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Wed, 29 Nov, 2017

Singapore def min praises Tejas, calls it ‘excellent, impressive’

Indigenously designed and developed Tejas light combat aircraft(LCA) earned laurels when Singapore Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen, who flew a sortie in it on Tuesday, described it as ‘excellent and very impressive.’ He also said it felt like riding in a car. His comments come in the backdrop of criticism in some quarters that the Tejas project is marred by delays.

The visiting Defence Minister, who will hold talks with his Indian counterpart Nirmala Sitharaman here on Wednesday, undertook the half-hour sortie at the Kalaikunda IAF airbase, West Bengal. The twin-seater trainer plane was flown by Air Vice Marshal AP Singh. He is project director of the National Flight Test Centre-Aeronautical Development Agency.

Praising the performance of the aircraft, Hen described the Tejas as ‘excellent and very impressive.’ The Minister also lauded the pilot saying he felt as he was riding a car and not flying in a fight aircraft. Two Tejas aircraft were flown from Bengaluru for displaying its unique features to the Singapore Defence Minister.

Asked whether Singapore is interested in buying the Tejas, aircraft, he said he is not a pilot and it is for the technical people to take a call on it. It was learnt that Singapore has evinced interest in Tejas.

During the Bahrain air show where Tejas aircraft was showcased, some countries in the Middle East had also shown interest, sources said.

Designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the Tejas powered by US made GE-404 jet engine will eventually join the IAF as a replacement for its ageing fleet of MIG-21 jets. These planes are more than 40 years old and in the last phase of their operational life.

The IAF has raised one squadron of Tejas and inducted the first two indigenously made jets two years back. One squadron has 18 to 20 fighter planes and the remaining 18 Tejas will join service by the end of next year. The squadron is known as Flying Daggers and will be based in Sullur, Tamil Nadu.

Each Tejas weighing about 11 to 12 tons and with a range of 400 kms at flying speed of 1,300 kmph will cost about Rs 300 crores. The jet is capable of firing air to air missiles and laser guided bombs. The IAF has planned to have four squadrons of Tejas by the end of 2022.

However, the Tejas project was marred by repeated delays and cost overruns since it was given the nod more than 30 years back thereby inviting criticism that the plane is sub-optimal. Naval variant of Tejas is also under development and will form part of the aircraft fleet of aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

The Singapore defence minister told reporters in Kalaikunda that bilateral defence ties between ‘our two countries are strong and it is getting stronger’.

He witnessed the joint exercise between air force of Singapore and India and said “I hope this will continue for long.” The first annual joint military training between IAF and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) was held at the Gwalior air force station in 2004. Such an exercise was first held in Kalaikunda in 2007 and since then regular joint training has been held at the air force station here as Singapore has little airspace there. For the ongoing month long exercise, the Singapore Air Force has deployed six F-16s for the month long drill.

‘I can serve my nation better as a man in uniform’

By Dilip Singh Rathod

For Shivansh Joshi, it’s ‘India First’ all the way. The 17-year-old topped the National Defence Academy (NDA) entrance examination and has scored very well at the joint entrance examination for the Indian Institute of Technology. But he surprised not just his parents, but also his teachers and friends when he chose NDA over IIT. “My capabilities will be better utilised at NDA rather than at IIT,” says the youngster from Rampur in Uttarakhand. Shivansh takes great pride in the fact that he comes from the land of the brave where almost every village has at least one son in uniform.

● My capabilities will be better utilised at NDA rather than IIT. I am inspired by those who sacrificed their lives for the country. ●

● I know the training at NDA will be very tough. IIT would have meant an easier life. But I am prepared for a tough life. ●

— SHIVANSH JOSHI

“I am inspired by those who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives for our country. I too want to contribute to the development of my country. I can do that better as a man in uniform,” he says. “Serving the country has been my

objective since childhood. The love for the country runs in the blood of youngsters of Uttarakhand and I feel fortunate to be living my dream now,” he adds. For a 17-year-old, he is remarkably clear about what he wants to do in future. “I want to learn from the past and contribute to the future. We have a rich heritage and I want to build on that for a bright future,” he insists.

