

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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## आसमां पर शौर्य गाथा लिखने को बेताब वायुसेना के जांबाज



# 10

मिनट तक करतब दिखाए सारंग और सूर्य किरण ने

**85** वां वायु सेना दिवस का फुल ट्रेस रिहर्सल परेड

**12** जांबाज पैरा जंपसें ने आठ हजार फीट की ऊंचाई से विमान से छलांग लगाकर परेड का आगाज किया

ताकत वतन की हम से है... गाजियाबाद के हिंडन एयर बेस पर 85वें वायु सेना दिवस से पूर्व फुल ट्रेस रिहर्सल के दौरान करतब दिखाती सारंग की टीम • मनोज कुमार

जागरण संवाददाता, हिंडन एयरबेस : 85वें वायु सेना दिवस की फुल ट्रेस रिहर्सल परेड में शुक्रवार को जांबाजों ने आसमान में भारतीय वायु सेना की ताकत दिखाई। फुल ट्रेस रिहर्सल परेड देखने के लिए शुक्रवार सुबह छह बजे से ही दिल्ली, नोएडा, मेरठ, फरीदाबाद, गाजियाबाद, बागपत, बुलंदशहर आदि जगहों से हजारों लोग वायुसेना स्थल हिंडन पहुंचे। करीब सुबह आठ बजे आकाश गंगा के 12 जांबाज पैरा जंपसें ने आठ हजार फीट की ऊंचाई से विमान से छलांग लगाकर परेड का आगाज किया। राष्ट्र ध्वज तिरंगा बनाते हुए जमीन पर उतरे इन जांबाजों में गजब का हौसला व हिम्मत दिखा, जिसे देख लोग दंग रह गए। करीब 10 मिनट तक लोगों की निगाहें आसमां पर टिकी रही। वायुसेना दिवस परेड व अलंकरण समारोह में जवानों और अधिकारियों के कदम ताल ने लोगों का दिल जीत लिया। वायु योद्धाध्यास दल ने संचलन प्रदर्शनी से अपनी काबिलियत दिखाई।

### आसमां को झुकाया

एयर शो में तीन मिराज एक साथ मशाल छोड़ते हुए दर्शकों के बीच से गुजरे और आसमान में खो गए। तीन मिग एक साथ गरजते हुए आए। टाइगर मोथ ने आसमान में तीन चक्कर लगाए और पायलट ने हाथ हिलाकर लोगों का अभिवादन स्वीकार किया। हरक्यूलिस और ग्लोबल मास्टर दहाड़ते हुए जब आसमां का सीना चीरते निकले, तो तालियों की गड़गड़ाहट से वायु सेनास्थल गूंज उठा। सुखोई, जमुआर व त्रिशूल की हैरतअंगेज करतब देख लोगों के रोंगटे खड़े हो गए। तेजस के तेज और करनामें को देख लोगों ने भारत माता की जय के उद्घोष किए। सारंग और सूर्य किरण ने करीब 10 मिनट तक करतब दिखाए। दोनों विमानों ने तिरंगा, सप्तसंग के निशान छोड़े, तो खूब तालियां बजीं। क्ले मछली की अटखेलियों का प्रदर्शन कर जांबाजों ने खूब वाहवाही लूटी।



### साढ़े पांच किलो रायफल से दिखाया हैरतअंगेज करतब

एयर वारियर टीम ने साढ़े पांच किलो के रायफल के साथ हैरतअंगेज करतब दिखाकर सबको दंग कर दिया। टीम ने रायफल को अंगुलियों पर रखकर हवा में नचा दिया। बिना देखे एक-दूसरे को रायफल का आदान-प्रदान किया।



## 85 years of imported air force

By Abhijit Bhattacharyya

*With the Indian Air Force celebrating 85 years tomorrow, it is time the government made efforts to equip the IAF with indigenous inventory and reduced its dependence on imported flying machines bought from the arms bazaar.*

No aspiring nation such as India can be counted upon in the international stage with (virtually) 100 per cent imported aerial assets of its air force. Indeed, the 21st century sovereign Indian state has to be serious and respectful to its own self to begin with. And try to eschew its hopeless and helpless dependence on foreign aircraft manufacturers which are understandably in the arms bazaar for business, profit, influence and arms twisting to maintain their geopolitical and geostrategic superiority and supremacy through high-price and fat profit. And sooner it happens, the better for Delhi. Till then, India's air force cannot expect to be a serious and powerful player, notwithstanding its impressive foreign-origin inventory. This would be applicable to all the three branches — Army, Navy, Air Force — which collectively continue to depend on critical war-fighting weapon systems (imported, instead of indigenous). India has to remember that it is the world's seventh largest land mass and second most populous country.

Further, being the world's fourth largest air force, as the Indian Air Force celebrates 85 years on October 8, 2017, successive ruling establishments in retrospect cannot escape the retribution of history for its monumental failure to make the IAF self-reliant and self-sufficient in its war preparation in the last 70 years. It is, therefore, time for the present incumbent of the state to make urgent course-correction to transform the IAF from a fighting force with imported flying machines to an organisation with indigenous aircraft inventory. Preferably, within the next five years. Otherwise, we stare at a dim long-term future for the IAF thereof, financially, industrially and logistically.

