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HAL has designs on a full LCA for Navy

It eyes lead role in light plane project

By Madhumathi D.S.

Bengaluru: After playing a prominent supporting role in the Light Combat Aircraft naval prototype's tricky landing and take-off debuts from a Navy ship last week-end, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd eyes the prospect of fully designing and developing a twin-engine fighter plane for the Navy if or when an occasion comes up.

Asked what the successful twin acts of naval prototype NP2 mean for its manufacturer HAL, company Chairman and Managing Director R. Madhavan said the recent ship-based trials will, of course, not translate to business from the Navy unless a twin-engined fighter project formalises from the Force.

Mr. Madhavan said, "It is our desire that the twin-engine Navy project be given to us so that we can design LCA-Navy as required. Such a step will lead to speeding up the project."

HAL has already been deeply involved in the ongoing deck trials of the two naval prototypes; it has produced them for the Defence Research & Development Organisation DRDO. The defence public sector company has contributed to designing sub-systems of the LCA project - a plane that was originally started for the Air Force.

The DRDO's special arm ADA or the Aeronautical Development Agency in Bengaluru is tasked with designing and developing the LCA versions and future indigenous fighter planes.

Vital parts

HAL said many critical paraphernalia and support staff for the naval prototype were its contributions, both before and during the recent trials on the ship.

It contributed the arrestor hook system, a redesigned landing gear, a speed controlling device for landings, a drooped nose to give the pilot a good view, a stronger fuselage and the fuel dump.

"We anyway design the LCA structures. Our engineering is proven. If it is possible to extend it to the full project, it would speed up the R&D," Mr. Madhavan said.

"If a twin-engine naval aircraft project should come up, then HAL can offer the Navy a deck-based aircraft." With a design house each in Bengaluru and Nashik, he said HAL was up to taking up such a task. The two Navy prototypes NP1 and NP2, seen as potential trainers, are derived from the IAF version of the indigenous light fighter. A production standard version called NP5 has also been considered.

All these are single-engine while the Navy indicated in 2016 that it needed only two-engined aircraft. With a double-engine LCA being some time away, more so for the Navy, it is an area of interest for its stakeholders.

Rare capability

The second LCA-Navy prototype LCA-NP2 achieved two technologically challenging feats. On January 11 it did an arrested landing on the relatively narrow decks of the carrier INS Vikramaditya and took off the next day in what is called the ski jump style.

Underlining the achievement, Mr. Madhavan said only 3-4 countries have such a technology to deploy or land their fighters from the limited confines of a carrier.

Currently HAL's fixed-wing design house is working on the HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft.

About the scope for a naval aircraft fleet an informed person said its current fleet of Russian origin MiG-29Ks are expected to go obsolete around 2028-32. Another opportunity to replenish naval

aircraft could arise if the country goes in for a third aircraft carrier around the year 2040 as envisioned for the long term

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/hal-has-designs-on-a-full-lca-for-navy/article30579389.ece>



Fri, 17 Jan 2020

Naval model of India's Tejas fighter conducts maiden flight from plane service – The diplomat

By Mike Butcher

The naval variant of India's Tejas fighter jet carried out its first a hit ski soar take-off and arrested touchdown from the INS Vikramaditya on January 12.

The naval model of the Hindustan Aeronautics Restricted (HAL) Tejas Gentle Battle Plane (LCA) carried out its first-ever take off and arrested touchdown from the Indian Army's Kiev-class plane provider INS Vikramaditya on January 12, the Indian Ministry of Protection (MoD) introduced over the weekend.

The MoD hailed the a hit take-off and touchdown as an "vital milestone." Commodore Jaideep Maolankar did the maiden touchdown, in keeping with the MoD.

"With the of entirety of this feat, the indigenously evolved area of interest applied sciences explicit to deck primarily based fighter operations were confirmed, which is able to now pave find out how to increase and manufacture the Dual Engine Deck Primarily based Fighter for the Indian Army, which is predicted to proudly fly from the plane carriers by way of the yr 2026," the MoD added.

