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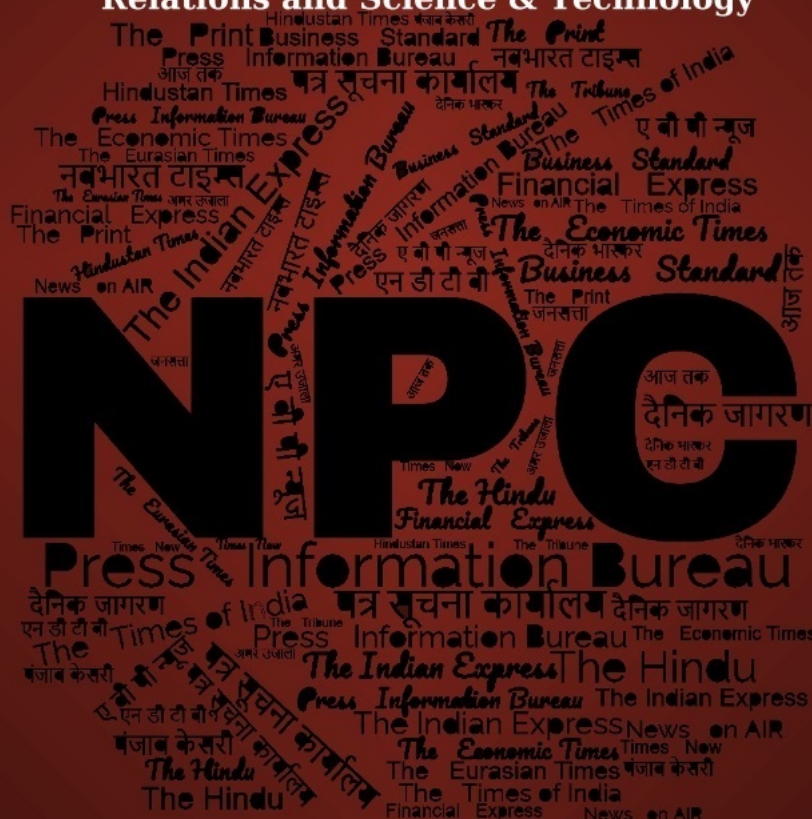
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Defence News

Acquisition of another 97 Tejas, 6 AEW&C aircraft gets CCS nod

Source: The Times of India, Dt. 20 Aug 2025

Will Help Tackle Pakistan-China Twin Threat

Rajat.Pandit@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India on Tuesday gave the final nod for acquisition of another 97 indigenous Tejas fighter jets and six advanced airborne early-warning and control (AEW&C) aircraft or "eyes in the sky", collectively worth around Rs 85,500 crore, which will be crucial to tackle the collusive and 'fused' challenge from China-Pakistan in the years ahead.

The PM-led cabinet committee on security (CCS) approved the Rs 66,500 crore deal for 97 "improved" Tejas Mark-1A fighters to be produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which will add to the 83 such single-engine light combat aircraft already ordered from defence PSU under a Rs 46,898 crore deal inked in Feb 2021, top sources told TOI.

"The first two jets of the 83 ordered earlier are fully ready. The final weapons firing trials (including Astra



Timely induction of the 180 Tejas Mark-1A fighters is needed to stem rapid depletion in the number of IAF fighter squadrons

air-to-air missiles) are slated for Sept. With the order for another 97 jets, HAL will be able to expand and stabilise its supply chains," a source said.

Faced with flak from IAF chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh for huge delays in deliveries, HAL has promised to progressively scale up production to 20 Tejas per year, and then to 24-30 per year, with the third production line now fully functional in Nashik to add to the two existing ones at Bengaluru, apart from private sector supply chains.

The project for six AEW&C aircraft, which will entail mounting active electronically scanned array antenna-based radars, electronic and signal intelligence systems on second-hand Airbus-321 planes bought earlier from Air

India, in turn, will cost Rs 19,000 crore. "All six AEW&C aircraft will be delivered by 2033-34," the source said.

Timely induction of the 180 Tejas Mark-1A fighters is needed to stem rapid depletion in the number of IAF fighter squadrons (each has 16-18 jets), which will go down to its lowest-ever figure of 29 squadrons next month after retirement of the 36 old MiG-21s still in service.

