

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा

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## अब ब्रह्मोस की मारक क्षमता के घेरे में आयेंगे पाकिस्तान के कई इलाके

बेंगलुरु। ब्रह्मोस सुपरसोनिक क्रूज मिसाइल का नया संस्करण पाकिस्तान के ज्यादातर हिस्सों के साथ चीन के खास इलाकों तक लक्ष्य भेद पायेगा, रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) के प्रमुख एस क्रिस्टोफर ने आज बताया कि 450 किलोमीटर की मारक क्षमता वाली ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल के नए संस्करण का पहला परीक्षण 10 मार्च को किया जाएगा।

बेंगलुरु में आयोजित एयरो इंडिया शो में पत्रकारों को संबोधित करते हुए डॉ क्रिस्टोफर ने कहा कि आगामी दो से ढाई वर्षों के दौरान ब्रह्मोस की मारक क्षमता को 800 से 850 किलोमीटर तक किया जाएगा। मिसाइल प्रौद्योगिकी नियंत्रण इकाई (एमटीसीआर) के प्रभाव के विषय में बात करते हुए डीआरडीओ प्रमुख ने कहा कि इसका लाभ यह हुआ है अब भारत ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल की मारक क्षमता बढ़ा सकता है जो पहले 290 किलोमीटर पर सीमित की हुई थी।

## दैनिक जागरण

## अमेरिकी कंपनियों ने किया मेक इन इंडिया का समर्थन

बेंगलुरु, प्रेटर : अमेरिका की शीर्ष एयरोस्पेस और रक्षा कंपनियों ने बुधवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के 'मेक इन इंडिया' अभियान को मजबूत करने का संकल्प लिया। साथ ही भारत और अमेरिका रक्षा सहयोग को बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया।

इन कंपनियों ने यहां चल रहे एयर शो एयरो इंडिया-2017 के दौरान अपना समर्थन जताया। एयर शो में सरकार विश्व की कंपनियों को भारत से जोड़ने के लिए 'मेक इन इंडिया' अभियान पर जोर दे रही है। एयर शो में अमेरिका-भारत बिजनेस काउंसिल अमेरिकी कंपनियों का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रही है। काउंसिल में बोइंग, लॉकहीड, आर्कोनिक, हनीवेल, हैरिस कॉरपोरेशन समेत अमेरिकी एयरोस्पेस और रक्षा कंपनियों के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी

शामिल हैं। एक सेमिनार के दौरान उन्होंने कहा कि अमेरिकी उद्योग के लिए भारत महत्वपूर्ण साझेदार है। एयरो इंडिया-2017 मेक इन इंडिया के समर्थन में व्यापक चर्चा के लिए सर्वोत्तम स्थान है। उन्होंने कहा कि हम आज और भविष्य में भारत के साथ ज्ञान, कौशल और तकनीक साझा करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं।

यूएवी के लिए इजरायली कंपनी से करार : बेंगलुरु की डाइनेमैटिक टेक्नोलॉजीज लि. (डीटीएल) ने मानवरहित विमान (यूएवी) बनाने के लिए इजरायल एयरोस्पेस इंडस्ट्रीज (आइएआइ) के साथ समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए। इसके तहत आइएआइ तकनीक और उत्पादन

क्षमता डीटीएल को हस्तांतरित करेगी। मेक इन इंडिया पहल के तहत भारत को इसकी जरूरत होगी। आइएआइ मिसाइल, ड्रोन, सेटेलाइट, हथियार प्रणाली, रोबोटिक सिस्टम्स आदि की अग्रणी कंपनी है।

मिसाइल बेचने के लिए वियतनाम से बातचीत : डीआरडीओ के अध्यक्ष एस. क्रिस्टोफर ने बताया कि भारत कम दूरी की सतह से सतह मार करने वाली मिसाइल बेचने के लिए वियतनाम से बातचीत कर रहा है। ऐसा होने पर पहली बार भारतीय हथियार दक्षिण पूर्व एशियाई देश को सौंपा जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि इसके अलावा अन्य कई देशों के साथ आकाश मिसाइल की बिक्री की

बात चल रही है। भारत को हथियार निर्यातक देशों में शामिल करने को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के जोर देने के अनुरूप ऐसा किया जा रहा है।

