

India ready to give fitting reply to aggressors: Venkaiah

There can be no discussion on J&K as it is an integral part of our country, says the Vice-President

Visakhapatnam: Scientists play a key role in the progress of a nation and it is good to see that organisations such as the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) and the DRDO are developing weapon systems with advanced technology, Vice- President M. Venkaiah Naidu has said.

Modern weapons

Speaking at the golden jubilee celebrations of the NSTL here on Wednesday, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu said, “India is one of the oldest civilisations with peace being the core tenet. But it is important to build modern weapons to safeguard the country from external aggression and protect its sovereignty.”

“India has always been attacked and colonised. It has never been an aggressor. But now, we are ready to give a fitting reply to any aggressor,” he said.

“Unfortunately, we have a neighbouring country that is abetting terrorism. It does not realise that its misadventure can prove to be disastrous for it,” he said. On the Kashmir issue, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu said, “Jammu & Kashmir has always been an integral part of India, and since 1954, there have been regular Assembly elections there.”

On PoK

“We do not interfere in the matters of other countries, and we do not want anyone to interfere in ours. There is no discussion with any neighbouring country on J&K, and the only discussion remaining is freeing the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and bringing it under our framework,” he said.

Appreciating NSTL’s 50-year journey, he said the strength of a nation depended on the development of the academic sector, economy, and science and technology.

“Research and development plays a key role in a nation’s progress, and scientists should be abreast of the changing scenario,” he added.

Expressing happiness that the heavyweight torpedo, ‘Varunastra’, which was designed by the NSTL, had 90% indigenous components, he said, “Make-in-India is a mission, and the onus is now on the scientists to make it a success.” “Today, we are among the top few nations to have our own technology to build nuclear submarines, ICBMs (ballistic missiles), main battle tank, and our satellite technology is now being sought-after by others,” he said.

National missions

Mr. Naidu also said that schemes such as Skill India, Make-in-India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat and ‘Beti Bachao and Beti Pado’ should not be looked as political statements, but as national missions.

Earlier, he laid the stone for the sports and swimming pool complex and married officers’ accommodation at the NSTL, gave away awards to eight employees, felicitated N. Vedachalam, Department of Space, released a ‘photo essay’ highlighting NSTL’s 50 years, and handed over the ‘New Generation Sahayak system’, which was designed by the NSTL-DRDO, to the Indian Navy.

Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, DRDO Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy, NSTL Director O.R. Nandagopan, DG, Naval Systems and Materials, Sameer V Kamath, and Chief Post Master General, AP Circle, Col. M. Elisha spoke.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/india-ready-to-give-fitting-reply-to-aggressors-venkaiah/article29282419.ece>

50 glorious years and growing stronger

Making a beginning with a handful of scientists in 1969, NSTL's march of excellence inspires awe

By Sumit Bhattacharjee

Visakhapatnam: What began as a mere experiment five decades ago is today a sprawling laboratory complex that designs and develops advanced weapon systems for the country and specialises in underwater weapons for the Indian Navy.

The Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) was set up under the watchful eyes of renowned physicist Prof. Suri Bhagavantham, who had served as Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and was the second chief of the DRDO.

Humble beginnings

The lab started functioning from the POL stores at Naval Dockyard in the city on August 20, 1969, and later shifted to a war barrack in Andhra University on September 5, 1969. It moved to its present campus built over 194 acres after 1974.

The laboratory, which began with a handful of young scientists in 1969, today has over 200 scientists under different grades and over 400 support staff.

NSTL's mandate was to design and develop underwater weapons, associated systems and technologies.

"Today, we specialise in design, development, testing and evaluation of torpedoes of different capacities, mines, underwater decoy systems, targets, simulators, sensors and launchers," said NSTL Director O.R. Nandagopan.

Jewel in the crown

"Our heavyweight torpedo, 'Varunastra', is built with state-of-the-art technology and has gone into production with the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)," he said.

"NSTL is currently working on a number of areas such as advanced lightweight torpedoes, advanced submarine decoy systems, and high-endurance advanced autonomous underwater vehicles," he added.