The Protection Analysis and Construction Group (DRDO) and the Aeronautical Construction Company (ADA) were running on a twin-engine medium-weight fighter jet for the Indian Army's long run provider drive.

Indian Army Leader Admiral Karambir Singh famous closing yr that the DRDO has introduced to increase such an plane in response to its enjoy with the naval variant of the Tejas LCA.

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Closing November, a Tejas LCA took off for the primary time with two past visible vary (BVR) and two shut fight air-to-air missiles (CCM) from the Army's Shore Primarily based Check Facility (SBTF) at INS Hansa, situated at a naval air station close to Dabolim in Goa.

The Indian Army has many times dominated out the operational deployment of the naval model of the Tejas LCA because of this a lot of technical shortcomings together with its unmarried engine, in addition to over the top weight, which might save you the fighter jet from sporting an good enough payload when running from a provider.

"The Army has been transparent from the very starting that it wishes a twin-engine plane and no longer single-engine as a result of although an engine fails, the plane will have to have the ability to land at the provider," a Army supply advised The Print in December 2019. The brand new twin-engine variant will reportedly be supplied with the extra tough Normal Electrical F414 afterburning turbofan engine. As I defined in the past:

The Tejas calls for a brief take-off however arrested restoration (STOBAR) configured provider.

INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant, India's first indigenously constructed flattop, are each fitted with STOBAR programs for launching plane from a ski-jump, while the second one provider of the brand new Vikrant-class, the INS Vishal, will most probably use a catapult assisted take-off however

arrested restoration (CATOBAR) plane release gadget, perhaps incorporating the brand new electromagnetic plane release gadget (EMALS) generation.

Over 50 ski soar take-offs and landings have reportedly been carried out by way of the naval model of the Tejas LCA on the coaching facility at INS Hansa in Goa. The primary arrested touchdown was once performed in September 2019.

<https://dailyresearchplot.com/2020/01/16/naval-model-of-indias-tejas-fighter-conducts-maiden-flight-from-plane-service-the-diplomat/>

The Indian **EXPRESS**

Fri, 17 Jan 2020

Defence production: USD 26 bn turnover target by 2025, says Rajnath Singh

The government has taken several steps to support the private sector to boost indigenous defence manufacturing, Singh said after flagging off the 51st K-9 Vajra-T gun at the Larsen and Toubro's (L&T) Armoured Systems Complex at Hazira here in Gujarat

Surat: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said the government has set a target of achieving a turnover of USD 26 billion by 2025 in defence production as India cannot remain dependent on arms import forever.

The government has taken several steps to support the private sector to boost indigenous defence manufacturing, Singh said after flagging off the 51st K-9 Vajra-T gun at the Larsen and Toubro's (L&T) Armoured Systems Complex at Hazira here in Gujarat.

Addressing the gathering, the Defence Minister said, "India cannot remain dependent on arms import. We have set a target of achieving a turnover of USD 26 billion by 2025 in the defence production. This involves an investment of USD 10 billion in this sector and generation of 2-3 million employment opportunities."



L&T Defence is executing the 'K9 VAJRA-T' 155mm/52 calibre-tracked, self-propelled, howitzer guns programme. The engineering conglomerate, which had won the contract to deliver 100 such howitzer guns, has already delivered 50 units to the Indian Army ahead of deadline, while on Thursday it handed over the 51st gun, the company said in a release.

"The country is becoming self-dependent in defence manufacturing with Make in India taking shape. This is the best example of new India's new thought... India will become an arms manufacturing hub in the coming days. The K9 VAJRA -T guns had been inducted into the Indian Army. A few days ago, the successful test trial fire demonstrations of K9 VAJRA-T guns was done at Rajasthan. This is the best example in defence manufacturing in the private sector. Earlier, nobody had imagined of such a possibility in the private sector and even permission and motivation was not given to those who thought about it. As a result, defence sector was not able to work on it," he added.