नौसेना के लिए 57 विमानों पर राफेल की नजर : राफेल विमान का निर्माण करने वाली फ्रांस की कंपनी डसॉल्ट एविएशन नौसेना के 57 विमानों के लिए कगार करना चाहती है। नौसेना ने पिछले महीने इसके लिए 'रिक्वेस्ट फॉर इंफॉर्मेशन' जारी कर विभिन्न कंपनियों का जवाब मांगा है। डसॉल्ट एविएशन के सीईओ एरिक ट्रैम्पियर ने कहा कि हमारी कंपनी इस कगार के लिए जोर लगाएगी। डसॉल्ट के साथ वायुसेना के लिए 36 राफेल विमान का सौदा पहले ही हो चुका है।

## Global aerospace firms use tie-ups to tap India market

*India plans to spend \$100 billion to buy fighter planes, helicopters and ships*

**Alnoor Peermohamed & Raghu Krishnan**

Joseph Weiss, president of Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd (IAI), is bullish on India. His company is developing the medium-range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and it has been expanding business.

At AeroIndia 2017 here, he signed a term sheet for a joint venture with Kalyani Strategic Systems, part of the Pune-based auto component maker Kalyani Group that is building a strong defence business. “We will transfer technology to build these products for India,” said Weiss, who has similar ventures with Tata Advanced Material and Bengaluru-based Alpha Design. On Wednesday, Weiss also signed a contract with Dynamics Technologies to build mini unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for the armed forces.

Baba Kalyani, chairman of Kalyani, said collaborating with global partners would help India firms get access to critical technology and help build systems and products for the armed forces. Early this week, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and European missile specialist MBDA set up a joint venture to develop and supply missiles and missile systems for the local market.

At a seminar here on opportunities to integrate India into the global supply chain, George Standridge, vice-president (strategy and business development), Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, said, “India is an important partner for the US industry.”

“The US and Indian defence industries are poised to work collaboratively, to position India as a major defence partner of the United States,” Tom Bell, senior vice-president, Boeing Defense, said. In other deals, Airbus on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding for establishing a Centre of Excellence for aerospace skill development in Hyderabad, together with the government of Telangana, National Skill Development Corporation India and AEROCAMPUS France. The Centre, which will come up at the Begumpet Airport, will train candidates on aircraft manufacturing, logistics, maintenance, repair and overhaul, ground handling and special aviation processes. Defence and security company Saab has offered a fighter sensor package for the homegrown Tejas LCA Mk1A fighter aircraft. The package consists of a state-of-the-art Saab Airborne Electronically Scanned Array fighter radar closely integrated with a compact electronic warfare suite using Gallium Nitride based AESA technology, the company said.

Hindustan Aeronautics said its overall investment over the next five to six years is expected to be about Rs 17,500 crore, and it may go for loans from banks soon to fund its projects.

Such deals would help the military get access to critical defence products at reasonable costs and with committed timelines. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has mandated that global firms should transfer critical technology that India lacks if they wanted to access the Indian market. He said partnerships with Indian companies would help local firms gain critical knowledge in building complex defence systems and equipment.

The government plans to spend \$100 billion to buy fighter planes, helicopters and ships and is looking at nearly half of these being sourced from the local market. India’s offset policy mandates global companies source 30 per cent of the value of the military items sold over Rs 300 crore from local companies. The biggest of the deals has been Reliance Defence’s venture with French aircraft maker Rafale for Rs 25,000-crore offsets to be

sourced for the 36 Rafale jets' order. Meanwhile, DRDO said the extended range version of the Brahmos missile of 450 km is likely to be tested on March 10.



Thu, 16 Feb, 2017

## Made-in-India recce jet, copter steal aero show

*Relook of Mfg Policy By US Not A Worry: Parrikar*

“Make in India” seems to be the focus of this year's Aero India, the 11th edition of Asia's biggest aviation spectacle, which kicked off at the Yelahanka airbase in Bengaluru on Tuesday. A day after the IAF inducted the first indigenously developed all-weather airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) system on the inaugural day of the show, the Army on Wednesday tested the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), a multirole combat chopper developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited that is likely to get initial operational clearance soon. Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd also unveiled a remote-controlled weapon system for the Army's Arjun tanks that would enable a soldier to fire the mounted machine gun at aerial targets from the safe interiors of a tank.

