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A Daily service to keep DRDO Fraternity abreast with DRDO Technologies, Defence Technologies, Defence Policies, International Relations and Science & Technology

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Business Standard

Mon, 01 March 2021

DRDO's surveillance satellite sent to space, will help monitor Indian Ocean

The satellite was launched using the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV-C51 which took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh at 10:30 am today

In a boost for the country's surveillance capabilities to monitor activities of both military warships and merchant shipping in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), the 'Sindhu Netra' satellite developed by a team of young scientists from Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was successfully deployed in space on Sunday.

The satellite was launched using the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV-C51 which took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh at 10:30 am today.

The Sindhu Netra satellite has been developed by the young scientists of the DRDO and is capable of automatically identifying the warships and merchant ships operating in the IOR. The satellite has also started communicating with the ground systems, government sources told ANI.

The satellite, if required, can also help in carrying out surveillance in specific areas such as the South China Sea or the pirate-infested areas near the Gulf of Aden and the African coast, the sources said.

They added that the Sindhu Netra is one of the first in the series of satellites that would help the nation in enhancing its surveillance capabilities on land in areas such as the Ladakh region with China and the border areas with Pakistan.

Seeking to keep a closer eye on the activities of the Chinese military both near the Indian territory as well as in its depth areas all along the 4,000 kilometre Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian security agencies feel there is a requirement of four to six dedicated satellites which can help them keep a check on the adversary's moves.

Along with the setting up of the Defence Space Agency, the government also created a defence space research organisation to look after the ability to protect space assets from being attacked by adversaries there. The space arm of the defence forces would also be bolstered significantly in near future.

(Only the headline and picture of this report may have been reworked by the Business Standard staff; the rest of the content is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/drdo-s-sindhu-netra-surveillance-satellite-deployed-in-space-will-help-to-monitor-indian-ocean-region-121022800497_1.html



The Sindhu Netra satellite has been developed by the young scientists of the DRDO and is capable of automatically identifying the warships and merchant ships operating in the IOR

New DRDO surveillance satellite deployed in space to help monitor Indian Ocean Region

The satellite was part of the load of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV-C51 which took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh at 10:30 am today

New Delhi: A satellite developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) called 'Sindhu Netra' has been deployed in space using the recent PSLV-C51 launch that was conducted earlier today. The satellite will provide a boost to the country's surveillance capabilities to monitor the activities of both military warships and merchant shipping in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The satellite was part of the load of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV-C51 which took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh at 10:30 am today.

The satellite is claimed to be capable of automatically identifying the warships and merchant ships operating in the IOR. According to an ANI report, the satellite is already in position and has also started communicating with the ground systems.

Other than the IOR, the satellite has importance to surveil other sensitive areas as well. If required, the satellite can also help in carrying out surveillance in specific areas such as the South China Sea or areas prone to pirate attacks near the Gulf of Aden and the African coast.

The satellite is the first in the series of satellites that will expand India's surveillance network which will work on land in areas such as the Ladakh region with China and the border areas with Pakistan.

Seeking to keep a closer eye on the activities of the Chinese military both near the Indian territory as well as in its depth areas all along the 4,000 kilometre Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian security agencies feel there is a requirement of four to six dedicated satellites which can help them keep a check on the adversary's moves.

Along with the setting up of the Defence Space Agency, the government also created a Defence Space Research Organisation to look after the ability to protect space assets from being attacked by adversaries there. The space arm of the defence forces would also be bolstered significantly in near future.

ISRO conducted its first launch of 2021 which was the first commercial load via NSIL. The primary satellite Amazonia-1 was from Brazil which will be used to surveil the Amazon region for deforestation. The shuttle also carried 18 other co-passenger satellites. *With Inputs from ANI*

(This story has been published from a wire agency feed without modifications to the text.)

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/new-drdo-surveillance-satellite-deployed-in-space-to-help-monitor-indian-ocean-region-11614509687692.html>



ISRO's PSLV-C51 carrying Amazonia-1 and 18 other satellites lifts off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Sunday. (ANI Photo)

ISRO places Brazil's Amazonia-1, 18 other satellites in orbit

*53rd flight of PSLV-C51 marks first dedicated mission for
New Space India Ltd, the commercial arm of ISRO*

By T.K. Rohit

Chennai: ISRO on Sunday successfully launched Brazil's optical earth observation satellite, Amazonia-1, and 18 co-passenger satellites from India [5] and the U.S.A. [13] from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) at Sriharikota.

The satellites were carried on board the PSLV-C51, the 53rd flight of India's workhorse launch vehicle and the first dedicated mission for New Space India Ltd (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO. The mission was undertaken under a commercial arrangement with Spaceflight Inc., USA.

The PSLV-C51, equipped with two solid strap-on boosters, the third such launch of the PSLV-DL variant, lifted off at 10.24 a.m. from the first launch pad at Sriharikota.

DRDO pay-load

Of the 13 satellites from the U.S., one was a technology demonstration satellite and the remaining for 2-way communications and data relay. Among the five Indian satellites, one belongs to DRDO.