The ship-launched variant of 'Varunastra' was formally inducted into the Indian Navy by the former Defence Minister, Manohar Parrikar, on June 26, 2016.

Appreciating the design of 'Varunastra', Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command Vice-Admiral Atul Kumar Jain said torpedoes had been inducted into the Navy after undergoing extensive, rigorous trials. DRDO Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy said India was the ninth country in the world to build a heavyweight torpedo with more indigenous input.

High-end labs

Over the last five decades, NSTL has built an infrastructure that can be rated on a par with the state-of-the-art laboratories in the world. The facilities include high-speed towing tank, assembly and integration of torpedoes, shock tank, acoustic facility, lake test facility for testing weapons, and cavitation tunnel.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/50-glorious-years-and-growing-stronger/article29282893.ece>

Thu, 29 Aug 2019

Vice President hands over Sahayak to Indian Navy

Addressing a gathering, Naidu said technology and innovation play vital role in achieving make in India programme and to make the country self-reliant in all sectors

Visakhapatnam: Vice-President of India M Venkaiah Naidu formally handed over new generation 'Sahayak', a vital supply system, to the Indian Navy during Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) Golden Jubilee celebrations here on Wednesday. Sahayak was jointly developed by NSTL and Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Addressing a gathering, Naidu said technology and innovation play a vital role in achieving make in India programme and to make the country self-reliant in all sectors. He went down the memory lane recalling his old days which he spent in Andhra University and about one-and-a-half years in Visakhapatnam Central Jail during Emergency and launching of his political career as an electioneering member of first mayor elections of Visakhapatnam. He said that he has retired from politics, but not tired of public service.

He described India as a peace-loving country. He said that India is developing weapons not for war, but for security purpose only. He thanked all scientists for making India secure and peaceful, prerequisites for progress. He explained in detail the government programmes, Make in India, Clean India, Digital India, Skill India, are enriching India in all aspects.

He congratulated the entire NSTL fraternity for crossing the milestone of 50-years in the service to the nation. He congratulated Team NSTL for the efforts it put in inducting Varunastra torpedo in the Indian Navy. He advised it to check back for the shortcomings and take up new challenges with more commitment.

To achieve Make in India R and D, academia and industry should work together to produce quality products and also services. DRDO should focus on futuristic technologies to become a world leader, he said. He said private sector should also invest in specific areas to produce systems and sub systems. He laid the foundation stone for sports and swimming pool complex and married officers' accommodation.

He released a book 'Photo essay-NSTL's Golden Journey'. Naidu also released a special postal cover brought out on NSTL golden jubilee celebrations. He felicitated NSTL employees for their professional excellence on the occasion. DRDO chairperson Satish Reddy said Bhagavantam, former NSTL Director was instrumental in the progress of NSTL. He said NSTL should take up new challenges with clear roadmap for delivery of systems.

Eastern Naval Command Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain said NSTL and DRDO played vital role in achieving self reliance in armed forces. Vice Admiral Jain said Varunastra, a heavy weight torpedo, had gone through vigorous tests and passed all user trials. Varunastra will become mainstay of the navy, he said.

NSTL director OR Nandagopan welcomed the gathering. DS & DG (NS&M) Samir V Kamat proposed a vote of thanks. Tourism Minister Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao, AP chief post master general Colonel M Eleesha, NSTL former directors V Bhujanga Rao, SV Rangarajan, CD Malleswar, other naval officials and NSTL employees were present. Earlier, Naidu was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival for a two-day visit to the city at the airport. Srinivasa Rao, District Collector V Vinay Chand, Commissioner of Police RK Meena.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2019/aug/29/vice-president-hands-over-sahayak-to-indian-navy-2025844.html>

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NSTL facilities would help achieving self-reliance in marine platform design: VP

Urging all Indians to speak in one voice on matters of security and national integrity, Shri Naidu said that India was a peace-loving country but would give a befitting reply if anybody tried to attack India

Visakhapatnam: The Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu has said that the only matter to be discussed with Pakistan is the handing over the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to India and asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Speaking at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Naval Science and Technological Laboratory at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh today, the Vice President said that the government had only made administrative changes with regard to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. "We will not tolerate anybody's interference in our internal affairs," he added.

