

# Tatas invest Rs 27,000 cr for semiconductor unit in Assam

■ Tatas, in collaboration with the Assam Government, has already set up several cancer care hospitals across the state

MUMBAI, Mar 20 (ANI)

MANUFACTURING of semi-conductors in Assam will put the state on the global map, said industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata, whose conglomerate has put in Rs 27,000 crore in investments for a semiconductor plant in Jagiroad.

"The investments being made in Assam transform the state in complex treatment for cancer care. Today, the state government of Assam in partnership with the Tata group will make Assam a major player in sophisticated semiconductors," Ratan Tata posted on his X timeline, attaching pictures of him, Himanta Biswa Sarma, and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran.

Tatas, in collaboration with



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma meets industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata in Mumbai on Wednesday. Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran also seen. (ANI)

the Assam Government, has already set up several cancer care hospitals across the state.

"This new development will put Assam on the global map. We wish to thank the Chief Minister of Assam Mr Himanta Biswa Sarma for his support and vision that has made all this possible," Ratan Tata's X post

added.

Earlier on Tuesday, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw assured that the first semiconductor chip would be rolled out. "We will have the first made in India chip by December 2024. We the first attempt at this was made as far back as 1962 but unless you have the cor-

rect policy and right conviction, it can't happen. PM Modi has the conviction that for Viksit Bharat we need electronics manufacturing. From TVs to power electronics, in everything we need semiconductors" the Minister had said.

On March 13, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stones for the three semiconductor facilities with financial implications of about Rs 1.25 lakh crore - 2 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam. Tata Group is setting up two of these three plants - one in each of the states.

The semiconductor industry in India is still in a nascent stage, with various local and multinational companies intending to tap its vast potential. Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt Ltd ("TSAT") will set up a semiconductor unit in Morigaon, Assam. With a capacity of producing 48 million chips per day, this facility is being built for Rs 27,000 crore. Segments that will be covered are automotive, electric vehicles, consumer electronics, telecom and mobile phones.

# Baloch Liberation Army attacks Gwadar Port complex in Pak

KARACHI, Mar 20 (Agencies)

**HEAVILY-ARMED** members of Baloch Liberation Army on Wednesday stormed the Gwadar Port Authority Complex and opened fire while multiple explosions were also reported in the area in Pakistan's troubled Balochistan province, media reports said.

Citing Makran Commissioner Saeed Ahmed Umrani, Dawn.Com reported that a large contingent of police and security forces reached the scene while intense firing is going on.

Pakistan security forces foiled the attack on the Gwadar Port Authority complex and killed the eight attackers,

the 'Express Tribune' newspaper reported, citing sources. They were neutralised while trying to gain entry into the port complex, it said. Majeed Brigade of the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility for the attack, the report said.

Sources also confirmed that a cleansing and search operation was also underway at the moment.

Balochistan, bordering Iran and Afghanistan, is home to a long-running violent insurgency. Baloch insurgent groups have previously carried out several attacks targeting the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.



## SOLAR WASTE

# India may generate 600 kilotonnes by 2030



NEW DELHI, Mar 20 (PTI)

**INDIA'S** solar waste could reach a staggering 600 kilotonnes by 2030 — equivalent to filling up 720 Olympic-size swimming pools — according to a new study released on Wednesday.

The study by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and independent think tank Council on

Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) said, around 67 per cent of this waste will come from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

India's current installed 66.7 GW capacity (as of FY23) has already generated about 100 kilotonnes of waste, which will increase to 340 kilotonnes by 2030. This will include about 10 kilotonnes of silicon, 12-18 tonnes of silver, and 16 tonnes of cadmium and tellurium — the majority of which are critical minerals for India, the study titled "Enabling a Circular Economy in India's Solar Industry: Assessing the Solar Waste Quantum" said.

# India-made engine of Main Battle Tanks tested

NEW DELHI, Mar 20 (PTI)

MAIDEN test-firing of India's first indigenously-made 1500 horsepower engine for Main Battle Tanks was conducted in Mysuru on Wednesday with Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane terming it as a "transformative moment" which will enhance the country's military capabilities.