Five satellites belong to India including the Satish Dhawan SAT (SDSAT) built by Space Kidz India, a nano-satellite intended to study the radiation levels, space weather and demonstrate long range communication technologies, and the UNITYsat, a combination of three satellites intended for providing radio relay services. The other satellite belongs to DRDO.

The SDSAT developed by SpaceKids India has an engraving of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the top panel of the satellite to show solidarity and gratitude for the atmanirbhar initiative and space privatisation, SpaceKidz said. The Bhagavad Gita was also sent on-board an SD card to give the scripture, which teaches oneness as the highest form of humanity, the highest honour, it said.

The UNITYsat was designed and built as a joint development by the Jeppiar Institute of Technology, Sriperumbudur, G.H. Rasoni College of Engineering, Nagpur and Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore.

Watching the Amazon

Roughly 16 minutes after lift-off, the PS-4 engine was cut-off and the Amazonia-1, weighing 637 kg, belonging to the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE), was separated a minute later. The satellite will further strengthen the existing structure by providing remote sensing data to users for monitoring deforestation in the Amazon region and for analysis of diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory, according to ISRO. The Amazonia-1 was injected into its precise orbit of 758 km in a sun-synchronous polar orbit.

"This moment represents the top of all this effort made by so many people in our National Institute for Space Research and our Space agency. This is a very important mission for Brazil and it represents a new era for Brazilian industry for satellites. This is one positive step of our partnership that is going to grow. Congratulations on a beautiful launch. We are going to work together and this is the beginning of our partnership," Brazil's Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Marcos Cesar Pontes said.



Indian Space Research Organisation launches the Amazonia-1, Brazil's optical earth observation satellite, and 18 co-passenger satellites from U.S. and India on board the PSLV-C51 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on February 28, 2021. | Photo Credit: [AFP](#)

Following that, the other 18 customer satellites were placed into their intended orbits. The entire operation of the mission took about 1 hour and 55 minutes to completion.

“This particular mission is special because these five Indian satellites are coming under the new space reform announced by the Government of India. These institutes have done an excellent job. ISRO has promoted, handheld and all along helped them to build these satellites technically correctly to launch them,” ISRO Chairman, K. Sivan said.

He said ISRO has 14 missions planned this year, including the first unmanned mission around the end of the year.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/pslv-c51-carrying-19-satellites-lifts-off-from-sriharikota/article33953774.ece>

BangaloreMirror

Mon, 01 March 2021

LCA flies off to grace air show in Sri Lanka

By Hemanth CS

The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has left Indian shores to participate at an Air Show in Sri Lanka.

This will be only the third time the indigenously designed and developed aircraft has flown out of the country, having in the past performed at the Bahrain International Airshow in 2016 and the Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA-2019) in Malaysia.

The LCA Tejas aircraft belonging to the Indian Air Force will participate in an Air Show at Galle Face, Colombo, scheduled from March 3 to 5 as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations of Sri Lankan Air Force.

The participation of the aircraft along with the flying display teams the Suryakirans and Sarangs assumes significance as the island nation is among the countries India is looking to export the 4.5 generation multirole flight aircraft.

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) which manufactures the aircraft has in the past stated that countries from the Middle East, South East Asia along with some African countries have expressed interest in the LCA.

HAL has said that it is looking to set up logistic bases in some foreign countries and among them is Sri Lanka. Last year, HAL said that it was looking to set up a logistic basis in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia to showcase and sell the capabilities of the LCA aircraft and other helicopter platforms manufactured by it.

During the recently concluded Aero India, HAL Chairman R Madhavan speaking on the export capabilities of the LCA, said that some countries have evinced interest in the LCA and that each aircraft would cost about Rs 309 crore.

The Sri Lankan Air Force has been looking to procure multi-role fighter jets to replace its aging fleet and the LCA is among the aircraft that are being pitched to the island nation.

The LCA programme got a huge shot in the arm as the Cabinet Committee on Security cleared the Rs 48,000 crore deal to HAL for 73 Mark 1A versions and 10 Mark 1 Trainer Tejas Aircraft. The contract was formally handed over to HAL during the Aero India.

<https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/others/lca-flies-off-to-grace-air-show-in-sri-lanka/articleshow/81263636.cms>

Indigenisation in defence

By Dr Sudershan Kumar

Under the dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi ji, a great impetus has been laid upon atmanirbharta in various stratas and areas in our country. Complying to the same, even in the defence sector, great thrust has been given to atmanirbharta, which recently has been the corner stone of the Indian Defence Production policy. The key for atmanirbharta in defence is the indigenisation. Further evidence of the present Government's commitment towards major push to indigenisation, comes from the recent order of around forty eight thousand crore rupees to state run aerospace Hindustan Aeronautic Limited (HAL) for production of 83 Light Combat Air crafts (LCA) Mk-1A also called Tejas fighters for Indian Air force. This is perfectly in line with prime minister's vision of Atamnirbhar Bharat .This is one of the biggest Make in India contract placed on any Defence private sector undertakings so far. Significantly the contract was handed over to HAL on the day of inauguration ceremony of Asia's largest Aerospace exhibition on 5th February 2021.