### India's import spree

Facts speak for themselves. The authoritative Military Balance 2017 (page 344-345) gives some idea about the expenditure and cost of imported military hardware pertaining to "selected arms procurements and deliveries." "182 Russian Sukhoi-30 MKI36 fighter ground attack (FGA) ordered 2000, Indian Rupees 382.7 billion or US \$ 6.83 billion, it was mixture of locally built, locally assembled and Russian-built aircraft. Delivery schedule changed in 2006 to meet new completion target of 2015/2016. Production suffered significant delays and is still going on." It is the "delay" which makes things critical for the forces. It further states: "36 French Rafale fighter ground attack (FGA) ordered 2016, Euro 7.8 billion (\$ 8.7 billion); 4 US Boeing P-8I Neptune anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft ordered 2016, \$ 1 billion; 7 US Lockheed Martin medium transport aircraft C-130J-30 Hercules ordered 2014, \$ 564.7 million; 22 US Boeing attack helicopter AH-64E Apache Guardian ordered 2015- 'contract value not known'; 15 US Boeing transport helicopter CH-47F Chinook ordered 2015- 'contract value not known'".

Military Balance 2013 too had the same story. Of import and "high price" paid by country for inability of the ruling class to make India self-sufficient in the aviation industry, thereby making a "free for all foreigners" to exact and extract Shylock-like price from the people of India. May be, the intention of Indian ruling class had always been bona fide, but that failed to convert it into a bona fide reality in the field of high-tech indigenous armament, especially aviation. Thus informed Military Balance 2013 (page 347): "8 US Boeing anti-submarine aircraft (ASW) P-8I Poseidon 2009, US \$ 2.1 billion; 10 US Boeing transport aircraft C-17A Globemaster III 2011, US \$ 4.1 billion." There are instances galore of India's import spree which gives an impression of some hidden hand compelling India to bank on foreign supply at the expense of all indigenisation initiative. Else, it is impossible to comprehend as to how a country which emphasised so much

on technology, education and science early, and went on to establish such institutions as IITs, IIMs, Indian Institute of Science, DRDO facilities across the country from the beginning, would fail so miserably to produce aircraft.

### **What can be done now**

Now, let us pause and ponder. What should be done now? Everything can be done; only by the federal government. Why? Because every nascent military aviation and major defence programme, as history shows, was initiated, supported and developed by the state. Both in the West as well as in China. Make no mistake. Aviation research, development, production and technology upgradation would require millions and billions of rupees. And no private sector corporation of the world is either going to invest in, or do charity to, a nation of 1.25 billion heads.

Though it sounds Rambo-like, India has to appoint a full-time (not part-time) Cabinet "minister of armaments and war production" to be in charge wholly and solely for defence production, thereby disconnecting him/her from other distractions for which the traditional Defence Minister of Cabinet rank would do.

Time has run out for India as both China and Pakistan have gone too far ahead of us in indigenisation of the military aviation industry. In fact, China has already penetrated rather deep, pinching, under the guise of civil aviation, and taking advantage of dual use aviation technology from the West.

Another focussed action has to be on decision-making time. Although things have improved, it needs to be remembered that we live in a "danger zone" of "hostile, irrational, reckless, neighbours" who collectively understand the concept of power coming out of the barrel of the gun. Hence, quick reaction decision time is of paramount importance because technological obsolescence is moving faster than the decision-making time in certain critical sectors. Thus, China today is indigenously producing at least four air superiority fighters; two attack fighters and strategic bomber XAC H-6. All with break-neck speed. One, however, has to remember that aircraft production has a long gestation period and that only those willing to invest long-term research and development will succeed. India undoubtedly began early, yet it somehow lost focus and tormented between import and indigenisation lobbies. As on date, the former has the upper hand; but to make the Indian Air Force a force of substance, it has to be indigenisation. Sooner the better. At 85, IAF certainly cannot be seen to be the torchbearer of western flying machine. That amounts to an affront to/on the civilian ruling class of India.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Sat, 07 Oct, 2017

## **Army Commanders' conference between October 9 & 15 - Army Commanders to discuss Doklam, China & Pakistan**

*By Shaurya Gurung*

*Planning & execution of key decisions for India's security to be discussed too*

The recently ended Doklam standoff and the continuing presence of Chinese soldiers near the confrontation site, besides other operational issues and challenges regarding Pakistan and China are likely to be discussed at the Army commanders' conference starting Monday .

The conference will also deliberate on ways to enhance operational preparedness to meet any challenges posed by two neighbours.

The conference being conducted from October 9-15 is an important event in the planning and execution of key decisions for India's security and strategic interests. It is held every year in April and October and will be Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's first such event, where she will address the top brass of the army , including Army Chief General Bipin Rawat and the Army commanders.