The desi AEW&C, developed by the Centre for Airborne Systems in Bengaluru and integrated on Brazilian-made Embraer-145 aircraft, will add to surveillance capabilities of the IAF. Currently, the air force has three Phalcon systems, which uses the Israeli early-warning radars mounted atop Russian IL-76 aircraft. However, the latest AEW&C addition and two more in the pipeline will not put India on a par with China or even Pakistan. While China has over 20 AWACS, including the new KJ-500s that can track over 60 aircraft at ranges up to 470km, Pakistan has four Swedish AEW&C aircraft and four Chinese-origin surveillance aircraft.

The LCH, armed with a gun, rockets, air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles, is a potent force multiplier and will greatly enhance the Army's combat capability. DG Army Aviation Corps Lt Gen Kanwal Kumar, who flew an LCH at the airbase, said, “It is a matter of great pride for the nation to have developed an indigenous combat helicopter. “The combat chopper, which has come a long way from its first flight in March 2010, has been designed to meet the need of the Army and IAF for an attack helicopter.

Stressing on the “Make-in-India' slogan, defence minister Manohar Parrikar said the work on a second manufacturing line for indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft Tejas will commence in three months to boost production. “Many of the private sector projects like selfpropelled gun, C-295 Airbus transporter aircraft and even single and twin-engine fighter jets are in an advanced stage of decision making,” he said.

On American reports that the Trump administration would give a “fresh look” at Lockheed Martin's plan to set up a base in India for manufacturing its F16 fighter aircraft, Parrikar said it was not his concern that some firms like Boeing and Lockheed Martin could find themselves torn between the slogans of “America First” of Trump and “Make in India” of PM Modi.



Thu, 16 Feb, 2017

## Dassault sets sights on supplying 200 Rafale jets to India over next decade

French aircraft maker Dassault Aviation on Wednesday said the Indian order for 36 Rafale fighters was a “bit

small,” hoping it would swell to around 200 warplanes over the next decade. The firm has factored in an upcoming naval aviation programme to arrive at the figure.

Dassault Aviation CEO Eric Trappier said a bigger order would ensure that transfer of technology was meatier and also position the country as a high-end manufacturing hub under the Make in India initiative. India plans to induct some 400 warplanes during the next 10 years to sharpen its military edge.

“Thirty six is a good number to start with but we need to build on that foundation. It is not big enough for transfer of technology,” Trappier told a select group of journalists at Aero India-2017. “We are pushing for more orders. We are aware of the Indian military’s requirements and additional orders could come.”

India and France signed the \$8.7-billion Rafale deal on September 23, 2016. The jets, equipped with latest weapons and tailored for Indian needs, will be delivered between 2019 and 2022. Indian Air Force fighter pilots and technicians will head to France in 2018 to train on the Rafale. The IAF has also cautioned that the 36 fighters are not enough to check the erosion of its IAF’s strength.

Trappier said Rafale was a strong competitor for an Indian programme to build twin-engine fighters in the country. He said Dassault would also compete with global rivals for an order to supply 57 carrier-borne fighters to Indian Navy.

“It makes better sense to equip the IAF and the navy with the same platform as it means good logistics, maintenance and industrial support,” he said. US aerospace giant Boeing will also compete for the naval programme with its F-18 Super Hornet.

The IAF’s Rafale fighters will be equipped with European missile maker MBDA’s Meteor beyond visual range missiles. MBDA CEO Antoine Bouvier told HT the missile’s no-escape zone was three to four times greater than other missiles. MBDA has formed a joint venture with Larsen & Toubro to take part in upcoming missile programmes under the Make in India plan.

“This is MBDA’s first JV outside Europe. We are willing to transfer most sensitive missile technologies,” Bouvier said.

Dassault Aviation has forged a joint venture with billionaire Anil Ambani’s Reliance Defence for carrying out its offset obligations bundled with the Rafale deal. Ambani flew in a Rafale fighter at the airshow, pulling 6G (experiencing six times the force of gravity) during the 35-minute sortie.



*Thu, 16 Feb, 2017*

## **Can’t advance Rafale deliveries: Dassault**

*India has ordered 36 jets, and the deliveries are scheduled between 2019 and 2022*

Responding to India’s request to advance the delivery schedule of Rafale fighter jets, the manufacturer Dassault Aviation has stated that it was not possible as the jets have to be customised.