The purpose of one of the biggest Aero India exhibition was to showcase to the international community, the India's capability, capacity, and potential in defence manufacturing. In this exhibition nearly 538 exhibitors had participated. Besides, for promotion of indigenisation among armed forces many measures have been under taken. Therefore the various pertinent questions which arise are:- What is indigenisation? What is the background behind this? Why we need it? What steps Government has undertaken to boost indigenisation in defence sector. So by indigenization we mean the capability of developing and producing any defence equipment within the country for dual purpose that is for self reliance and for reducing fiscal deficit. As everyone is aware that India's defence budget is the fifth largest in the world. At the same time India is one of the largest importer of arms (next to Saudi Arabia). Therefore to reduce over dependence on foreign nations the then government at the centre changed the Indian approach from licence production to production based indigenous design and subsequently followed by co development co production with foreign partners including the then USSR (now Russia), Israel and France etc. So it pumped resources to encourage Research and Development (R&D). Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), which started its humble beginning as Inspection agency in the year 1959, subsequently had expanded its defence R&D base through out the country by establishing large number of R&D laboratories.

In the early eighties, DRDO rose to the occasion and initiated one of the game changer, commonly known as the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) with a mission to develop varieties of missiles viz Prithvi, Nag, Akash, Trishul and Agni series A1,A2,A3,A4 and A5 series and many others as per future requirements of the nation. Parallely, Government also set up a committee under the chairman ship of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam the then Director General & Secretary DRDO for chalking out 10 years plan for enhancement of self reliance from 25 to 70 percent. In spite of the fact that DRDO achieved self reliance in missile technology to the tune of 96 %, but the other areas remained gray zone. Till date the target of achieving self reliance up to 70 to 80 percent remained a distant dream. The reasons may be the divergent views of different stake holders concerning indigenisation visa vis import. The indigenization is also essential from point of view of obtaining strategic capability, security imperative and also for employment generation. Because self sufficient and self reliant defence industry will place India among the top global powers. Modi Government after coming to power in 2014 realized the gravity of this precarious situation existing in the country.

So, it started with the concept of make in India to promote indigenous manufacturing in defence sector. Further to augment indigenisation and to encourage private players' participation the present government at the centre undertook a myriad of measures. First, the defence procurement

procedure 2013(DPP2013) was amended. New clause indigenous design and manufactured was added as the most preferred way of defence acquisition. Second, to encourage the private players participation and to expand the defence industry base, the present Government removed the restriction on annual capacity for grant of licence in defence sector and also established on line eBiz portal .It also issued vendor development guide lines for their benefits. Third, to encourage foreign investment, government enhanced Foreign investment Limit(FDI) to 74%and in certain exceptional cases even up to the tune of 100 percent but following permission from Government. Fourth to encourage innovative R&D in private industry, the government has ear marked separate funds known as technology development funds to the tune of Rs.100crore. Under this, the projects up to ten crore can be sanctioned to private industry. Till date 25 industries have availed the benefits of this scheme. Fifth for promoting manufacturing based on indigenous design and development , bold and path breaking decisions concerning restriction on import of 101 defence items has been taken. These items include high tech weapon systems, artillery guns assault rifles, covets, sonar systems, transport air crafts, radars and many more. Sixth and one of the revolutionary step for indigenous development and manufacturing was keeping the provision of the special budget ‘for domestic capital procurement’ to the tune of around fifty two thousand crore rupees in defence budget for the year 2020-2021. This initiative was widely welcomed by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Commercial and Industries (FICI). In fact as per FICCI’s view this is a great leap forward and year mark up of separate budget is viewed as the most desired policy initiative. According to them “Increased Capability Defence Production will not only offer great opportunity for domestic industry but also give immense strategic advantage to the country in the fast evolving geopolitical scenario. Seventh the government also has unveiled a new policy concerning export of defence items to friendly nations. India has also set an export target of 5 billion US\$ by the year 2025. It is worth mentioning here that the ecosystem created by Modi Government over a period of seven years has certainly inspired multiple players to participate not only in defence manufacturing but also for creation of strong R&D base in their premises for in house design and development. This will be the first step to produce a congenial niche for indigenous systems with low cost and in compressed time frame as per the requirement of the country keeping in mind the future threat perceptions.

It is also true that India enjoys unique position in peninsula in south Asia with nearly 1570 km of land border and maritime boundary is around more than 7000 km . Out of that more than half of boundary is shared by the two hostile neighbours China& Pakistan with whom India has border disputes.Prolonged standoff in eastern Ladakh and subsequent action for disengagement between India army and PLA along LAC and relentless efforts by rogue neighbour for pushing terrorist and dropping arms and ammunition into new union territory of Jammu-Kashmir either through cease fire violation or using other means viz tunnels, drones etc are glaring examples. The nefarious designs of both these neighbours further embolden the preview that India in coming years will have to fight a very brief,highly technology oriented utilizing multiple new contours and 2.5 front hybrid war with these two adversaries. Further Digital world especially social net working, Fake Whats Apps groups, various tool kits for inciting mobs both by external and internal forces has compounded the threat to national security in many ways.

