

India Capable Of Nuclear Test at Short Notice: Defence Research Chief

India is on par with many other countries when it comes to nuclear technology, defence research chief Dr S Christopher told NDTV

India is capable of conducting a nuclear test at short notice, defence research chief Dr S Christopher has told NDTV. This assertion from one of the country's top scientists comes 20 years after India successfully tested its nuclear capability in Pokhran. Dr Christopher sought to dispel any notion that India's nuclear technology was stuck at the 1998 level when five bombs were successfully tested. "Technology-wise, we are continuously growing; there is no doubt about it. You cannot stagnate in that position. I am honest to say that the growth is so tremendous we are almost on par with many other countries," Dr Christopher said in an exclusive interview. These remarks by the chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) are an expression of the country's technological readiness. The final call to go ahead with a nuclear test is a political decision taken by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Committee on Security.

India had imposed a unilateral moratorium after the 1998 nuclear tests and continues to abide by it. According to the nuclear doctrine, there will be no-first-use of atomic weapons by India but in case an adversary strikes with atomic weapons, New Delhi will exercise the right to give an answer with a 'punishing second strike'. In 1998, then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had given DRDO, which was headed by APJ Abdul Kalam, 40 days to undertake the nuclear test. Asked if the DRDO could replicate that feat within the same timeline, Dr Christopher said "we are ready", adding that no field tests were needed due to available advanced technologies that can recreate a real time environment. "Everything in research and development you cannot test --- like, for instance, a mission to the moon. There are a lot of simulations that are possible today to say what exactly will happen," claimed Dr Christopher. On May 11 and 13, 1998 India had tested five nuclear weapons, including a hydrogen bomb. Two weeks later, Pakistan had responded with a set of five tests at its Chagai nuclear site.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-capable-of-nuclear-test-at-short-notice-defence-research-chief-1858949>

As S Christopher completes term, DRDO to remain headless for 3 months

The Defence Research And Development Organisation (DRDO) could stay headless for as many as three months with the government failing to find a replacement for incumbent Selvin Christopher who retired on Monday. Efforts till late to grant him another extension in service could have delayed the appointment of a successor, with a search committee looking at probable names to recommend to the cabinet appointments committee.



Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra will hold additional charge of the organisation till the government approves a scientist to take over the top position, an official notification said. The past few weeks has seen jostling for the post. DRDO has an annual budget of `17,861 crore. Outgoing chief Christopher who was already on a year's extension of service beyond the prescribed age but had been hoping for yet another extension.

This search committee list is expected to include the three seniormost scientists of DRDO, besides the first woman to have made it to the post of director-general in the organisation. Sources said that those in the fray include missile scientists G Satheesh Reddy, the scientific advisor to the defence minister and the head of the Brahmos missile project, Sudhir Mishra.

While Mishra and Reddy come from the missile scientist community that has traditionally 'ruled' DRDO, also in contention is Pravin K Mehta, who heads the Armament cluster of the research organisation from Pune. A surprise entrant to the selection shortlist could also be DG Jillelamudi Manjula who heads the Electronics & Communication Systems vertical at DRDO. As reported by ET, several top level appointments are pending at the defence ministry. The crucial posting to Northern Army Commander is still to be announced.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/s-christopher-completes-term-as-drdo-chief-def-secy-to-hold-addl-charge/articleshow/64356732.cms>

पंजाब केसरी

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रक्षा सचिव संजय मित्रा को DRDO प्रमुख की अतिरिक्त जिम्मेदारी

रक्षा सचिव संजय मित्रा को रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन) डीआरडीओ (के प्रमुख पद की अतिरिक्त जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई .प्रख्यात वैज्ञानिक एस क्रिस्टोफर का डीआरडीओ के प्रमुख का कार्यकाल पूरा होने के बाद संजय मित्रा को अतिरिक्त जिम्मेदारी दी गई है. कार्मिक मंत्रालय ने जारी एक आदेश में कहा कि योग्य प्राधिकरण ने मित्रा को तीन महीने के लिये रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास विभाग) डीओडीआरडी (के सचिव तथा डीओआरडी के चेयरमैन की अतिरिक्त जिम्मेदारी सौंपी है .वह मंगलवार से अतिरिक्त जिम्मेदारी संभालेंगे. क्रिस्टोफर को पिछले साल मई में एक साल का सेवा विस्तार दिया गया था.