDM) has remained a premier tri-service institution dedicated to equipping military leadership with the contemporary management thoughts, concepts, and best practices. Over the years, its annual seminars have addressed crucial themes ranging from strategic challenges and self-reliance to geopolitical power shifts and leadership transformation, bolstering CDM's role in shaping India's military future for administration and management of future contestations and a resilient India.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2232669®=3&lang=1>

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Deterrence cannot be built on hope. Growing defence budget is a course correction

-by Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 26 Feb 2026

In a welcome departure from past trends, the Union Budget 2026-27 has significantly bolstered its national security framework with a record allocation of Rs 7.85 lakh crore (approximately \$86.7 billion), representing a robust 15.19 per cent increase over the previous year's estimate of Rs 6.81 lakh crore (\$81.2 billion). The primary engine of this growth is a 21.8 per cent surge in capital outlay, which has risen to Rs 2.19 lakh crore to accelerate military modernisation and the procurement of next-generation platforms like fighter aircraft, submarines, and drones. Notably, the government has intensified its Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative by earmarking nearly 75 per cent of this modernisation fund for domestic procurement, while simultaneously boosting the revenue budget to Rs 3.65 lakh crore to ensure higher operational readiness and logistics following Operation Sindoor.

India's defence spending has inevitably drawn some accusations abroad that New Delhi is fuelling an arms race in Asia. The charge is familiar: Any significant Indian military modernisation is cast by some as destabilising, provocative, or jingoist. But this framing gets the story backwards. India is not out-muscling anyone. It is belatedly doing what any serious state must do when confronted with hard power realities. The recent surge in defence spending is not escalation; it is deterrence consolidation — a long-overdue effort to close glaring gaps, reduce vulnerability to coercion, and ensure that the outcome of a future crisis is not determined by whichever adversary fires the first shot.

For years, India has lived with a dangerous mismatch between its strategic ambitions and its actual military preparedness. The deficiencies have been documented by parliamentary committees, military chiefs, and independent analysts. Fighter squadrons have dwindled to levels far below sanctioned strength. Naval assets are overstretched across an expanding maritime theatre. Air defence coverage remains patchy. The Army continues to rely on legacy platforms that were outdated even before the last decade of border tensions. These are not marginal shortfalls that can be glossed over with rhetoric. They are structural weaknesses that directly shape the calculations of adversaries who watch India's choices far more closely than our critics do.

Deterrence, after all, is not a matter of slogans or sentiment. It is a material condition rooted in capability. An adversary is deterred only when it believes that aggression will fail or cost more than it is worth. When a state underinvests in its own defence, it does not buy peace; it invites coercion. India's recent spending surge is therefore not a sign of belligerence but of responsibility: A recognition that credible deterrence cannot be built on hope, nostalgia, or the assumption that past restraint will automatically guarantee future stability.

This recognition is especially urgent because India's security environment has grown more complex. Pakistan's military posture remains tightly coupled to its nuclear strategy, designed to exploit any conventional imbalance. Its tolerance for risk, particularly under domestic political strain, is not something we can prudently bank on. China, meanwhile, has spent two decades modernising its forces, expanding its naval reach, and hardening its positions along the Line of Actual Control. The 2020 Galwan crisis was a reminder that Beijing is willing to test India's resolve and exploit any perceived weakness. More troubling still is the growing diplomatic and military

coordination between China and Pakistan — a two-front dynamic that India has long worried about but now confronts in increasingly tangible ways.

Add to this the geopolitical uncertainty unleashed by Donald Trump's Washington, whose global commitments are subject to transactionalism. India has no interest in being dependent on the whims of any external power, friendly or otherwise. Strategic autonomy, if it means anything, requires credible national capability. A country that cannot defend its borders, protect its sea lanes, or absorb the first blow without collapsing into crisis is not strategically autonomous; it is merely exposed.

India inhabits a region in which our adversaries are alert to perceived weakness. Underinvestment creates the worst of both worlds — louder alarms without stronger locks. A weak India would encourage risk-taking by those who believe they can coerce or punish New Delhi at acceptable costs. The purpose of India's current defence spending is to avoid that trap. It is to ensure that no adversary believes it can achieve a quick, decisive advantage, the belief that has historically triggered wars. It makes clear that coercion will not work, that aggression will not succeed, and that any conflict will be too costly to contemplate. This is not about matching China ship for ship or missile for missile. It is about plugging known gaps, modernising outdated systems, and building the resilience necessary to prevent crises from spiralling out of control.