Therefore to meet these challenges, atmanirbharta in defence is absolutely inescapable. Indigenisation in defence sector will have major role to play. The present echo system generated by visionary Government at centre is quite congenial for development of niche technologies with low cost in highly compressed time frame. Of course DRDO will have to play a major role in that. Therefore it is high time for all those who matter in decision making to sit with various stake holders, prepare a blue print, fore cast technologies for at least fifty years head and prepare a road map for indigenous development and manufacturing not only to counter future threats but also to ensure India emergence as the super power in next five to ten years.

(The author is former Director General & Special Secretary DRDO, MoD GoI)

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<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/indigenisation-in-defence/>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Sun, 28 Feb 2021 6:43PM

President witnesses spectacular operational demonstration by Andaman and Nicobar Command at Swaraj Dweep

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind witnessed a Joint Services Operational Demonstration at the Radhanagar beach, Swaraj Dweep on February 28, 2021. Integral combat platforms and forces of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) demonstrated multi-dimensional operational capabilities of the Command, including an amphibious landing.

The President was, earlier, briefed by Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Manoj Pande on the operational capabilities and state of readiness of the Command. Fourteen ships of the Indian Navy, two Fast Attack Crafts of Coast Guard, aircraft of the Indian Airforce and over 300 troops of the Indian Army with six BMPs showcased integrated application of combat power of the only Tri-Service Command of the nation. The demonstration highlighted the synergy, cooperation and interoperability between the Services towards achieving desired outcomes.

The Operational Demonstration showcased various facets of joint operations and included Combat Free Fall (CFF) and helocasting by the MARCOS, Special Heliborne Operations (SHBO) by Ghatak Platoon and amphibious assault by infantry troops, who landed on the beach with six BMPs and over 300 combatants.

Naval Gun Fire Support (NGFS), Counter Surface Force Operations (CSFO), Search and Rescue (SAR) operations and vertical replenishment at sea were also demonstrated. The amphibious landing of Infantry troops on the beach was executed by Landing Ship Tank (Medium) and Landing Craft Utility. Operational Demonstration culminated with the fly past of Dornier aircraft, MI-17 V5 and Chetak helicopters flying in close formation depicting the Tri-Service synergy and Combat potential of the Andaman & Nicobar Command.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1701547>



पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
भारत सरकार
रक्षा मंत्रालय

Sun, 28 Feb 2021 6:43PM

राष्ट्रपति अंडमान निकोबार कमान द्वारा स्वराज द्वीप में शानदार सामरिक प्रदर्शन के साक्षी बने

राष्ट्रपति श्री रामनाथ कोविंद ने 28 फरवरी, 2021 को राधानगर बीच, स्वराज द्वीप में संयुक्त सेवा सामरिक प्रदर्शन देखा। अंडमान और निकोबार कमांड (एएनसी) के अभिन्न लड़ाकू प्लेटफार्मों और बलों ने कमान की बहु-आयामी सामरिक क्षमताओं का प्रदर्शन किया, जिसमें जल-थल व नभ तीनों में लैंडिंग भी शामिल है।

इससे पहले राष्ट्रपति को कमांडर-इन-चीफ अंडमान निकोबार कमांड (सीआईएनसीएएन) लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल मनोज पांडे ने कमान की सामरिक क्षमताओं और किसी भी कार्रवाई के लिए तत्परता की स्थिति के बारे में जानकारी दी। भारतीय नौसेना के चौदह जहाजों, तटरक्षक बल के दो फास्ट अटैक क्राफ्ट, भारतीय वायु सेना के विमानों और छह बीएमपी के साथ भारतीय सेना के 300 से अधिक दलों ने राष्ट्र की एकमात्र ट्राई-सर्विस कमान की लड़ाकू शक्ति के साझा प्रयोग का प्रदर्शन किया। इस साझा प्रदर्शन ने वांछित परिणाम प्राप्त करने की दिशा में सेना के इन तीनों अंगों के बीच तालमेल, सहयोग और अंतरसंचालनीयता पर प्रकाश डाला।

सामरिक प्रदर्शन में संयुक्त अभियानों के विभिन्न पहलुओं का प्रदर्शन किया गया और इसमें मार्कोस द्वारा कॉम्बैट फ्री फॉल (सीएफएफ) और हेलीकास्टिंग, घातक प्लाटून द्वारा विशेष हेलिबोर्न ऑपरेशंस (एसएचबीओ) और छह बीएमपी और 300 से अधिक लड़ाकों के साथ समुद्र तट पर उतरे पैदल सेना के सैनिकों द्वारा जल थल और नभ तीनों में हमला शामिल था।

नेवल गन फायर सपोर्ट (एनजीएफएस), काउंटर सरफेस फोर्स ऑपरेशंस (सीएसएफओ), सर्च एंड रेस्क्यू (एसएआर) ऑपरेशंस और समुद्र में वर्टिकल रिप्लेनिशमेंट का भी प्रदर्शन किया गया। समुद्र तट पर पैदल सेना के सैनिकों की जल थल और नभ तीनों माध्यमों से की गई लैंडिंग, लैंडिंग शिप टैंक (मीडियम) और लैंडिंग क्राफ्ट यूटिलिटी द्वारा की गई। सामरिक प्रदर्शन का समापन डोर्नियर विमान, एमआई-17 वी5 और चेतक हेलीकॉप्टरों, जो अंडमान निकोबार कमान के ट्राई सर्विस तालमेल और युद्धक क्षमता को दर्शा रहे थे, के फ्लाई पास्ट के साथ हुआ।

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1701573>



Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar PVSM, AVSM, VSM takes over as Flag Officer Commanding-In-Chief Western Naval Command

Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of the Western Naval Command on 28 Feb 2021 at Mumbai. He succeeds Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, who retires upon superannuation, after an illustrious career, spanning forty years, in the Indian Navy.

