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समाचार पत्रों से चयनित अंश
Newspapers Clippings

डीआरडीओ समुदाय को डीआरडीओ प्रौद्योगिकियों, रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकियों, रक्षा नीतियों, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंधों और विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी की नूतन जानकारी से अवगत कराने हेतु दैनिक सेवा

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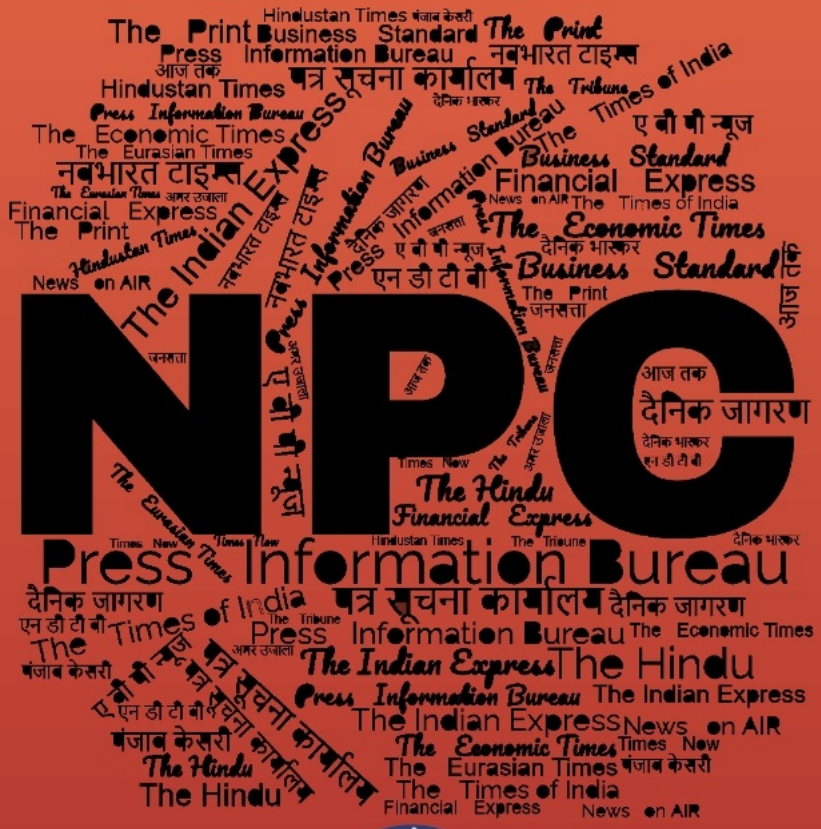

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CONTENTS

DRDO News

DRDO eyes next-gen electronic warfare to propel India as global defence leader: Top official

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 21 Jan 2026

The DRDO is focusing on next-generation electronic warfare technologies, spectrum dominance, and indigenous fighter aircraft programmes, with a strong emphasis on self-reliance and future warfare domains, its Director General (Electronics and Communication Systems), BK Das, said on Tuesday.

Speaking to media on the sidelines of the Electronic Warfare Conference-India (EWCI), Das said the event aimed to bring together all stakeholders in electronic warfare-including industry, academia and research institutions-to work towards a common objective in a rapidly evolving conflict domain. “The main focus is to bring together the entire electronic warfare ecosystem of the country-industry, academia and research institutions-to work towards a common cause in this emerging domain of warfare,” he said. Das said global participation and indigenous technology development under the ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ initiative were gaining momentum.

On future projects, he stated that the DRDO was working on advanced technologies that would redefine warfare in the coming decades. “The futuristic focus areas include spectrum dominance with cognitive learning, along with new technologies such as photonics and quantum technologies,” he said, adding that these would provide flexibility, agility and decisive power in electronic warfare.

Photonics is the science and technology of light that focuses on the generation, manipulation, detection and use of photons, integrating optics and electronics to enable breakthroughs in telecommunications, medicine, computing and other advanced technologies.

On budgetary support, Das said funding had never been a constraint for the organisation. “The budget has never been an issue for DRDO. We have always been well supported by the ministry,” he said, adding that the focus remained on cutting-edge technologies to make India a global defence technology leader by 2047.