“We are discussing the issue with the IAF. There is a schedule in the contract. It is difficult to speed up production of a new aircraft. If it is matter of weeks, yes we can,” Eric Trappier, CEO of Dassault Aviation, told a select group of journalists at Aero India here on Wednesday.

India ordered 36 jets last year from France and deliveries are scheduled between 2019 and 2022. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar had earlier said that they would request France to speed up deliveries further if possible.

## Greater tech transfer

Mr. Trappier observed that 36 jets was a small number to enable greater technology transfer, pitching for more Rafales for India to gain access to better technologies under the 'Make in India' drive.

"India has ordered 36. It is a good number, but it is not good enough for competitive technology transfer. So it will depend on the future," he said.

## Training for pilots

Mr. Parrikar had already reiterated that India did not intend to order any more Rafales. India-specific customisation was being currently undertaken, after which production would begin.

Under the terms of the contract, Dassault will begin training Indian pilots and technicians in operating the jets next year. Dassault will also bid for the Navy's tender for at least 57 carrier based aircraft.



*Thu, 16 Feb, 2017*

## HAL to begin IPO process this year

Defence public enterprise Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. plans to initiate the process of its maiden public offer "as soon as possible" during fiscal 2017-18, its senior executives said here on Wednesday.

The government decided in 2013 to divest 10% of HAL's equity shares and allow its stocks to be traded on the bourses.

The aircraft major is preparing the formal document for the IPO (initial public offer) and will submit it to stock exchange regulator SEBI as soon as the appointed bankers assess the value of the company, HAL Chairman & Managing Director T. Suvarna Raju, said at a news conference during the ongoing Aero India 2017.

Director Finance C.V. Ramana Rao said 3.615 crore of equity shares of the face value of ₹ 10 each would be considered for the IPO. The book running lead managers, who were selected a couple of years back, are evaluating the worth of the company; the market document — the draft red herring prospectus — would be filed soon after it.

Mr. Rao said last year, HAL bought back 25% of its shares from the Union government for around ₹ 5,000 crore. HAL ended 2015-16 with a turnover of ₹ 16,730 crore.

Two premier defence PSUs, Bharat Electronics Ltd., and BEML Ltd., are already listed.

Mr. Raju said that at the end of January this year, its turnover for the current fiscal was ₹ 10,860 crore and a profit of ₹ 1621 crore, with orders worth ₹ 17,100 crore in hand.



*Thu, 16 Feb, 2017*

## Forces need 1,000 copters in 10 yrs

*Much will depend on joint ventures with foreign players*

Ajay Banerjee

Over the next decade, a whopping 1,000 helicopters of various types are needed by the three services even as India is just about getting started.

A two-stage transformation process promises to bring about new and potent helicopter technology; it will commence in about 18 months from now. The second stage will take another four years. The change will be across the spectrum comprising heavy-lift, medium, light-utility and armed choppers.

The ongoing 11th Aero-India at Bangalore may be a turning point, but it would take years to show results. Much will depend upon the public sector giant Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) that is woefully short of capacity, producing just 20 helicopters a year against the Ministry of Defence's demand for 100. The private sector is waiting in the wings, but foreign collaborators hold the technological edge.

The first to commence will be deliveries of the 15, CH-47F Chinook heavy-lift helicopters, which are expected to commence in 2018. In the medium-weight category, Russia's Rosoboronexport has already completed the delivery of 151 units of Mi-17V-5 helicopters. "It is possible that deal to provide another 48 such copters will be inked this year," the Rosoboronexport announced today.

The three services need 484 light-utility helicopters (LUH) to replace Cheetah/Chetak fleet of helicopters. The Army requires 259, IAF 125 and Navy around 100 such helicopters equipped with anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities. Cheetah/Chetak helicopters are based on the 1950s' designed Alouette Aérospatiale 315B Lama of France.

The LUH has two components to it—HAL is designing, developing and building 187 of these. One such copter took flight here.

The Chairman-cum-Managing Director of HAL, Suvarna Raju, said, "Deliveries can commence in 2018." It's powered by French company Turbomeca engines—HAL's advanced light helicopter Dhruv already inducted in the forces uses a variant of same engine. Separately, HAL in partnership with Russia will build 197 Kamov-226T LUH-type copters. The Army and Air Force need 114 helicopters and 65 armed helicopters, respectively. The light-combat helicopter developed by HAL could start production in six to eight months, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar announced yesterday.