At a ceremony held at the Command Post of Headquarters, Western Naval Command, the outgoing and incoming Commanders-in-Chief were accorded a Guard of Honour after which the formal handing-taking over took place with the handing over of the baton to the new Commander-in-Chief. On assuming command Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar laid a wreath at the Gaurav Stambh monument.



Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, an alumnus of the National Defence Academy was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jan 1983. He specialised in Gunnery and has commanded five ships including a Destroyer and the aircraft carrier INS Viraat. He has held important staff appointments both ashore and afloat and has also been Naval Advisor to Government of Seychelles. On promotion to flag rank he has held the appointments of Commandant of Naval War College at Goa, Flag Officer Sea Training, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, Chief of Staff at Western Naval Command, Controller Personnel Services and Chief of Personnel at NHQ. Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar was CISC/ VCDS (Vice Chief of Defence Staff) at HQIDS prior to taking over as FOC-in-C Western Naval Command. The Flag Officer is a recipient of the Vishist Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Param Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service.

The outgoing FOC-in-C, Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC superannuated from service on 28 Feb 21. The Admiral served at the helm of this premier naval Command since 31 Jan 19. During his tenure, the WNC saw extensive operational deployments in response to developing security situation post the Pulwama attack and the Galwan crisis across the Indian Ocean Region. During this period WNC was also at the forefront of anti-piracy missions in the Gulf of Aden as also Op Samudra Setu for evacuation of Indian nationals from various countries during COVID-19 and Missions Sagar I & II to reach out to countries in the IOR littoral with assistance in the fight against COVID.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1701515>



पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
भारत सरकार
रक्षा मंत्रालय

Sun, 28 Feb 2021 4:03PM

वाइस एडमिरल आर हरि कुमार पीवीएसएम, एवीएसएम,
वीएसएम ने पश्चिमी नौसेना कमान के फ्लैग ऑफिसर
कमांडिंग-इन-चीफ का पदभार संभाला

वाइस एडमिरल आर हरि कुमार, पीवीएसएम, एवीएसएम, वीएसएम ने मुंबई में 28 फरवरी 2021 को पश्चिमी नौसेना कमान के फ्लैग ऑफिसर कमांडिंग इन-चीफ (एफओसी-इन-सी) के रूप में पदभार संभाला। वह वाइस एडमिरल अजीत कुमार, पीवीएसएम, एवीएसएम, वीएसएम, एडीसी की जगह ले रहे हैं, जो भारतीय नौसेना में चालीस साल के शानदार करियर के बाद रिटायर हो रहे हैं।

पश्चिमी नौसेना कमान के मुख्यालय की कमांड पोस्ट पर आयोजित एक समारोह में निवर्तमान और आने वाले कमांडरों को गार्ड ऑफ ऑनर प्रदान किया गया जिसके बाद नए कमांडर-इन-चीफ को बेटन सौंपे जाने के साथ ही औपचारिक रूप से कार्यभार सौंपा गया। कमान संभालने पर वाइस एडमिरल आर हरि कुमार ने गौरव स्तंभ स्मारक पर माल्यार्पण किया।

राष्ट्रीय रक्षा अकादमी के पूर्व छात्र वाइस एडमिरल आर हरि कुमार को 01 जनवरी 1983 को भारतीय नौसेना में कमीशन प्रदान किया गया था। उन्होंने गनरी में विशेषज्ञता हासिल की और एक विध्वंसक और विमानवाहक पोत आईएनएस विराट समेत पांच जहाजों की कमान संभाल चुके हैं। वह तट पर और समुद्र दोनों में महत्वपूर्ण स्टाफ नियुक्तियों पर काबिज रहे हैं और सेशेल्स सरकार के नौसैनिक सलाहकार भी रहे हैं। फ्लैग रैंक में पदोन्नति पर वह गोवा में नौसेना वॉर कॉलेज में कमांडेंट, फ्लैग ऑफिसर सी ट्रेनिंग, वेस्टर्न फ्लीट के फ्लैग ऑफिसर कमांडिंग, पश्चिमी नौसेना कमान के चीफ ऑफ स्टाफ, नौसेना मुख्यालय में कार्मिक सेवाओं के नियंत्रक, कार्मिक प्रमुख जैसे महत्वपूर्ण पदों पर रहे हैं। पश्चिमी नौसेना कमान के एफओसी-इन-सी का कार्यभार संभालने से पहले वाइस एडमिरल आर हरि कुमार एकीकृत रक्षा मुख्यालय में सीआईएससी/वीसीडीएस (वाइस चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ) थे। फ्लैग ऑफिसर को अपनी विशिष्ट सेवा के लिए विशिष्ट सेवा पदक, अति विशिष्ट सेवा पदक और परम विशिष्ट सेवा पदक प्राप्त हुए हैं।