Listing various steps taken by the Modi government to boost indigenous defence manufacturing, Singh said, "Our government has taken several steps to change this scenario and make India not only self-reliant, but also a net exporter. We have streamlined the defence offset policy and we will make more improvements in it."

Before the launch ceremony, Singh sat in the vehicle on which the gun was mounted and was driven around the Hazira complex. He witnessed a demonstration of the weapon in the testing area. The K9 VAJRA-T gun was unveiled at Independence Day parade in New Delhi in 2019. “Over 80% of the parts used in K9 VAJRA are made in India and over 12,000 people are directly employed. A lot of hard work is needed to make India a defence manufacturing hub. All the obstacles on the way will be removed...” Singh said.

Claiming that the target of USD 26 billion till 2025 employ two lakh people, the Minister said both the government and private sector will work together on it. “We have made defence licence simplified...Two defence corridors have been formed with a target of manufacturing 5,000 components till 2024. A defence investors’ cell has also been set up.”

The L&T company had in 2007, bagged the contract of Rs 4,500 crore, from the defence ministry for the manufacture of 100 units of K9 VAJRA-T howitzer guns. L&T signed a contract with South Korean company Hanwha Corporation for transfer of technology. L&T group chairman A M Naik said, “The Hazira L&T complex has set international manufacturing benchmarks, and K9 Vajra is one of them.”

L&T board member and senior EVP JD Patil (Defence & Smart Technologies) said, “With the delivery of 51st howitzer, we have created a benchmark by delivering first of class armoured systems ahead of schedule. We are also on track to deliver the entire 100 howitzers ahead of schedule.”

The hi-tech gun is also equipped with other India specific modifications for desert conditions such as an auxiliary power pack, air-conditioning systems, fire fighting systems, and NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) protection systems, an L&T release said.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/defence-production-usd-26-bn-turnover-target-by-2025-says-rajnath-singh-6220585/>



Fri, 17 Jan 2020

43 किमी तक मार करने वाली के-9 वज्र हॉवित्जर तोप सेना में शामिल; राजनाथ तोप पर बैठकर घूमे

- रक्षामंत्री ने तोप पर तिलक लगाकर और स्वास्तिक बनाकर पूजन किया
- 50 टन वजन वाली यह तोप किसी भी दिशा में दुश्मन पर वार कर सकती है

सूरत: सेना में 51वीं के-9 वज्र हॉवित्जर तोप को शामिल किया गया है। रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने तोप पर तिलक और स्वास्तिक बनाकर सेना में शामिल किया। इस दौरान वह तोप पर बैठकर फैक्ट्री में घूमे भी। के-9 वज्र-टी, एक स्वचलित हॉवित्जर तोप है। 50 टन वजनी इस तोप की मारक क्षमता 43 किमी तक है। यह किसी भी दिशा में वार कर सकती है। इसे नवंबर 2018 में सेना में शामिल किया गया था। 2017 में एलएंडटी कंपनी और रक्षा मंत्रालय में 4500 करोड़ का अनुबंध हुआ था। जिसके तहत कंपनी सेना के लिए इस तरह की 100 तोप उपलब्ध कराएगी।

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने गुरुवार को एल एंड टी आर्मर्ड सिस्टम्स कॉम्प्लेक्स में निर्मित के-9 वज्र तोप को हरि झंडी दिखाने के बाद कहा- यह तोप इस कंपनी की एक नई उपलब्धि है। कर्मचारियों की कड़ी मेहनत को सलाम है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत में ऐसे कई क्षेत्र जिनमें निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी लगभग शून्य थी। रक्षा भी एक ऐसा ही क्षेत्र था, लेकिन मेक इन इंडिया के तहत सरकार ने कई कदम उठाए हैं जो भविष्य में देश को हथियारों का निर्यातक बना देगा। सरकार ने लाइसेंस देने की प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाया है। इसके लिए देश में दो रक्षा औद्योगिक कॉरिडोर की स्थापना की और रक्षा मंत्रालय में एक रक्षा निवेशक सेल बनाया।