The achievement "heralds a new era" in the country's defence capabilities, showcasing the technological prowess and commitment to self-reliance in defence technologies, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Aramane presided over the "maiden test-firing of India's first indigenously-made 1500 horsepower (HP) engine for Main Battle Tanks at BEML's Engine division in Mysuru complex on March 20," it said. It is "a transformative moment which will enhance India's military capabilities," Aramane was quoted



as saying in the statement.

"The 1500 HP engine represents a paradigm shift in military propulsion systems, possessing cutting-edge features such as high power-to-weight ratio, operability in extreme conditions, including high altitudes, sub-zero temperatures and desert environments. Equipped with advanced technologies, the

engine stands on par with the most advanced engines globally," it said. BEML CMD Shantanu Roy said the accomplishment "solidifies BEML's position as a key contributor to defence production in the country, underscoring its commitment to serving the nation's needs in this critical sector".

The first test-firing of this engine signifies the completion of Generation One, focusing on technology stabilisation, it said.

"Generation Two will see BEML producing engines for various trials at Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment, a DRDO laboratory, and their integration into actual vehicles for user testing," the Ministry said. The project is slated for completion by mid-2025. The project, initiated in August 2020, has been meticulously structured into five major milestones, ensuring timely completion and adherence to quality standards, officials said.

# Russia to deliver last two squadrons of S-400 air defence missiles by 2026

■ By Ajit Dubey

NEW DELHI, Mar 20 (ANI)

AMID delays due to its ongoing military conflict with Ukraine, Russia has informed India that it would be able to supply the remaining two squadrons of the S-400 long-range air defence missile system by August 2026.

Russia and India had signed a deal to buy five squadrons of the S-400 air defence system, of which three have already been supplied, while the remaining two could not be supplied on time due to developing situations in view of the



Russia-Ukraine war, which is still ongoing.

"The Russian side has informed that they would now supply the two remaining squadrons of the highly capa-

ble air defence systems by August 2026, defence sources told ANI.

The air defence system is capable of hitting targets at 400 Kms and can be very effective

against fighter jets, and cruise missiles. The Russian side was expected to deliver all the systems by 2024 but had to change plans due to its own requirements in the ongoing conflict there. India and Russia signed an over Rs 35,000 crore deal for five squadrons of S-400 air defence missiles, and all deliveries are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023-24 but there may be a delay in this timeframe.

The Indian Air Force, which recently received the indigenous MR-SAM and Akash missile systems as well as the Israeli Spyder quick reactions surface-

to-air missile systems, believes the S-400 will be the game changer for it. The Indian Air Force has significantly improved its air defence capabilities in recent years.

The Indian Air Force has now started working on its own Project 'Kusha', which would allow it to have an indigenous system developed by DRDO to take down enemy platforms at long ranges.

Air defence systems have been deployed in a big way by the Chinese military across the Line of Actual Control while India has also deployed own systems in a big way there.



# Women will lead way to Vikasit Bharat by 2047: India at UN

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 20 (IANS)

HIGHLIGHTING the laser focus on women-led development initiatives, India's Permanent Representative at the UN said that the nation aims for Vikasit Bharat by 2047, necessitating the full and equal participation of women across all spheres.

Addressing a special event organised by India on the margins of the 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women, Ambassador Ruchira

Kamboj said that "we envision an India where women are self-empowered".

India's remarks come as the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment is underway from March 11-22.

"The Government of India recognises the immense power through women's meaningful participation, shifting from women's development to women-led development," Ambassador Kamboj said as she spoke of Prime Minister



Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Narendra Modi's vision for a fully developed India by 2047.

"We hope to ensure that women will lead the way to a developed nation as contributors, rather than passive recipients of development benefits," she added.

Presently, with 10.3 percent of women living in extreme poverty globally, the UN was told of a multifaceted strategy being implemented in India to empower women by addressing their health safety, education, employment,

and entrepreneurship.

"These initiatives aim to ensure gender justice, equality, and the full participation of women in shaping India's social, economic, political, and cultural landscape."

Citing an instance, she said that to ensure women's safety, a robust network of 759 One-Stop Centres provides integrated support and assistance, benefiting over 8.3 lakh women.

The One Stop Centre Scheme supports women

affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community, and at the workplace.

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme, she said, targets the root causes to prevent female feticide. She added that it has resulted in an improved sex ratio at birth from 918 to 933 females per 1000 males.

Further, at 43 percent, India boasts one of the highest proportions of women enrolled in STEM disciplines globally, she said.