निवर्तमान एफओसी-इन-सी, वाइस एडमिरल अजीत कुमार, पीवीएसएम, एवीएसएम, वीएसएम, एडीसी 28 फरवरी 2021 को सेवानिवृत्त हुए। एडमिरल ने 31 जनवरी 2019 के बाद से इस प्रमुख नौसैनिक कमान के शीर्ष पर कार्य किया। अपने कार्यकाल के दौरान, पश्चिमी नौसेना कमान (डब्ल्यूएनसी) ने पुलवामा हमले और गलवान संकट के बाद सुरक्षा स्थिति पैदा होने पर हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में व्यापक सामरिक तैनाती देखी। इस अवधि के दौरान पश्चिमी नौसेना कमान (डब्ल्यूएनसी) एडन की खाड़ी में समुद्री डकैती विरोधी मिशनों में भी सबसे आगे थी, साथ ही यह कमान कोविड-19 के दौरान विभिन्न देशों से भारतीय नागरिकों को निकालने के लिए चलाए गए ऑपरेशन समुद्र सेतु और मिशन सागर-1 तथा मिशन सागर-11 में भी सबसे आगे थी जो कि कोविड-19 के खिलाफ लड़ाई में हिन्द महासागर क्षेत्र स्थित तटवर्ती देशों तक मदद पहुंचाने के लिए चलाया गया था।

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1701570>

Pawan Hans in talks with Indian Navy for Copter requirement

By Manu Pubby

Synopsis

With plans to acquire new utility choppers stuck due to delays in the procurement process, the Navy has been looking at an option to lease 12-16 choppers on an immediate basis, a number that could possibly go significantly up if the model works.

State-owned helicopter operator Pawan Hans is in talks with the Indian Navy to supply on lease utility choppers that are urgently needed to plug a critical gap that threatens to dull operational capability.

With plans to acquire new utility choppers stuck due to delays in the procurement process, the Navy has been looking at an option to lease 12-16 choppers on an immediate basis, a number that could possibly go significantly up if the model works.

Sources have told ET that Pawan Hans is projecting itself as a reliable option to the Navy, leveraging on the fact that it has an existing fleet of choppers fit for the role and operational hub co-located with a major naval base in Mumbai.



While the Navy is yet to decide on how to go ahead, a leasing contract could significantly increase the attractiveness of Pawan Hans for investors. The helicopter company is currently up for disinvestment of all government stake, with at least four bids received by private parties.

Pawan Hans did not respond to a query by ET on its talks with the Navy. The Navy is facing an acute shortage of helicopters, with its fleet of Chetak choppers nearing the end of service life. It does have the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) in service but the choppers are unable to operate from all platforms.

The Navy has been trying to push ahead a ₹21,000 crore Make in India contract to acquire new Naval Utility Helicopters (NUH) but the programme has been delayed after complications over the entry of public sector unit HAL.

Given that the planned procurement would take at least six years before the first chopper is delivered, the Navy has been looking at the option of leasing choppers to plug this gap, which would later be retrofitted with light weapons as per its requirement.

As reported, the Navy had approached foreign vendors in December to understand if such choppers can be made available for short-term lease. The requirement projected was for 12-16 helicopters where the leasing company could maintain the aircraft that would be operated by a Navy crew. Sources said while several leasing companies operate with fairly large fleet size, it would not be easy for them to offer choppers to the Navy, given the risk of operational flying and the challenges in getting such machines insured.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/pawan-hans-in-talks-with-indian-navy-for-copter-requirement/articleshow/81261181.cms>

Sri Lanka ‘Priority One’ partner in defence: India

Sri Lanka is “Priority One” partner for India in the defence sphere, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said in a statement

Colombo: India on February 28 described Sri Lanka as “Priority One” partner in the defence sphere and said the participation of its military aircraft in the 70th anniversary celebration of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) is indicative of the growing cooperation, camaraderie and friendship between the two militaries.

The SLAF is celebrating its 70th Anniversary on March 2 and to commemorate the historical event, a Fly Past and an Aerobatic Display is being organised for the first time in the country at a grand scale.

A total of 23 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy would participate in the grand event.

Sri Lanka is “Priority One” partner for India in the defence sphere, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said in a statement on Feb. 28.

It said the assurance of India’s fullest cooperation in the field of defence and security was recently reiterated to Sri Lanka’s leadership by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval during his visit to Colombo for a trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation talks.

Mr. Doval attended the high-level trilateral maritime dialogue in Colombo among India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives in November last year. The meeting — hosted by Sri Lanka — took place after six years. The last meeting was held in New Delhi in 2014.

The statement underlined that the participation of the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy aircraft and personnel in the 70th Anniversary celebration of the SLAF is indicative of the growing cooperation, camaraderie and friendship between the Armed Forces of the two nations.