<https://www.bhaskar.com/gujarat/news/defense-minister-dedicates-51-k-9-vajra-howitzer-gun-made-in-surat-126531830.html>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Fri, 17 Jan 2020

Indian Army conducts biggest airborne exercise 'Winged Raider' with over 500 special forces troops

The multidimensional exercise was preceded by a series of intense preparation involving the movement of special forces and rallying up of transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force starting from January 6, the Army said in a statement

By Shaurya Karanbir Gurung

New Delhi: The Indian Army conducted its biggest airborne exercise called the 'Winged Raider' comprising of more than 500 special forces troops in the North-Eastern theatre.

The exercise conducted on January 10 had over 500 soldiers of the Special Forces parachuting from C-130 Hercules and C-17 globemaster transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force, besides Dhruv helicopters during the day and night. The exercise was preceded by a series of intense preparations involving movement of special forces and rallying up of transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force starting from January 6.

"The newly inducted aerial platforms and equipment were validated with clockwork precision and seamless integration between the Indian Army and Indian Air Force in difficult terrain. Exercise Winged Raider demonstrated the operational readiness of our Paratroopers and Air Warriors to undertake airborne missions," the army said in a statement on Thursday.

The exercise was telecast live to all field formation headquarters in the theatre.

Previously in October last year, the army carried out Exercise 'Him Vijay' to test its new war-fighting concept of Integrated Battle Groups (IBG) in mountain warfare under the 17 Corps in Arunachal Pradesh. An IBG, which has a varying mix of infantry, tanks, artillery, air defence, signals and logistics, is part of the army's plan to restructure itself to meet emerging challenges. Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane had earlier said that the initial report of Him Vijay was "encouraging," adding that a lesson learnt was the need for better communications.

The exercises indicate the shift in the army's focus towards the frontier with China. While explaining the army's strategy for India's border with China, Naravane had said that the force is going for capacity building, which includes building roads to forward areas, habitats, storage for ammunition and moving some of our advanced weapons system to eastern side. He added that the army "rebalancing" its deployments and resources on the western and northern fronts.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-army-conducts-biggest-airborne-exercise-in-north-east/articleshow/73308189.cms?from=mdr>

Fri, 17 Jan 2020

Apache and Chinook helicopters to participate in India's annual Republic Day parade

The Indian Air Force's (IAF's) newly inducted 'AH-64E(I)' Apache Guardian attack helicopters and Chinook CH-47F heavy-lift helicopters will participate in a fly-past at India's annual Republic Day parade in New Delhi on 26 January.

Officials said the two twin-engined helicopter types, which were inducted into service in 2019 will be part of the 41-strong IAF aircraft contingent taking part in the fly-past at the end of the ceremonial parade. The contingent will include 16 fighters, 10 transports, and 15 rotary-wing platforms.

The Army Aviation Corps, which will be flying four indigenously developed Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters, will also take part in the fly-past.

India had ordered 22 Apache and 15 Chinook helicopters in late 2015 for USD3.12 billion to augment the IAF's attack and heavy-lift capability.

So far, it has taken delivery of 17 Apaches at the Pathankot Air Force Station (AFS) in north western India, near the border with Pakistan, and of 10 Chinooks at Chandigarh AFS, some 250 km north of New Delhi.

A Boeing spokesperson in New Delhi told *Jane's* on 16 January that delivery of both helicopter types is expected to be completed later this year.

<https://janes.ihs.com/Janes/Display/1964296>

Fri, 17 Jan 2020

India, Finland sign defence industry accord

India and Finland have signed an agreement to support collaboration on defence research, development, and production.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in New Delhi on 15 January by India's Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and Finnish Permanent Defence Secretary Jukka Juusti.