A more secure India ensures a more stable Asia. That is the simple but often overlooked truth. Stability does not come from wishful thinking or moral exhortation. It comes from capability — and from the quiet confidence that crises can be managed. The defence budget is a course correction. It is not escalation; it is insurance. It is the minimum required for a country with India's geography, adversaries, and responsibilities. If India does not get its defence right — if it continues to underinvest, delay, or defer — we risk increased insecurity without the stabilising effect of real capability. The real danger is not that India is doing too much. It is that, for too long, we did too little.

India's recent defence surge is not a sign of militarism. It is a sign of maturity — the maturity to recognise that peace is preserved not by the absence of arms but by the presence of credible deterrence. Deterrence consolidation is the foundation of stability in a region where the margin for error is shrinking. India is finally taking real responsibility for its own security.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/shashi-tharoor-writes-deterrence-cannot-be-built-on-hope-growing-defence-budget-is-a-course-correction-10552562/>

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Science & Technology News

TDB-DST Supports Indigenous Development of High-Performance Acoustic Antenna System for Underwater High Data Rate Communication

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 25 Feb 2026

In a strategic step toward strengthening India's capabilities in advanced marine technologies, the Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government

of India, has signed an agreement with M/s Xalten Systems Pvt. Ltd., India, for the project titled “Development of High-Performance Acoustic Antenna System for Underwater High Data Rate Communication for Video Transmission.”

The TDB-supported project addresses a critical technology gap in underwater acoustic communication by developing next-generation hydrophone array sensor systems capable of enabling reliable, high-bandwidth communication—including real-time video transmission—between autonomous underwater platforms. The initiative is being undertaken in collaboration with Subnero Pte Ltd, Singapore, combining Indian expertise in underwater acoustics with advanced software-defined communication systems.

With the increasing deployment of autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) swarms for offshore energy operations, deep-sea exploration, marine research, and strategic applications, the demand for robust, high-data-rate underwater communication systems has become urgent. Existing global solutions, offered by established players such as Kongsberg Maritime, Sonardyne and EvoLogics, largely focus on long-range, low-bandwidth communication built on legacy architectures. The proposed indigenous system aims to bridge this gap by developing wideband hydrophones optimized for short-range, high-speed communication between multiple autonomous platforms.



The project envisions the design and development of an advanced acoustic antenna system capable of megabit-per-second data rates while maintaining reliability in challenging underwater environments. By integrating precision acoustic sensor arrays with software-defined communication frameworks, the solution will support real-time collaboration, navigation, and data sharing across marine robotic systems. The initiative also aims to establish scalable manufacturing capabilities within India for advanced acoustic sensors, reducing reliance on imported technologies and enhancing domestic competence in underwater sensing and communication.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary, TDB, stated, “Advanced underwater communication systems are critical for India’s maritime research, offshore infrastructure, and strategic sectors. Through this Indo–Singapore joint proposal, TDB is supporting the development and commercialization of high-performance indigenous acoustic technologies that can position India as a key player in the emerging blue economy, while strengthening international technology partnerships for mutual growth.”

Promoter of Xalten Systems Pvt. Ltd. stated, “TDB’s support enables us to accelerate the development of application-optimized acoustic antenna systems tailored for next-generation underwater robotics and communication networks. This collaboration strengthens India’s technological capabilities in marine sensing and high-data-rate underwater communication.”

The project aligns with TDB’s mandate to facilitate commercialization of indigenous technologies developed through industry-led R&D and strategic collaborations. By supporting high-performance

underwater communication systems, TDB continues to promote technology translation, maritime innovation, and self-reliance in critical ocean technologies, contributing to India's expanding role in the global blue economy.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2232623®=3&lang=1>

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The Tribune
The Statesman
ਪੰਜਾਬ ਕੇਸਰੀ ਜਨਸੱਤਾ
The Hindu
The Economic Times
Press Information Bureau
The Indian Express
The Times of India
Hindustan Times
नवभारत टाइम्स
दैनिक जागरण
The Asian Age
The Pioneer