“As a gesture of solidarity, and in keeping with years of close interaction and camaraderie between the two countries and their militaries, Indian Air Force [IAF] and Indian Navy will participate in the event with an Aerobatic Display by Sarang [Advance Light Helicopter], Surya Kiran [Hawks], Tejas Fighter Aircraft, Tejas Trainer and the Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft,” it said.

“The deployment of such wide variety and huge inventory of aircrafts and helicopters of IAF and Indian Navy is testimony to the strong bonds of friendship and close interoperability shared between the corresponding forces of India and Sri Lanka services,” the Indian mission said.

It said that all the Indian aircraft on display are ‘Made in India’ and as such represent the indigenous technical prowess of Indian research and development sector and reliability of products of India’s defence industry.

Tejas Trainer, on display for the first time, would also afford the opportunity of independent sorties for the Sri Lankan pilots, accompanied with the Indian pilots whilst adhering to relevant strict health guidelines, the statement said.

During the deployment, the officers from Sri Lanka Air Force and Sri Lanka Navy will also have firsthand experience onboard the Indian Navy’s Maritime Patrol Aircraft Dornier, it said.

Sri Lanka Air Force pilots and Sri Lanka Navy observers will fly along with the Indian crew. This is in continuation of the half yearly Dornier training sorties being facilitated for SLAF/SLN, it added.



A total of 23 aircraft of the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy would participate in the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lankan Air Force. Photo: Twitter/@airforcelk

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sri-lanka-priority-one-partner-in-defence-india/article33954749.ece>

To counter China, Army to mark ‘unheld areas’ with expeditions, studies

By Rajat Pandit

New Delhi: The Army is firmly pushing for mountaineering expeditions as well as research studies to publicise and consolidate India’s legitimate territorial claims in areas along the northern borders to counter the salami-slicing tactics of an expansionist China.

For starters, the Army is launching a major skiing expedition from the crucial Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand, which will cover a distance of around 1,500km after being flagged off on March 3.

“China’s blatantly expansionist policy to grab territory needs to be effectively countered. While the Army rebalances with additional forces and firepower to the northern borders, it’s also essential to show and mark our presence in ‘unheld’ areas through mountaineering and other expeditions there,” said a senior officer.

Similarly, India’s territorial claims, both along the line of actual control (LAC) and the international boundary (IB), need to be assiduously publicised by promoting research studies by scholars and their publication in national and international journals. “This will also involve documentation, geotagging of locations and evidence-creation,” said the officer.



The skiing expedition called ‘ARMEX-21’ will traverse the distance from the Karakoram Pass to Lipulekh Pass in about 80-90 days through areas close to the LAC in the Ladakh, Himachal, Garhwal and Kumaon sectors. The specially-trained personnel will negotiate forbidding mountain ridges, glaciers and multiple passes ranging from 14,000-feet to 19,000-feet like Parang La, Lamkhaga and Malari.

More such expeditions will be planned in coordination with the Indian Mountaineering Foundation and other mountaineering institutes to peaks along the LAC and IB, with participation from the Army, civilians and foreign persons. “Increased footfalls in such remote areas will also promote tourism and integration of their population with the mainstream,” said another officer. The skiing expedition comes at a time when de-escalation in the 10-month-old military confrontation in eastern Ladakh is yet to take place despite troop disengagement being completed on both sides of Pangong Tso in the February 10-18 timeframe.

There was no concrete breakthrough in disengagement at the remaining ‘friction points’ at Gogra, Hot Springs, Demchok and Depsang Plains in the 10th round of corps commander-level talks on February 20, though both India and China reiterated their commitment to work for a mutually-acceptable resolution through further dialogue, as was reported by TOI.

There are, incidentally, 23 “disputed and sensitive areas” that have witnessed frequent transgressions and troop face-offs for years along the 3,488-km long LAC with China.

The flashpoints in Ladakh are Pangong Tso, Trig Heights, Demchok, Dumchele, Chumar and Spanggur Gap. In Arunachal Pradesh, they are Namkha Chu, Sumdorong Chu, Asaphila, Dichu, Yangtse and the so-called “Fish Tail-I and II” areas in Dibang Valley. In the middle sector of Himachal and Uttarakhand, in turn, the disputed areas include Barahoti, Kaurik and Shipki La. But the People’s Liberation Army, apart from rapidly building military infrastructure in border regions, has become assertive in other areas as well. Indian and Chinese troops, for instance,

physically brawled in the Naku La area of north Sikkim, first on May 9 last year and then on January 20 this year.

Army Chief General M M Naravane himself last week said that China was in the habit of making “small creeping, incremental moves” to grab new territory without a shot being fired or loss of life, with each change by itself not being big enough to be contested.

“South China Sea is a glaring example of this. More than anything else what we have achieved is to show to China that this strategy will not work with us and every move will be met resolutely,” he said.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/to-counter-china-army-to-mark-unheld-areas-with-expeditions-studies/articleshow/81264265.cms>

Science & Technology News

 **Hindustan Times**

Mon, 01 March 2021

14 missions lined up for launch in 2021, says ISRO Chairman K Sivan

*Sivan expressed hope that his team would rise to the occasion
as usual and meet all the targets set by the ISRO*

Sriharikota: ISRO has lined up 14 missions for launch in 2021, including the space agency's first unmanned mission later this year, its Chairman K Sivan said here on Sunday. He was addressing scientists at the Mission Control Centre here after the successful launch of Amazonia-1 of Brazil and 18 other satellites. "Definitely our hands are full. We are going to have something like 14 missions this year. Seven launch vehicle missions and six satellite missions, as well as our first unmanned mission by the end of the year. That is our target and the scientists are working on that", he said.