Shivansh has always been a bright student. His father Sanjeev Joshi works with Life Insurance Corporation and his mother is a primary school teacher. Both were overjoyed with the fact that their son will wear a uniform. His parents say they always taught him to focus on work and not results. “He has always been able to manage his time well. For him, it was not always about either studies or sports. He would devote time to both and excel in both,” says his proud father Sanjeev Joshi. “But his aim was never to get good results. He did well and said reward was never his concern.

Perhaps that positive thinking helped him,” the father added. “The key to cracking such competitions is control over your routine,” Shivansh said. Shivansh realises the road ahead is not easy. “I know the training at NDA will be very tough. IIT would have meant an easier life. But I am prepared for a tough life. The aim is to do something for the country,” he says with courage of conviction far beyond his age.

Though a youngster himself, Shivansh is also keen that his younger sibling follows in his footsteps and prepares for the NDA examination. “We took no training or coaching for NDA. I will help him prepare and hope he too serves the nation one day,” he says proudly.



Russia to Help India Set Up Crisis Management Centre

Russia will assist India to set up a national crisis management centre in the country to handle disaster and other emergency situations.

This was agreed during a meeting between Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Russian Minister for Emergency Situations Vladimir Puchkov here on Tuesday.

Both sides agreed that EMERCOM of Russia would cooperate with India in the establishment of the National Crisis Management Centre (NCCM) in India, an official statement said.

Singh held detailed discussions with Puchkov on cooperation in disaster management. They reviewed the progress made on the agreement on disaster management signed in 2010.

They also agreed on a programme of training of specialists and sharing of each other's experiences as well as best practices in the field of Disaster Management, the statement said.

The two leaders later signed a joint implementation plan for 2018-19 for cooperation in disaster management.

Singh also met Nikolai Patrushev, secretary, Security Council of Russian Federation yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides reinforced their determination to further strengthen their cooperation in the sectors of security and counter-terrorism.

They also reviewed the implementation of the agreement on information security signed in October 2016. Both sides also welcomed the ongoing cooperation and the regular exchange of visits between the two National Security Councils.

During his three-day visit to Russia, Singh will visit the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation and hold talks with its Director Alexander Bortnikov.

Later, he will attend a reception organised by the Indian community.



Wed, 29 Nov, 2017

North Korea fires ballistic missile; U.S., South Korea analysing

The South Korean military said the missile flew 960 km before landing in Japan's exclusive economic zone

North Korea fired what appeared to be an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that landed close to Japan, officials said, with some scientists cautioning that Washington D.C. could now theoretically be within range of Pyongyang's weapons.

The South Korean military said the missile, fired on a steep trajectory, reached an altitude of around 4,500 km (2,800 miles) and flew 960 km (600 miles) before landing in Japan's exclusive economic zone.

The test, Pyongyang's first since mid-September, came a week after U.S. President Donald Trump put North Korea back on a U.S. list of countries it says supports terrorism, allowing it to impose more sanctions.

North Korea has conducted dozens of ballistic missile tests under its leader, Kim Jong Un, in defiance of international sanctions. Mr. Trump has vowed not to let North Korea develop nuclear missiles that can hit the mainland United States.

U.S., Japanese and South Korean officials all agreed it was likely an ICBM but it did not pose a threat to the United States, its territories or allies, the Pentagon said.

"It went higher, frankly, than any previous shot they've taken, a research and development effort on their part to continue building ballistic missiles that can threaten everywhere in the world, basically," U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told reporters at the White House.

Mr. Trump spoke by phone with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-In, with all three leaders reaffirming their commitment to combat the North Korean threat.

"It is a situation that we will handle," Mr. Trump told reporters at the White House.

President Moon Jae-in told Mr. Trump during their call that North Korea's missile technology seemed to have improved, a spokesman for the South Korean leader's office said.

Mr. Trump, who was briefed on the missile while it was in flight, said it did not change his administration's approach to North Korea, which has included new curbs to hurt trade between China and North Korea.

All options

Washington has said repeatedly that all options, including military ones, are on the table in dealing with North Korea, but that it prefers a peaceful solution by Pyongyang agreeing to give up its weapons programs.