Speaking on indigenous fighter aircraft programmes, Das said India must dominate the skies with platforms, weapons and sensors developed domestically. “India has to reign the skies. The fighter aircraft must be of our own-powered by indigenous technologies and equipped with indigenous weapons,” he said, noting that the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk-1 and Mk-1A were ready and describing the current phase as “only the beginning.” He said work was progressing on the Mk-2 variant and the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), underlining the importance of stealth in modern aerial combat.

“If you want to dominate the sky, stealth (aircraft) is the way forward,” he said, adding that the AMCA project had been sanctioned and was being pursued jointly by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and DRDO. Das also highlighted progress in indigenous sensors and weapon systems, saying the Uttam Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar had proven its capabilities. “We are developing our radar. The Uttam AESA radar has proven to be among the best, and in many aspects better than the best across the

world," he said. He added that the radar, along with jammers, weapon systems and missiles, was ready for integration with fighter platforms.

Outlining timelines, Das said the LCA Mk-1 was ready, Mk-1A deliveries would proceed as per schedule, the Mk-2 would roll out in three to four years, followed by the AMCA, enabling India to field fully indigenous fighter aircraft. Central to India's self-reliance push, Tejas Mk-1 and Mk-1A provide the IAF with indigenous air superiority.

https://dailypioneer.com/news/drdo-eyes-next-gen-electronic-warfare-to-propel-india-as-global-defence-leader-top-official

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence visits Naval Science & Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 20 Jan 2026

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, under the chairmanship of Shri Radha Mohan Singh, undertook an on-the-spot study visit to Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam on January 20, 2026. The committee witnessed NSTL-developed products like Torpedos (ALWT, Varunastraand EHWT), Mines (MIGM and PBGM), Decoys (SFD, Torbuster), SMART, HEAUV, SWARM, under water systems, under water vehicles, products and other associated under water weapon technologies.

The committee also witnessed the live demonstration of hydro-dynamic testing on scale-down model of a ship at the Sea-keeping and Manoeuvring Basin test facility. The delegation appreciated NSTL's R&D efforts in the development of underwater platforms, weapons, associated products and technologies to cater the requirements of the Indian Navy.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat, DG (Naval Systems & Materials) Dr RV Hara Prasad and Director, NSTL Dr Abraham Varughese welcomed the delegation comprising Members of Parliament, Officials from Lok Sabha Secretariat and Ministry of Defence.

The Director, NSTL briefed the Committee on the R&D activities being pursued at NSTL, including the industry and academia interactions. He also briefly explained about the future technology roadmap of the lab. The committee appreciated the R&D efforts of NSTL in the strategically important area of Maritime Domain Awareness and Underwater Domain Awareness.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2216634&reg=3&lang=1

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Defence News

Indian Navy's First Training Squadron makes port call at Belawan, Indonesia

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 20 Jan 2026

The ships of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) - INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, along with ICGS Sarathi made a port call at Belawan, Indonesia, on 20 Jan 2026. The squadron was accorded a warm welcome by the Indonesian Navy, marked by a ceremonial reception featuring traditional dance performance. The ships are presently on a training deployment to Southeast Asia.

During the port call, personnel from the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy will engage in a wide range of professional and social interactions, including cross-deck visits and joint training activities, aimed at enhancing interoperability and strengthening maritime cooperation. As part of the cultural

exchange programme, joint yoga sessions, visits by school children, friendly sports fixtures and community outreach activities have also been scheduled.

The deployment of the First Training Squadron to Indonesia underscores India's sustained engagement with Southeast Asian nations in consonance with its Act East Policy. It also reinforces the vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) through regular naval interactions and training exchanges with member nations of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2216606&reg=3&lang=1

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Death of strategic ambiguity

-by Lt Gen SS Mehta (Retd)

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 21 Jan 2026

FOR decades, strategic ambiguity was treated as prudence, a way to buy time, lower temperatures and let history do its work. In a more balanced world, it functioned as a stabiliser. In today's fractured order, it has become a means to defer decisions, test limits and shift facts without accountability. What once preserved peace now prolongs uncertainty. The result is managed drift. Ambiguity has not failed by accident; it has been overtaken by design.

The international system gradually learned to equate restraint with silence. Difficult questions were left unanswered, boundaries remained imprecise and timelines stayed undefined. In an era of asymmetric ambition and opportunistic revisionism, ambiguity has turned from a buffer into a liability, exploited by those who benefit from delay and paid for by those who rely on order.