In a statement, the Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the MoU will "further defence co-operation between India and Finland".

The MoD said that the agreement covers "production, procurement, and the research and development of defence-related equipment and industrial co-operation". It added that under the MoU Indian and Finnish companies will look to explore opportunities to collaborate.

According to the MoD, India and Finland have been discussing the terms of defence industrial co-operation since 2018, while in 2019 Finland outlined an interest to "participate in the 'Make in India' vision" through a dedicated defence agreement.

https://janes.ihs.com/Janes/Display/FG_2648164-JDW

भारतीय तटरक्षक बल की योजना 2025 तक बेड़े में 200 पोत व 100 विमान शामिल करने की

चेन्नई: भारतीय तटरक्षक बल की योजना अपने बेड़े में 16 उन्नत हल्के हेलीकाप्टर और 50 पोत शामिल करने की है ताकि 2025 तक उसके पास 200 पोत और 100 विमान हो सकें। तटरक्षक बल के महानिदेशक कृष्णस्वामी नटराजन ने गुरुवार को संवाददाताओं से कहा, “ आज हमारे पास विभिन्न भारतीय शिपयार्डों में निर्माणाधीन 50 पोत हैं और उसके अलावा हमारे 16 उन्नत हल्के हेलीकाप्टर एमके 3 एचएएल, बेंगलुरु में तैयार हो रहे हैं।” उन्होंने चेन्नई तट से लगभग 50 समुद्री मील की दूरी पर भारत-जापान संयुक्त अभ्यास "सहयोग-काइजिन" के 19 वें संस्करण के बाद कहा कि दोहरे इंजन वाले पहले हेलीकाप्टर के मार्च 2020 तक बेड़े में शामिल होने की उम्मीद है। नटराजन ने कहा कि तटरक्षक बल ने महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति की है और अभी उसके पास 145 पोत और 62 विमान हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि तटरक्षक बल का बजट लगभग 1,000 करोड़ रुपये था जो अब राजस्व और पूंजी दोनों मामलों में 5,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक का हो गया है। उन्होंने कहा, "हम 14 दोहरे इंजन वाले भारी हेलीकाप्टर और 6 बहुद्देशीय विमान प्राप्त करने की प्रक्रिया में हैं, जो हमारे विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र में निगरानी बनाए रख सकेंगे।” भारतीय तटरक्षक दुनिया की चौथी सबसे बड़ी तटीय सुरक्षा एजेंसी है। बल ने मुख्य भूमि पर 36 और द्वीपों पर 10 तटीय निगरानी रडार नेटवर्क स्थापित किए हैं जिनसे संदिग्ध पोतों पर नजर रखी जा सकती है। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारी नजर 2025 तक बेड़े में पोतों और विमानों की संख्या क्रमशः 200 और 100 करने की है। संयुक्त अभ्यास का जिक्र करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि इस साल भारत आने की जापानी तटरक्षक बल की बारी थी ताकि दोनों देशों के बीच के संबंधों को और मजबूत बनाया जा सके। अमेरिका के बाद जापान का तटरक्षक बल दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा बल है।

(डिसक्लेमर: यह आर्टिकल एजेंसी फीड से ऑटो-अपलोड हुआ है। इसे नवभारतटाइम्स.कॉम की टीम ने एडिट नहीं किया है।)

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/state/other-states/bangalore/chennai/indian-coast-guard-plans-to-include-200-ships-and-100-aircraft-in-the-fleet-by-2025/articleshow/73303588.cms>

भारत, जापान के तटरक्षकों ने चेन्नई तट पर किया अभ्यास

चेन्नई: भारत और जापान के संबंधों को मजबूती देने के इरादे से दोनों देशों के तटरक्षकों ने बृहस्पतिवार को चेन्नई के तट पर 'सहयोग-काइजिन' संयुक्त अभ्यास में हिस्सा लिया। जापानी तटरक्षक का एक जहाज और भारतीय तटरक्षक के चार जहाज एवं एक विमान ने इस अभ्यास में हिस्सा लिया। कमांडिंग ऑफिसर कैप्टन कियोशी हरादा के नेतृत्व में 'एहिगो पीएलएच08' और भारतीय तटरक्षक के चार जहाज तथा डोर्नियर विमान ने