Urging all Indians to speak in one voice on matters of security and national integrity, Shri Naidu said that India was a peace-loving country but would give a befitting reply if anybody tried to attack India. Shri Naidu accused a neighboring country of aiding, abetting and funding terrorism from across the border.

Shri Naidu lauded NSTL for carrying out Research & Development in core areas related to torpedoes, underwater mines, decoys, and stealth and for their research on emerging and futuristic technologies. He said that world-class facilities set up by NSTL laboratory for hydrodynamic evaluation of marine platforms would help the nation in achieving self-reliance in marine platform design.

Calling for efforts to make India a strong and self-reliant nation, especially in terms of defense technologies the Vice President said that a special focus was needed to develop advanced systems for our armed forces through indigenous technologies. He opined that a nation's strength lies in the strength of its academic, economic, scientific and technological prowess.

The Vice President complimented the outstanding achievements of scientists, especially missile and space technologies and said that it reflects India's inherent S&T strengths.

'The success of Geo-Synchronous Launch Vehicles, Agni Series of Missiles, nuclear submarine INS Arihant, fighter aircraft and the Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan missions have propelled us into an elite club of nations possessing 'niche' technologies,' he added.

The Vice President urged DRDO, R&D institutes, academia, and industry to work hand-in-hand and provide quality products and services. He also wanted them to make good use of programs such as 'Make in India', to design, develop and produce state-of-the-art systems within India. He also asked the private sector to step up investments in R&D in specified areas and produce the sub-systems and systems

The Vice President also went around the exhibition displaying the work carried out by NSTL in the design and development of various weapons and associated systems. He appreciated the contributions of NSTL and DRDO in meeting the requirements of the Indian Navy. He complimented NSTL for the success story of VARUNASTRA, a heavyweight torpedo.

On the occasion, the Vice President launched a postal cover on NSTL and laid the foundation stone for construction of Sports, Swimming Pool and residential accommodation for married officers. He

also inaugurated a technical exhibition displaying the products of DRDO and NSTL developed in collaboration with the Public and Private Sector companies.

The Minister for Tourism, Culture and Youth Advancement, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao, Dr G. Satheesh Reddy, Secretary Department of Defence R& D and Chairman DRDO, Vice Admiral A K. Jain, AVSM, VSM, Dr. Samir Venkatapati Kamat, Director General, Naval Systems and Minerals DRDO and others were present at the event attended by Sr Scientists, Scientists and researchers of NSTL and DRDO. (With Inputs from PIB)

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/technology/649186-nstl-facilities-would-help-achieving-self-reliance-in-marine-platform-design-vp>



Thu, 29 Aug 2019

Rajnath to visit Ladakh on Thursday

New Delhi, Aug 28 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Ladakh on Thursday where he will inaugurate a Vigyan Mela, showcasing crops and grains suitable for growing in high altitude areas.

Singh's visit to Ladakh will be his first to the union territory (UT) after it was carved out from the state of Jammu and Kashmir earlier this month. His visit will also be the first by any senior Central government minister since the formation of the UT.

The science fair is being organised at the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research.

A senior Defence Ministry official said the event is being organised to share research-generated farming technology with locals of Ladakh to make their life easier.

The fair will showcase agricultural products developed by the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO). These include grains, cereals, fruits and seeds that have been developed through research to withstand adverse weather conditions in high altitude.

"After the fair, there will be transfer of technology from the DRDO to civilians which is of use to them. The entire exercise is aimed at making the life of local citizens of Ladakh easier," said the official.

Sources said the Minister is also scheduled to hold discussions with top military brass in Ladakh about the threat perception to the region from Pakistan following the withdrawal of special category status to Jammu and Kashmir.

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