IAF, incidentally, is authorised 42.5 combat squadrons. Pakistan now has 25 fighter squadrons, and is slated to get at least 40 J-35A fifth-generation stealth jets from China in the near future. China, of course, has more than four times the number of fighters, bombers and force-multipliers as compared to India.

In the AEW&C arena, which are required to boost surveillance capabilities along the borders as well as help direct friendly fighters during air combat with enemy jets, India lags far behind even Pakistan. IAF currently has just three Netra AEW&C Mark-1 planes, with indigenous sensors mounted on Brazilian Embraer-145 jets for 240-degree radar coverage, and three Israeli 'Phalcon' radars mounted on Russian IL-76 aircraft.

The new AEW&C project will involve the A-321 narrow-body aircraft first being "hardened and modified" in Spain and then being equipped with an antenna in the nose in addition to the main dorsal antenna to give 300-degree radar coverage.

To make up numbers, defence ministry in March also accorded the initial "acceptance of necessity" to a separate project for six Netra Mark-1A on Embraer-145 jets, with more advanced technologies than the first three Mark-1 aircraft.

On the Tejas front, IAF till now has got 38 of the first 40 Tejas Mark-1 fighters ordered for Rs 8,802 crore under two contracts inked in 2006 and 2010.

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InCh by InCh, New Delhi & Beijing unveil big steps for LAC stability

Source: The Economic Times, Dt. 20 Aug 2025

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's China visit to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, India and China on Tuesday announced several confidence building measures (CBMs), including setting up expert group, working group and general level

mechanisms, to stabilise the Line of Actual Control following the special representative (SR) mechanism meeting here.

Both sides agreed to reopen border trade through the three trading points - Lipulekh Pass, Shipki La Pass and Nathu La Pass. They also agreed to facilitate trade and investment flows through concrete measures.

NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi held candid talks on India-China boundary question and agreed to seek a "fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable framework" to settle the matter in accordance with the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question signed in 2005.

Boundary delimitation

It was decided to set up an expert group under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) to explore early harvest in boundary delimitation, set up a working group under WMCC to advance effective border management to maintain peace and tranquillity in border areas and create general level mechanisms in eastern and middle sectors in addition to the existing general level mechanism in the western sector.

They decided to use border management mechanisms at diplomatic and military levels to carry forward the process of border management.

Flight connectivity, yatra

Wang Yi and external affairs minister S Jaishankar agreed to resume direct flight connectivity between Chinese mainland and India at the earliest and finalise an updated Air Services Agreement. They also agreed on the facilitation of visas to tourists, businesses, media and other visitors in both directions. Both sides agreed to continue and further expand the scale of the Indian pilgrimage to Mt. Kailash.

Co-op on Trans-border rivers

The two sides exchanged views on trans-border rivers and agreed to give full play to the role of India-China expert level mechanism on trans-border rivers and keep communication on renewal of the relevant MoUs. The Chinese side agreed to share hydrological information during emergency situations based on humanitarian considerations, officials said.

Diplomatic summit

Both sides agreed to support each other in hosting successful diplomatic events. The Chinese side will support India in hosting the 2026 BRICS summit. The Indian side will support China in hosting the 2027 BRICS summit.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/inch-by-inch-new-delhi-beijing-unveil-big-steps-for-lac-stability/articleshow/123394018.cms?from=mdr>

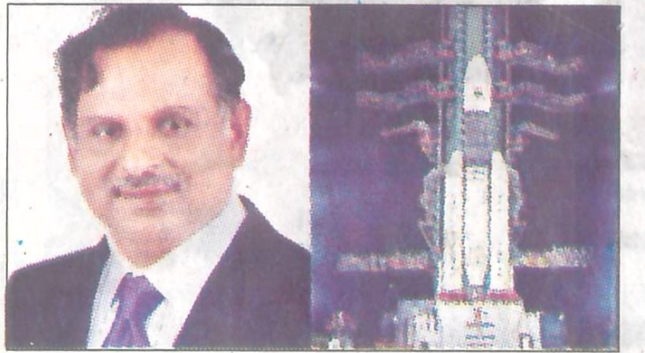
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Science & Technology News