चेन्नई से 50 समुद्री मील की दूरी पर बंगाल की खाड़ी में इस अभ्यास में हिस्सा लिया। एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, दोनों देशों के तटरक्षक के नेतृत्व में किए गए संयुक्त अभ्यास के मुख्य आकर्षण अपहृत जहाज की घेराबंदी तथा चालक दल के सदस्यों को बचाने के दृश्य थे। विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, अभ्यास के दौरान खोज एवं बचाव, बाहरी आग से बचाव और बेहतर कौशल के अभ्यास को साझा किया गया। जापानी जहाज 'एचिगो' सद्भावना यात्रा के तहत चेन्नई तट पर पहुंचा। दोनों तटरक्षकों के बीच 2006 में समझौता जापान पर हस्ताक्षर हुए थे। संयुक्त अभ्यास के 19वें संस्करण को जापानी तटरक्षक कमांडेंट तकाहिरो ओकुशिमा और भारतीय तटरक्षक के महानिदेशक कृष्णास्वामी नटराजन ने देखा। राष्ट्रीय समुद्र प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान से एक जहाज ने भी अभ्यास में हिस्सा लिया। 13 जनवरी को यहां पहुंचे जापानी जहाज की यात्रा का मुख्य फोकस संबंधों को और मजबूत करना, दोनों तटरक्षकों के बीच परस्पर समझ को बढ़ाना, संचार, खोज एवं बचाव प्रक्रियाओं में परस्पर भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देना और बेहतर अभ्यास को साझा करना है।

(डिसक्लेमर: यह आर्टिकल एजेंसी फीड से ऑटो-अपलोड हुआ है। इसे नवभारतटाइम्स.कॉम की टीम ने एडिट नहीं किया है।)

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/state/other-states/bangalore/chennai/indo-japanese-coast-guard-practiced-on-chennai-coast/articleshow/73299929.cms>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Fri, 17 Jan 2020

China fails in its bid to rake up Mukund Naravane's remark at UNSC

China, at Pakistan's behest, is learnt to have brought up Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane's recent remarks on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir at the UN Security Council meet on Wednesday, in its failed attempt to build a case that India was preparing a military action against its western neighbour

By Pranab Dhal Samanta

New Delhi: China, at Pakistan's behest, is learnt to have brought up Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane's recent remarks on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir at the UN Security Council meet on Wednesday, in its failed attempt to build a case that India was preparing a military action against its western neighbour.

After taking charge last week, Naravane had said: "As far as Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is concerned, many years ago there was a parliamentary resolution on it that entire J&K is part of India. If Parliament wants that area should also belong to us, if we get orders to that effect, then definitely we will take action on it." This soon became part of a new SinoPak strategy to not focus on Article 370 but try and project India as an

Strategy and Stands

New Sino-Pak strategy is to not focus on Article 370 but try and project India as an aggressor so that UNSC could consider the subject under the category of 'threat to peace and security'

<p>US is believed to have led the response by asking tough questions of China</p>	<p>Germany was also probing of Chinese claims</p>	<p>UK, which had taken India by surprise last year by trying to be neutral, came strongly in India's favour</p>	<p>Russia, it's learnt, was a bit subdued in the discussions</p>
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aggressor so that UNSC could consider the subject under the category of 'threat to peace and security'.

In August last year, China had raised the subject as a matter of law, arguing that withdrawal of Article 370 altered the legal status of J&K as perceived by the UN. Threat to peace and security along with violation of human rights and international law are the three routes through which China can raise the matter at the UN for the benefit of Pakistan.