“Diplomatic options remain viable and open, for now,” U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said. “The United States remains committed to finding a peaceful path to denuclearization and to ending belligerent actions by North Korea.”

Other than carrying out existing U.N. sanctions, “the international community must take additional measures to enhance maritime security, including the right to interdict maritime traffic” traveling to North Korea, Mr. Tillerson said in a statement.

The U.N. Security Council was scheduled to meet on Wednesday to discuss the launch. North Korea has given no indication it is willing to give up its weapons programs and re-enter diplomatic talks.

U.S. East coast in range?

An official at South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said they presumed the missile was a Hwasong-14 - a two-stage ICBM North Korea tested twice in July.

Japanese officials said the missile flew for 53 minutes and broke up before landing in Japan's exclusive economic zone. Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said it was judged to be ICBM class given its lofted trajectory.

“If these numbers are correct, then if flown on a standard trajectory rather than this lofted trajectory, this missile would have a range of more than 13,000 km (8,100 miles) ... Such a missile would have more than enough range to reach Washington, D.C., and in fact any part of the continental United States,” the U.S.-based Union of Concerned Scientists said.

However, it was unclear how heavy a payload the missile was carrying, and it was uncertain if it could carry a large nuclear warhead that far, the non-profit science advocacy group added.

Either way, experts believe North Korea will soon have the ability to threaten the continental United States, if it doesn't already.

“We don't have to like it, but we're going to have to learn to live with North Korea's ability to target the United States with nuclear weapons,” said Jeffrey Lewis, head of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the Middlebury Institute of Strategic Studies.

Minutes after the North fired the missile, South Korea's military conducted a missile-firing test in response, the South Korean military said.

South Korea's Mr. Moon said the launch had been anticipated and the government had been preparing for it. There was no choice but for countries to keep applying pressure and sanctions against North Korea, he added.

“The situation could get out of control if North Korea perfects its ICBM technology,” Mr. Moon said, according to the Blue House after a national security council meeting.

“North Korea shouldn't miscalculate the situation and threaten South Korea with a nuclear weapon, which could elicit a possible pre-emptive strike by the United States.”

U.S. stocks briefly pared gains on the news but the S&P 500 index was up almost 1 percent at the close and Asian markets largely shrugged off the news.

After firing missiles at a rate of about two or three a month since April, North Korea paused its missile launches in September, following a missile it fired that passed over Japan's northern Hokkaido island on Sept. 15 and far out into the Pacific Ocean.

North Korea has said its weapons programs are a necessary defense against U.S. plans to invade. The United States, which has 28,500 troops in South Korea as a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean war, denies any such intention.

Last week, North Korea denounced Mr. Trump's decision to relist it as a state sponsor of terrorism, calling it a "serious provocation and violent infringement."

A U.S. government source familiar with official reporting and analyses said the U.S. assessment was the launch was the latest in a well-calculated and serious series of tests to develop and perfect North Korea missile systems rather than any response to Mr. Trump.

Mr. Trump has traded insults and threats with Kim and warned in September that the United States would have no choice but to "totally destroy" North Korea if forced to defend itself or its allies.



Wed, 29 Nov, 2017

ISRO to launch PSLV with Cartosat again

After the unsuccessful mission of the first Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) launch, the ISRO's next mission with Cartosat will be during the end of December or the first week of January. Announcing this in Bengaluru on Tuesday on the sidelines of a programme AS Kiran Kumar, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said its next launch with PSLV will be in end of December or the first week of January.

He said, "We are working towards it. It will be in the end of December or first week of January."

According to ISRO officials PSLV-C40 will be used for the launch from the spaceport of Sriharikota, and the mission will be a combination of 25 nano satellites, three micro-satellites and one Cartosat satellite, along with "maybe" one university satellite.

The space agency had earlier said that the mission, whose main payload would be the Cartosat-2 series earth observation satellite, along with 29 co-passengers, was scheduled for a December launch. Most co-passengers of Cartosat-2 series satellite would be from foreign countries, including Finland and the US, they had said.

On August 31, India's mission to launch its backup navigation satellite IRNSS-1H on board PSLV-C39 ended in a failure after a technical fault on the final leg following a perfect launch.