Strategic ambiguity did not begin as evasion. It was meant to test intent and allow accommodation. It worked because it was reciprocal and backed by balance. Over time, repetition hollowed it out. What was meant to be temporary became habitual; what was meant to clarify intent became a mask for the slow, calculated erasure of the status quo.

When ambiguity turns asymmetric

Nowhere is this more visible than along unsettled frontiers. In high-altitude regions, the cost of policy is measured in thin air and permafrost. It is the citizen who pays first, the shepherd who finds a generational grazing route severed by a new, unacknowledged fence, or the villager whose ancestral map is overwritten by the silent movement of a patrol in the night. Across distant seas, fishing boats find their livelihoods criminalised overnight, not because maps were redrawn in public, but because they were left deliberately vague.

Along these frontiers, soldiers live uncertainty in their bones. They walk the same jagged ground, exercising restraint without closure. When ambiguity hardens into confrontation, they are sent forward as human tripwires to manage risks created by indecision in capitals.

The democratic cost of drift

The cost of prolonged ambiguity is not borne equally. Democracies absorb uncertainty internally through debate and accountability. Revisionist systems operationalise ambiguity in the shadows. In asymmetric contests, ambiguity reliably favours the stronger actor. Drift imposes unequal costs

and enables incremental change without formal choice. In such conditions, clarity is not escalation; it is democratic hygiene.

Who writes the rules

When democracies defer design, they surrender authorship. Norms shift not through consensus but through repetition of the boot. Ambiguity erodes choice until only one remains. More than a century ago, Lord Curzon observed (cautioned) that more could be gained from leaving borders unsettled than from settling them. His insight was about leverage. Ambiguity rewards the actor who treats the map as fluid and the clock as a weapon.

Clash of timelines: 2035 & 2047

That logic has now reached diminishing returns. Stability can no longer rest on what is left unsaid; it must be designed. The urgency is dictated by a clash of calendars. China has set 2035 as the deadline for national rejuvenation. India approaches 2047, the centenary of Independence. One cannot reach a civilisational milestone of strength by conceding the intervening decades to others' timelines. When one side plans in decades and the other responds in episodes, ambiguity ceases to be neutral; it becomes a subsidy to ambition.

Why time now matters

Design requires the discipline of the clock. Time-bound frameworks reverse the advantage of delay. Once lines are defined and clocks are set, restraint no longer requires justification; violation does. In practical terms, this logic points towards a long-duration, time-bound hold, measured not in months but in decades, that freezes the existing status quo while deferring settlement to a later, more balanced moment. A 15 to 20-year horizon is not a concession to permanence; it is an assertion of patience with structure. It converts ambiguity into obligation and drift into accountability, without foreclosing dialogue or legitimising unilateral change.

A fixed status quo for a defined period denies the stronger side the benefits of creep and forces revisionism to surface as deliberate action rather than silent movement. Time, once weaponised by the powerful, is turned into a constraint. Either patience delays ambition, or breach exposes intent.

Design is not escalation

Design is not escalation. It is declaration. It is the deliberate act by which a democracy states, clearly and publicly, what will no longer be negotiated, what will be reviewed, and what will carry consequence. To design is not to harden positions; it is to end the moral evasion that ambiguity enables.

From restraint to responsibility

A time-bound framework does not abandon peace. It restores responsibility. When limits are drawn and clocks are set, restraint no longer requires apology. The ethical burden shifts decisively, not to the state that holds the line, but to the actor that crosses it. Clarity is not provocation; it is accountability.

The end of strategic waiting

Ambiguity once served balance. Today, it serves those who profit from delay. To redesign the frame is not to choose conflict; it is to choose authorship. Civilisations that refuse to define their terms do not preserve peace; they outsource their future. In practical terms, such design may take

the form of a codified standstill, a time-bound freeze or an explicitly declared perimeter reviewed at fixed intervals, converting restraint from a posture of patience into a framework of obligation.