40 मंजिला इमारत जितना ऊँचा रॉकेट बना रहा है इसरो

Source: Punjab Kesari, Dt. 20 Aug 2025

हैदराबाद, (पंजाब केसरी): भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) प्रमुख वी. नारायणन ने मंगलवार को कहा कि अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी एक ऐसे रॉकेट पर काम कर रही है, जिसकी ऊंचाई 40 मंजिला इमारत जितनी होगी और जो 75,000 किलोग्राम भार वाले 'पेलोड' को पृथ्वी की निचली कक्षा में स्थापित करने में सक्षम होगा।



नारायणन ने यहां उस्मानिया विश्वविद्यालय के दीक्षांत समारोह में कहा कि इस वर्ष इसरो ने कई महत्वपूर्ण मिशन तय किए हैं, जिनमें 'नेविगेशन विद इंडिया कॉन्स्टेलेशन सिस्टम' (एनएवीआईसी) सैटेलाइट, एन1 रॉकेट और भारतीय रॉकेट के जरिये अमेरिका के 6,500 किलोग्राम वजनी संचार उपग्रह को कक्षा में स्थापित करना शामिल है। उन्होंने कहा कि 2035 तक 52 टन वजनी अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन का निर्माण हो जाएगा, जबकि इसरो शुक्र ऑर्बिटर मिशन पर काम कर रहा है।

उन्होंने कहा, "फिलहाल हम अगली पीढ़ी के प्रक्षेपण यान पर काम कर रहे हैं। आप जानते हैं कि रॉकेट की क्षमता क्या है? डॉ. एपीजे अब्दुल कलाम द्वारा निर्मित पहला प्रक्षेपण यान

17 टन का था, जो 35 किलोग्राम भार को निचली पृथ्वी कक्षा में स्थापित कर सकता था। आज हम 75,000 किलोग्राम भार ले जाने वाले रॉकेट की कल्पना कर रहे हैं, जिसकी ऊंचाई 40 मंजिला इमारत जितनी होगी।" उन्होंने बताया कि इसरो ने इस वर्ष 'टेक्नोलॉजी डिमॉन्स्ट्रेशन सैटेलाइट' (टीडीएस) और जीसैट-7आर (भारतीय सेना के लिए संचार उपग्रह) सहित कई उपग्रहों का प्रक्षेपण करने की योजना बनायी है। उन्होंने कहा कि जीसैट-7आर विशेष रूप से भारतीय नौसेना के लिए डिजाइन किया गया है और यह जीसैट-7 (रुक्मिणी) उपग्रह की जगह लेगा। नारायणन ने कहा कि फिलहाल भारत के 55 उपग्रह अंतरिक्ष में सक्रिय हैं और आने वाले तीन से चार वर्षों में यह संख्या तीन गुना बढ़ जाएगी।

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ISRO moots heavy-lift rocket that can carry payload on 75,000 kg

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 20 Aug 2025

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

More than four decades after developing the first indigenous launch vehicle SLV-3, capable of carrying a modest 35-kg payload, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is now aiming for a giant leap. The agency is conceiving an advanced heavy-lift rocket that can carry a 75,000 kg payload to space.

“This rocket will be the height of a 40-storey building. We are also in the advanced development stages of Gaganyaan and its first unmanned mission is planned very shortly,” ISRO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space, V. Narayanan said on Tuesday. Delivering the 84th convocation address at the Osmania University here, Mr. Narayanan elaborated on the country’s space journey, the organisation’s

accomplishments and future plans.

“Chandrayaan-4 programme is approved. The Bharathiya Anthariksh Station shall be a reality by 2035 for which the initial modules will start as early as 2027. An Indian must land on the moon and return safely by a fully indigenous moon mission by 2040. A Venus Orbiter Mission has also been approved and we shall be sending a spacecraft to study planet Venus. A heavy-lift Next Generation Launch Vehicle with recoverable first stage has also been approved,” he said.

Mr. Narayanan was conferred an honorary doctorate at the convocation.

A record 1,261 Ph.D degrees were awarded, and 121 gold medals were presented to top-performing students for academic years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

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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