ISRO then said the heat shield did not separate on the final leg of the launch sequence and, as a result, IRNSS-1H got stuck in the fourth stage of the rocket.

According to ISRO, Cartosat-2 series satellite launch is a follow-on mission in Cartosat-2 series with the primary objective of providing high resolution scene specific spot imageries.

It carries Panchromatic and Multi-spectral cameras operating in Time Delay Integration (TDI) mode and is capable of delivering high resolution data.

On Chandrayaan-2, Kumar said it was going on track and that the flight hardware was getting assembled and tested. "It is going through various phases. We are targeting for the first quarter of next year," he said. Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to the Moon, would be an advanced version of Chandrayaan-1 launched nine years ago. This spacecraft is a composite model consisting of orbiter, lander and rover.

Asked whether the Space Activities Bill, 2017 would come up during the Budget session of Parliament, Kiran Kumar said "We have now put it for public comments. It would have to go through a set of discussions. The process has started." The draft of the proposed Bill to promote and regulate space activities of India, along with encouraging the participation of the private sector, has been uploaded on the ISRO website for comments from stakeholders and the public.

Earlier Dr Kiran Kumar inaugurated the Space Technology Gallery at the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum in Bengaluru and urged the students to take up Space research as a vocation. He said the country had made several strides in Space research not only as pure research activity but also for development of the country.

Former ISRO Chairman and National Education Policy Committee Chairman Dr K Kasturirangan stressed the need for the next generation to explore space as opportunities and facilities were on the increase with enhanced technological developments.

This would enable to unravel the mystery of the Universe at a greater depth than what was being done at present, he added.



Wed, 29 Nov, 2017

Russia satellite fails to enter orbit

It is the second failed launch since the Vostochny cosmodrome made its debut

A Russian weather satellite and nearly 20 micro-satellites from various nations failed to enter their designated orbits on Tuesday following the launch from Russia's new cosmodrome, another blow to the nation's space program.

Russia's Roscosmos space agency said it has failed to establish communications with the Meteor M 2-1 satellite that was launched atop a Soyuz-2 booster rocket on Tuesday from Russia's new Vostochny launch pad in the Far East. The agency says it's trying to determine what happened.

Russian news agencies reported the likely cause was the failure of the booster's final stage, the Fregat, possibly caused by a software flaw. The booster also carried 18 micro satellites built in Canada, Germany, Japan, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States. It wasn't immediately clear if the Meteor and other satellites fell into the ocean or were stranded in low orbit.

The glitch follows other failed launches in recent years that tarnished the reputation of Russian space industries. Some of the glitches were traced to manufacturing flaws.

Asked about the failed launch, President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov refrained from immediate comment, saying that the Kremlin was expecting space officials' report on the situation. The failed launch is the second since the Vostochny cosmodrome made its debut in April 2016.



Wed, 29 Nov, 2017

Origami inspires super robots

Inspired by the folding technique of origami, US researchers said Monday they have crafted cheap, artificial muscles for robots that give them the power to lift up to 1,000 times their own weight.

The advance offers a leap forward in the field of soft robotics, which is fast replacing an older generation of robots that were jerky and rigid in their movements, researchers say.

"It's like giving these robots superpowers," said senior author Daniela Rus, professor of electrical engineering and computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The muscles, known as actuators, are built on a framework of metal coils or plastic sheets, and each muscle costs around US\$1 to make, said the report in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, a peer-reviewed US journal.

Their origami inspiration derives from a zigzag structure that some of the muscles employ, allowing them to contract and expand as commanded, using vacuum-powered air or water pressure.

“The skeleton can be a spring, an origami-like folded structure, or any solid structure with hinged or elastic voids,” said the report.

Possible uses include expandable space habitats on Mars, miniature surgical devices, wearable robotic exoskeletons, deep-sea exploration devices or even transformable architecture.

“Artificial muscle-like actuators are one of the most important grand challenges in all of engineering,” said co-author Rob Wood, professor of engineering and applied sciences at Harvard University.

“Now that we have created actuators with properties similar to natural muscle, we can imagine building almost any robot for almost any task.”