Restraint loses its moral authority when it enables coercion. Dialogue loses its soul when it masks unilateral advantage. Delay no longer buys safety; it merely pushes risk down the chain, to the shepherd, the patrol and the soldier. Sun Tzu linked ambiguity to deception. Chanakya warned that delay forfeits the kingdom. Clausewitz reminded us that hesitation grants the enemy initiative. The age of strategic waiting is over. What comes next will be built by design, or lost by default.

https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/death-of-strategic-ambiguity/

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Science & Technology News

चाँद पर लौटने के प्रयासों के साथ अंतरिक्ष दौड़ जारी

Source: Punjab Kesari, Dt. 21 Jan 2026

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : अंतरिक्ष यात्री सुनीता विलियम्स ने मंगलवार को कहा कि मौजूदा समय में अंतरिक्ष दौड़ चल रही है, लेकिन प्रयास यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि इंसान चंद्रमा पर वापस लौटे और यह सार्थक, लोकतांत्रिक तरीके से हो। यहां 'अमेरिकन सेंटर' में आयोजित लगभग एक घंटे के संवाद सत्र में शामिल होने से पहले, विलियम्स ने अपने संक्षिप्त प्रारंभिक संबोधन में यह भी कहा कि भारत वापस आना घर वापसी जैसा महसूस हुआ, क्योंकि यह वह देश है जहां उनके पिता का जन्म हुआ था। गहरे नीले रंग के अंतरिक्ष परिधान और इसी थीम वाले कैनवास के जूतों में विलियम्स (60) भारतीय युवाओं से भरे सभागार में जोरदार तालियों के बीच दाखिल हुईं और बाद में सहजता से दर्शकों

के साथ बातचीत की। अमेरिकी नौसेना की पूर्व कैप्टन विलियम्स का जन्म 19 सितंबर, 1965 को अमेरिका के ओहियो के यूक्लिड में हुआ था। उनके पिता दीपक पंड्या गुजराती थे और मेहसाणा जिले के झुलासन के रहने वाले थे, जबकि उनकी मां उर्सुलिन बोनी पंड्या स्लोवेनिया की थीं। बातचीत के दौरान, उन्होंने उस समय के अपने अनुभवों को भी साझा किया जब वह अंतरिक्ष में फंस गई थीं। अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन (आईएसएस) के लिए आठ दिवसीय मिशन विलियम्स के जीवन की सबसे बड़ी चुनौती बन गया था क्योंकि उनकी बोइंग अंतरिक्ष उड़ान में समस्याएं उत्पन्न हो गई थीं, जिसके कारण कक्षा में उनका प्रवास नौ महीने से अधिक तक बढ़ गया था।

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3 back-to-back space mission failures call for 'serious introspection, honest anyslysis': Former ISRO mission chief

Source: The Statesman, Dt. 21 Jan 2026

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Chennai, 20 January

A serious course correction in technical, process quality, testing and security gaps will enable Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to come up again, says Tapan Misra, retired Director of Space Applications Centre, ISRO.

Referring to the three consecutive failures of India's strategic satellite launch missions and without terming them as enemy action Misra said: "One failure is accident. Two failures can be construed as coincident. Three consecutive failures are symptomatic of a pattern if nothing else fits. It calls for serious introspection and honest analysis of all possible technical and non technical, both internal and external, causes."

"A serious course correction in technical, process, quality, testing and managerial gaps and above all security gaps, will definitely enable ISRO to resurrect like Phoenix," Misra added.

Misra is considered the father of the Indian SAR satellite.

He said on Jan 29, 2025, NVS-02 a military NAVIC satellite, was launched by ISRO. The rocketing was a success, but the NVS-02 orbit could not be raised to geostationary orbit due to the failure of an oxidiser valve in the apogee boost motor.

"Surprisingly, it never failed anytime earlier. This time, unusually, both main and redundant control failed," Misra said. Another military reconnaissance C band SAR (synthetic aperture radar) satellite RISAT-1B, rechristened as EOS-09 was flown on the PSLV-C61 rocket on May 18, 2025.

"The launch failed due to an unusual technical issue in the third stage with solid motor, which experienced a drop in chamber pressure, that too at the fag end of the burn. Solid motor never fails. It was the first failure in the history of operational launch of PSLV," Misra said.

The latest failure was on Jan 12, 2026, when PSLV-C62 rocket carrying Anvesha satellite belonging to DRDO failed due to anomaly in third solid stage burn at the end. The failure was similar to that of PSLV-C61 rocket.

On the other hand, the NISAR –an Indo-US joint project- satellite launch by GSLV-F16 rocket and another American satellite BlueBird Block 2 launch by LVM3 rocket on Dec 24, 2025 were a success.

For ISRO, the last year was a mixed bag of failures and successes. Probably and unfortunately, the worst in terms of number of failures, that too in the well-proven launcher like PSLV, Misra remarked.

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The Tribune

The Statesman

पंजाब केसरी जनसत्ता

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