It is currently under development and undergoing weapon integration. The MoD has contracted 22 of the Apache AH-64E attack helicopters from the US and deliveries are to commence in 2019.

The Navy needs another 50 twin-engine helicopters for ship-deck launch operations. It also wants 147 multi-role helicopters with anti-submarine warfare capabilities classified as naval multi-role helicopter.

## नवभारत टाइम्स

Thu , 16 Feb, 2017

**ISRO की सेंचुरी**  
**104 सैटलाइट एकसाथ छोड़ रचा इतिहास**

■ टीएनएन, श्रीहरिकोटा : भारतीय अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी इसरो ने बुधवार को एक ही रॉकेट से रिकॉर्ड 104 सैटलाइट का सफल प्रक्षेपण कर इतिहास रच दिया। पिछला रिकॉर्ड रूस के नाम था, जिसने 2014 में एक बार में 37 सैटलाइट छोड़े थे। इन 104 उपग्रहों में 3 स्वदेशी और बाकी 6 देशों के हैं। सबसे ज्यादा 96 अमेरिकी सैटलाइट हैं। नई उपलब्धि से भारत अरबों डॉलर की स्पेस लॉन्च इंडस्ट्री में बड़े कॉन्ट्रैक्ट हासिल कर सकेगा। इस कामयाबी पर पीएम, राष्ट्रपति ने भी बधाई दी है।

3 देसी उपग्रहों में दो नैनो और एक कार्टोसैट-2 सीरीज का मेन सैटलाइट है। यह मुख्यतया मौसम पर नजर रखने के लिए है। हालांकि इससे चीन, पाक के इलाकों में जमीन पर एक मीटर तक की हाई रिजॉल्यूशन तस्वीरें ली जा सकेंगी।

**9.28am** इसरो का सबसे पावरफुल PSLV रॉकेट रवाना हुआ

**17** मिनट बाद अंतरिक्ष में सैटलाइट स्थापित करने शुरू कर दिए

**11** मिनट के अंदर सभी सैटलाइट कक्षाओं में पहुंचा दिए गए

**1,378** किलो वजनी सैटलाइट और रॉकेट को अंतरिक्ष में पहुंचाने के लिए इसरो ने PSLV के सबसे पावरफुल XL वैरिएंट का यूज किया। इसका यह 16वां मिशन था। इससे पहले चंद्रयान और मार्स मिशन में इसका इस्तेमाल हुआ था।

## ISRO launches record 104 satellites into orbit

*Aims to make India a one-stop shop for global satellite players*

**T E Narasimhan & Raghu Krishnan**

Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) launched as many as 104 satellites from a single rocket on Wednesday, a global record, from its Sriharikota launch station off the Andhra coast. The bulk of these satellites were from the US; some other countries also hired Isro's services.

Isro hopes this development would help its aim of making the country a one-stop shop to build and hurl micro satellites. There is a global shortage of launchers for small satellite missions and there's also a rush from private business in the US and Europe to send hundreds of these to space for various needs. Among the uses would be weather tracking, sea navigation and high-speed internet to remoter parts.

In the next five years, at least 3,000 such satellites, the sizes varying from a small shoebox to a 24-inch television set, weighing between one and 50 kg, are expected to be built and launched by various players, according to SpaceWorks Inc, a US space industry researcher.

The biggest of it would be from OneWeb, the SoftBank-funded satellite venture, which has India's Bharti as a partner. It would be launching 648 small satellites to provide high-speed internet to various corners of the world.

Planet Labs, which acquired the satellite infrastructure of Google last week, has, for the second time on Wednesday, used Isro's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket to hurl 88 micro satellites ('Doves') into space for high-resolution images of the Earth. Spire Global, a satellite firm that tracks navigation on the seas by providing real-time weather data to ships, used the Indian rocket to send up eight Lemur-2 satellites. These micro satellites have a lifespan of two to three years and need to be replaced regularly.

Antrix Corp, commercial arm of Isro, expects around 500 small and micro satellites to be built and launched annually in the world. "We would like to tap into that market. We have a good product and service and (most) small satellite customers are very much with us; PSLV is in demand," said Rakesh Sasibhushan, chairman, Antrix.

So far, Isro's PSLV rocket has launched 225 satellites, of which 179 were for foreign customers.

Analysts say there is a demand for launch facilities that Isro can capitalise on but not for making the satellites, as these companies want to control the entire experience.