Researchers built dozens of muscles, using metal springs, packing foam or plastic in a range of shapes and sizes.

They created “muscles that can contract down to 10 per cent of their original size, lift a delicate flower off the ground, and twist into a coil, all simply by sucking the air out of them,” said the report.

The artificial muscles “can generate about six times more force per unit area than mammalian skeletal muscle can, and are also incredibly lightweight,” it added.

A 2.6 gram muscle can lift an object weighing three kilograms “which is the equivalent of a mallard duck lifting a car.”

According to co-author Daniel Vogt, research engineer at the Wyss Institute, the vacuum-based muscles “have a lower risk of rupture, failure, and damage, and they don’t expand when they’re operating, so you can integrate them into closer-fitting robots on the human body.”



Wed, 29 Nov, 2017

Enable Privacy

Data protection must strictly impose purpose limitation and penalties for breaches

A high-level government committee of experts headed by Justice BN Srikrishna has released a white paper seeking views from stakeholders on data protection. Coming against the backdrop of the apex court’s landmark decision upholding right to privacy as a fundamental right, data protection has certainly become a hot-button issue. Driving the debate is government and other agencies increasing the scope of Aadhaar linking for services – a matter slated to be adjudicated by a constitution bench of the Supreme Court.

In fact, the unique identification number bolstered by an individual’s biometric data is now being used for everything from school admissions to obtaining death certificates. While the utility of such moves is left vague, the fear that the data provided could be leaked or misused is real. Current data collection practices in the country hardly inspire confidence, with personal information regularly being shared among different parties without the knowledge of customers. In such a scenario, pushing Aadhaar linking for day-to-day transactions is akin to having a digital master key that can open all facets of an individual’s life.

Such a master key would certainly violate the right to privacy upheld by the Supreme Court. Not only could unscrupulous elements misuse personal data for profit or crime, there are also concerns that an Aadhaar-backed data architecture can be used to profile individuals on the basis of their caste, religion, sexual

orientation, political opinion, etc. Given these anxieties, the need of the hour is for a comprehensive data protection framework. This should include an independent data protection authority to handle issues related to use of information collected by governments and corporations.

Among other things, data protection norms should strictly implement the purpose limitation principle whereby data collected is only used for the purpose stated to the individual. And tough penalties should also be imposed for breaches of purpose limitation. This could include stiff financial compensation to customers and even criminal prosecution of violators. Many of these provisions are part of BJD MP Baijayant Jay Panda's private member's bill on data privacy, which can be used as a guide. Add to this the need for a strong cyber security architecture to ensure data isn't stolen through digital attacks. With the digital environment set to grow further – and government looking to push Digital India initiatives – it's time to give data privacy its due importance.



Wed, 29 Nov, 2017

Net neutrality exemptions fine: Experts

By Kim Arora

New net neutrality recommendations released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Tuesday says that internet and telecom service providers must treat online data in a nondiscriminatory manner.

However, the regulator has made two important exemptions. The first is on content delivery networks or CDNs. CDNs make sure that you connect to the best suited servers in a way that your videos buffer quickly, web pages load faster or that your downloads are quicker. The second exemption is on “specialised services,” a term used by Trai, for those services that need special network requirements such as telemedicine or heart monitors.

Experts say these exemptions, and Trai's rationale for instituting them, are in tune with the broader principle of net neutrality, which mandates that all online data must be treated equally, and that internet and telecom service providers do not slow down one application to favour another, or discriminate between various internet services in terms of internet pack pricing models.

While defining specialised services, Trai has specified that these cannot include a service that merely mirrors or substitutes a regular internet service. For instance, something like Facebook's Free Basics would not be categorised as a specialised service. Trai offers examples such as “connectivity bundled with e-readers, heart monitors, energy consumption sensors, limited-purpose devices such as automobile telematics, and services that provide schools with curriculum-approved applications.” VoIP and IPTV services may also qualify as specialised services.