Besides Naravane's remarks, sources said, certain comments of CDS General Bipin Rawat were also used along with claims that ceasefire violations had increased and that the LoC/border fence had been cut at five places. The US is believed to have led the response by asking tough questions of China on why would India want to cut a fence which it built using public funds. Germany, sources said, also was probing of Chinese claims based on the information provided by Pakistan. It was apparently demonstrated that verified ceasefire violations of the past two months, which Pakistan itself had reported to the UNMOGIP, were lesser than the previous months. The data was used effectively by other countries supporting India.

The UK, which had taken India by surprise last year by trying to be neutral, came out strongly in India's favour, sources said. China is also believed to have relied on reports that India had moved Brahmos missiles closer to the border and conducted some tests in a bid to threaten Pakistan. These too were refuted, especially on any allusion to nuclear provocation given that both countries had recently exchanged a list of their nuclear installations.

Russia, it's learnt, was a bit subdued in the discussions, which India believes is an indication of growing Chinese pressure on Moscow. Eventually, it was agreed that sufficient bilateral channels exist between India and Pakistan to resolve any misconceptions rather than have the UNSC intervene. Meanwhile, New Delhi is preparing to face the next diplomatic challenge at the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council within the next two months.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-fails-in-its-bid-to-rake-up-mukund-naravanes-remark-at-uns/printarticle/73315823.cms>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Fri, 17 Jan 2020

India's first satellite of 2020 Gsat-30 successfully launched from French Guiana

By Surendra Singh

New Delhi: In a first satellite launch of this year, Indian Space Research Organisation's (Isro) communication satellite Gsat-30 was successfully launched by European space agency's heavy-lift launch vehicle Ariane-5 (VA 251) from French Guiana at 2.35 am (IST) on Friday. Gsat-30 was successfully placed in the geosynchronous orbit 38 minutes after the liftoff.

The 3,357-kg Gsat-30 will serve as a replacement to Insat-4A spacecraft services with enhanced coverage. The satellite will provide Indian mainland and islands coverage in Ku-band and extended coverage in Cband covering Gulf countries, a large number of Asian countries and Australia.

With a mission life of 15 years, Gsat-30 is configured on Isro's enhanced I-3K bus structure and derives its heritage from Isro's earlier Insat/Gsat satellite series. The space agency said the Gsat-30 payload is specifically designed and optimised to maximise the number of transponders on the spacecraft. The satellite would be extensively used for supporting VSAT network, television uplinking and teleport services, digital satellite news gathering, DTH television services, cellular backhaul connectivity and many such applications. After the operationalisation of Gsat-30, Isro will again foster the use of space to help bridge the digital divide in the rural areas.

U R Rao Satellite Centre director P Kunhikrishnan and Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre director V Narayanan represented Isro at the French Guiana Space Centre during the Gsat-30 launch. In a message, Isro chairman K Sivan said, “Gsat-30, which will replace aging Insat-4A, will provide several communication services. It will provide DTH services, digital news gathering and Ku-band will provide communication services in the Indian mainland. ”

Friday’s launch was also the first flight of 2020 for Arianespace. Ariane-5 first launched EUTELSAT KONNECT, a 3,619kg telecommunication satellite for operator Eutelsat, and later Gsat-30, which will be positioned at a longitude of 83° East. EUTELSAT KONNECT is based on the electric propulsion system and will provide satellite communication services in Europe and African continents.

A year ago, the European space agency had launched India's Gsat-31 communication satellite. In over 30 years, France and India have developed exemplary cooperation in the space field. Since the launch of India’s APPLE experimental satellite on Ariane Flight L03 in 1981, Arianespace has launched 23 satellites and signed 24 launch contracts with the Indian space agency. The successful launch of Gsat-30 strengthened the space cooperation between Europe and India.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indias-first-satellite-of-2020-gsat-30-successfully-launched-from-french-guiana/articleshow/73313119.cms>