"As these systems need a lot of satellites permanently in orbit, they need to launch often, as their satellites have a very short life," says Rachel Villain, principal advisor at Euroconsult, a global space advisory. "For these types of satellites, there is indeed a shortage of launch capacity."

India has already seen the start of a process to share satellite-making technology with private entities in this country, to build for Isro and the world. Last year, Isro contracted to a consortium of small players to build two Navic navigation satellites.

"Whenever there is a large production of satellites, there will also be a requirement for sub-systems. There are many industries which can produce for global companies," said A S Kiran Kumar, chairman of Isro, in an interview last year.

Euroconsult analysts caution that the idea of a one-stop shop to build and launch satellites has yet to be proven in the commercial satellite industry.



“As lot of the cubesat/nanosat constellation projects are initiated by engineering start-ups. They want to master satellite design and production. As launch brokers are emerging, it could make it easier for them to find adequate launch capacity,” says Villain.

## THE ASIAN AGE

Thu, 16 Feb, 2017

### ISRO now gearing up for missions to Mars, Venus

*The Cartosat-2 series programme is one of the most complex such missions handled by the ISRO.*



ISRO chairman (right) A.S. Kiran celebrates with colleagues after the launch of a rocket carrying 104 satellites, in Sriharikota. (Photo: PTI)

Hyderabad: Scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation said they are gearing up to launch Chandrayaan-2 mission in the later part of this year, or during the first quarter of 2018. Isro’s Satellite Applications Centre director M. Annadurai revealed the tentative launch schedule while speaking to the press at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on Wednesday.

He said a lander and a six-wheeled rover were being prepped to go with the Chandrayaan-2 mission. The chief scientist added that a launch is likely to take place in the first quarter of 2018.

According to P.V. Venkita Krishnan, director of Isro propulsion complex at Mahendragiri, engineers were currently testing soft-landing engines. To a query on plans for human space flight programmes by the agency, Isro chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar said, “It is not our priority right now.”

The space agency is also yet to come out with the exact nature of projects for missions to other planets and heavenly bodies — such as Mars, Venus and asteroids.

But study teams are on the job and their proposals will be reviewed by a committee before finalising a project, Mr Kiran Kumar added. He said experiments involving reusable rockets will continue and added that there was still a “long way to go”.

About the successful deployment of the 104 satellites, director P. Kunhi Krishnan said 88 satellites, including the Cartosat, had already started communicating with the ground stations.

The Cartosat-2 series programme is one of the most complex such missions handled by the Isro. It involved injecting into space a record total of 104 satellites in a delicate sequence — within a deadline — without them colliding with each other. There's also the planned launch of the Saarc satellite in March or April this year.

It is basically a communication satellite with transponders and all member nations will be given opportunity to use the satellite for various applications such as tele-medicine, education, direct-to-home, library networking and disaster networking. The satellite will also help put in place a direct hot link between the south Asian nations.

**'ISRO HITS A CENTURY'**

**PAYLOAD**  
**320 tonne**  
Lift-off weight, including Isro's Cartosat-2 weighing 714kg. The rocket carried 3 Indian satellites in total

**103**  
'nano satellites', including 1 each from Israel, Kazakhstan, Switzerland, Netherlands, UAE

**96**  
satellites from US

**88**  
satellites from a single US-based Earth imagery firm called Planet Inc

**WORLD RECORD**  
Isro Organisation created a world record by launching 104 satellites on a single rocket, the trusted PSLV-C37. India beat the record held by Russia, which in 2014 sent 37 satellites in a single launch.

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's Premier News Agency

Thu, 16 Feb, 2017

### US military attache in India to head South Asia desk of NSA

Brigadier General Robin Fontes, the first woman defence attache at the US Embassy in India has been made in-charge of the South Asia desk of US National Security Council of the White House.

According to a Pentagon announcement, Brigadier Fontes has been posted as Senior Director for India, Pakistan and Central Asian Affairs at the National Security Council Fontes would be in-charge of White House policy on India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and other South Asian countries and Central Asia under the Trump Administration.

She would be replacing Peter Lavoy, who was Director (South Asia) in the previous Obama administration From the Defence Intelligence Agency, Fonte was the first female attache assigned to India and the first general officer to serve as an attache in India since the 1960s. "(India) is a very important country to (the United States) in the Pacific region.