Licensing rules will have to keep up as this definition is made narrower. “In the event that a service provider proposes to carry out any other categories of specialised services an enabling provision relating to the same may need to be introduced in the licence. Accordingly, the DoT (department of telecom) may amend the licence from time to time to specify the categories of services permitted to be carried out by licensed service providers,” the Trai recommendation says, excluding the Internet of Things (IoT)

from the category of “specialised services.” With IoT, appliances can be embedded into the network infrastructure enabling them to communicate and be remotely operated with digital systems. For example, your refrigerator could order milk online.

Supreme Court lawyer Apar Gupta says a tighter definition of specialised services would have served better. “Specialised services have not been defined precisely. Opening the door for licence amendments can create a risk for potential net neutrality violations. But to be fair, some degree of rationality will come through with the implementation, since there are restrictions on defining internet access services as specialised services,” he says.

Rajan Mathews, who heads COAI says that while the exemptions on specialised services are desirable, “we have to make sure people don’t create an arbitrage and misuse them.” Mathews takes exception to IoT not being included in specialised services, saying that Trai’s position is premature. “It is a little too early to bring it under a net neutrality regime. We should let it develop first,” he says.

Entrepreneur and Internet Freedom Foundation’s core member Nikhil Pahwa, says since CDNs are concerned with network-to-network access and efficiency only, their exemption isn’t discriminatory. “Optimisations within networks to reduce latency are fine and do not violate net neutrality,” says Pahwa, who has been advocating net neutrality since 2015.

However, Trai has recommended that internet service providers (ISPs) and telecom service providers (TSPs) disclose their terms of such engagements with CDNs to users. “...there is a need for more transparency relating to the arrangements between TSPs and CDNs. Knowledge of such arrangements would be useful for gaining a proper understanding of factors affecting the flow of traffic on the internet, potential for anti-competitive practices and to monitor violations of the non-discrimination requirements by TSPs,” Trai said.

Technology companies such as Akamai run CDNs which can be used by various ISPs. Trai has said that CDNs “should not be included within the scope of any restrictions on non-discriminatory treatment, which are designed specifically to cover the providers of Internet Access Services.”



Wed, 29 Nov, 2017

Google not a substitute for a ‘guru’: Venkaiah Naidu

Varsities should become centres of excellence, says the Vice-President

The Google search engine may offer answers to many questions asked by students, but it can never be a substitute for a guru (teacher), said Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday. He was addressing a meeting at the inauguration of the first two blocks of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) at Inavolu in the Amravati region. “Unlike the ancient guru-shishya parampara wherein guru was a venerated person, the current age students get information they want at the click of a mouse.

Google search may be very informative but it can never be a substitute to your guru,” he said advising students never to forget their teachers.

He said education must result in emancipation, enlightenment, empowerment and empathy. “Employment comes later. The destiny of a country is shaped in the classroom,” he said citing the objectives of the Indian Education Commission, popularly known as Kothari Education Commission, set up in 1964.

He said people of the Andhra land were inherently talented. “Here, not only the lands, but the brains are also very fertile,” he said.

Heaping praise on the VIT management for creating a conducive ambiance on the campus, he said education should become a tool for social, cultural and economic transformation.

Stating that technology was changing at a rapid pace, he wanted students to keep pace with it. Universities across the country should strive to groom into centres of excellence and produce multi-skilled students, he said.

The Vice-President rued that not even one of the 760 universities in India had the wherewithal to compete with the world institutions in excellence and said there was a need for institutes of higher learning to raise standards, improve pedagogy, enhance research activities and form greater linkages with the industry to equip students to face the challenges of a globalised world. “With proper infrastructure, facilities and opportunities, our universities can excel,” he said.

He said the Centre and the States were unable to spend the stipulated 6 % of the GDP on education sector due to “other pressing needs.”

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said education was Andhra Pradesh’s strength and none could beat the State in the Information Technology (IT).

He said with institutions like SRM, VIT and Amrita, Amravati would transform into an educational hub and AP would be a knowledge society. In the days to come, the VIT would branch out and include on its campus an assortment of disciplines like law, architecture and medicine.

Minister P. Pullarao, Kamineni Srinivas and Ayyanna Patrudu, MP C.M. Ramesh, AP Mahila Commission chairperson Nannapaneni Rajakumari, VIT Chancellor Viswanathan and others were present.