ISRO plans to take up two unmanned space missions before the Gaganyaan-manned space mission. The Gaganyaan mission envisages sending three Indians to space by 2022. The four test pilots selected for the mission are currently undergoing training in Russia. Sivan expressed hope that his team would rise to the occasion as usual and meet all the targets set by the ISRO.

Before concluding his speech, the Chairman also referred to the new normal that has been in place at ISRO centres in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. "I would request all of you, still we have not come out of the Covid-19 pandemic...the new normal introduced at ISRO centres definitely is working following all the quality norms without violating the safety and security of my employees", he said.

Strict Covid-19 guidelines were in place at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here, including a ban on entry of media personnel and closure of the rocket launch viewing gallery.

The launch was telecast live on Doordarshan and was available in the ISRO website, YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/14-missions-lined-up-for-launch-in-2021-says-isro-chairman-k-sivan-101614511876421.html>



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K Sivan.(File photo)

PSLV lifts off with Amazonia-1, 18 other satellites; ISRO says launch successful

The 637-kg Amazonia-1 is the optical earth observation satellite of the National Institute for Space Research (INPE), the research unit of Brazil's ministry of science

Edited By Amit Chaturvedi

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday launched Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite onboard its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C51. The launch took place from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

ISRO chief K Sivan called the mission successful. "I am extremely happy to declare that PSLV C51 successfully launched the Amazonia-1 into its precise orbit today. In this mission, India and ISRO feel proud, honoured and happy to launch the first satellite designed and operated by Brazil. My heartiest congratulations to them for this achievement," said Sivan.

The announcement was made after Amazonia-1 was placed into the orbit by PSLV C51.

PSLV C51/Amazonia-1 is the first dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Government of India company under the Department of Space. The NSIL is undertaking this mission under a commercial arrangement with US-based launch services and mission management provider Spaceflight Inc.

The 637-kg Amazonia-1 is the optical earth observation satellite of the National Institute for Space Research (INPE), the research unit of Brazil's ministry of science. This satellite would further strengthen the existing structure by providing remote sensing data to users for monitoring deforestation in the Amazon region and analysis of diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory.

Along with Amazonia-1, 18 other satellites were also launched in the space by ISRO. These are Satish Dhawan Sat (SDSAT) from Chennai-based Space Kidz India (SKI) and the UNITYSat which is a the combination of three satellites, designed and built as a joint development initiative by Jeppiaar Institute of Technology, Sriperumbudur, (JITsat), G. H. Rasoni College of Engineering, Nagpur (GHRCESat) and Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore (Sri Shakthi Sat). These satellites are intended for providing Radio relay services, a statement earlier released by ISRO said.

ISRO has launched 342 satellites so far for various countries.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/isros-pslv-lifts-off-with-brazil-s-amazonia-1-from-space-centre-in-sriharikota-101614487314347.html>



ISRO's PSLV lifts off with Brazil's Amazonia-1 and 18 other satellites from Satish Dhawan space centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota on Sunday.(ANI Photo)



Mon, 01 March 2021

Statins reduce Covid severity: Research

New Delhi: People who took statins —widely used cholesterol-lowering medications – may have reduced risk of developing severe Covid-19 disease, a team of researchers said adding that they were approximately 50 per cent less likely to die if hospitalised for the infection.

“Our study is one of the larger studies confirming this hypothesis and the data lay the groundwork for future randomized clinical trials that are needed to confirm the benefit of statins in Covid-19,” said Aakriti Gupta, cardiologist at NewYorkPresbyterian/ Columbia University Irving Medical Center and one of the co-lead authors of the study published in the Nature Communications.

“If their beneficial effect bears out in randomized clinical trials, statins could potentially prove to be a low-cost and effective therapeutic strategy for COVID-19,” adds co-lead author Mahesh V Madhavan, cardiologist at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

Gupta, Madhavan, and the study’s leadership group are cardiologists who cared for hospitalized Covid-19 patients in the spring and summer of 2020 when the first wave of the pandemic swept through New York City.

“We observed that patients who got very sick and required hospitalization had high rates of hyperinflammation and clotting,” says Elaine Wan, the Esther Aboodi Assistant Professor of Medicine in Cardiology and Cardiac Electrophysiology and a cardiac electrophysiologist at NewYork Presbyterian /Columbia University Irving Medical Center, one of the study’s senior authors.

“As cardiologists, statins naturally came to mind,” Gupta says. “In addition to their well-known cholesterol-lowering effect, statins are known for their anti-inflammatory, anticoagulant and immunomodulatory properties.”

Based on their observations, the authors looked at outcomes for 2,626 patients with Covid-19 who were admitted to a quaternary academic medical center in Manhattan during the first 18 weeks of the pandemic.

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/india/statins-reduce-covid-severity--research.html>