“In the first and plenary segment scheduled from October 9 to 12, the Army Commanders are expected to discuss current and emerging perspectives on issues related to operations, logistics, administration, human resource management and welfare of troops,” said a senior government official. The official added that this time there is a change in the conduct of the conference, as each Army Command will raise their views and concerns on different issues, which have a bearing on the field formations. In relation, there is likely to be discussions on the 73-day long standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in Doklam.

## THE ASIAN AGE

Sat, 07 Oct, 2017



Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman sits in the cockpit of an MIG 29 fighter aircraft of Indian Air Force during her visit to Jamnagar airbase on Friday. — PTI

## MAIL TODAY

Sat, 07 Oct, 2017

### Navy thwarts piracy bid in Gulf of Aden

In A Swift action, the Indian Navy on Friday thwarted a piracy attempt on an Indian merchant vessel MV Jag Amar in the Gulf of Aden while it was going to Saudi Arabia. “The Indian Navy’s INS Trishul, a stealth frigate, thwarted the attempt. The attack took place at around 12.30 pm.

The Indian Navy’s Marine Commandos are currently on board MV Jag Amar,” an Indian Navy spokesperson said. During the raid by Navy’s marine commandos, the forces have recovered one AK-47 assault rifle along with one magazine and 27 rounds while 12 suspected pirates in one skiff, grapnel and ladders have also been recovered. The operations ended on the 85,000 tonne merchant vessel on way to the port of Jubail in Saudi Arabia at 5.30pm on Friday evening.

INS Trishul is deployed in the Gulf of Aden to address any piracyrelated issues faced in the region along with the coast of Somalia in Africa. In the last six months, this is the third piracy attempt foiled by Indian Navy in the Gulf of Aden, a key shipping route near the southern tip of the Red Sea between Somalia and Yemen. In May, INS Sharda, had stopped pirates from taking control of a Liberian registered ship, the MV

Mountbatten. In April, the Indian and Chinese Navies had come together to protect a bulk carrier in the Gulf of Aden which had come under attack from pirates overnight. Foreign navies have been deployed off the Gulf of Aden to operate convoys and monitoring a transit corridor for ships to pass through vulnerable points. India had joined this effort in October 2008 and has escorted thousands of ships. Several attempts of piracy were foiled by the Indian Coast Guard ships near the Lakshadweep islands as Somalian pirates had hijacked big ships and were using them as mother vessels to travel into deep sea to launch attacks on oil tankers and bulk carriers to demand ransom money from insurance companies.



*Sat, 07 Oct, 2017*

## **VK: No need to worry about China road near Doklam**

*By Yeshika Budhwar*

Ex-Army chief and current minister of state for external affairs Gen (retd) V K Singh, who was in Dehradun on Friday to attend a seminar on military history at the Welham Boys' School, said that “there is no reason to worry on China widening road near Doklam.”

Singh said, “They can continue with the road work as long as it doesn't come near Indian territory . All countries have the right to undertake construction in their own territory and that is what China is doing now, but in case they try to come into the Indian side, we will stop them. As of now, things are stable between us and China. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already said that the world is big enough for both India and China. We have good trade relations with them and they continue even now.”

The minister also denied that there had been any intrusions in Barahoti in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand where there have been reports of Chinese soldiers entering the Indian side.



*Sat, 07 Oct, 2017*

## **IAF chopper crash in Arunachal kills 7**

*Mi-17 was carrying Army supplies*

A Mi-17 helicopter of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Arunachal Pradesh early on Friday morning, killing seven personnel on board.

“An Indian Air Force Mi-17 V5 helicopter crashed at around 06:59h on October 06 after getting airborne from a helipad north of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. This was the second routine air maintenance sortie of the day for the aircraft at a forward area,” IAF said in a statement.

The helicopter was carrying supplies to a forward post of the Army in the hilly terrain.

It crashed close to a dropping zone and caught fire immediately.

The seven defence personnel on board — five IAF and two Army personnel — suffered fatal injuries. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to establish the cause of the accident.

The crash comes two days ahead of Air Force Day on October 8 and is the second incident involving IAF helicopters in Arunachal Pradesh in three months.

An Advanced Light Helicopter of the IAF had crashed at Saglee in Papum Pare district on July 4, claiming the lives of all four on board.

## In a first, Army's command-based sessions this year

**SANJIB KR BARUAH**  
NEW DELHI, OCT. 6

In a first, all the Army commanders of the seven commands will put forth their views on various issues such as the Army's ongoing offensive in Kashmir and India-China relations in separate sessions during the biannual Army Commanders' Conference beginning from Monday to Sunday.

The commanders will put forth their ideas separately rather than jointly as was the practice in the past.

The meet will also discuss the issue of promotions to the ranks of lieutenant generals as well as official nominees for courses like in the National Defence College considered crucial for entering the ranks of the top echelons of the Indian Army.

The threat perception and nature of challenges that the Indian Army faced in the Doka La standoff is vastly different from the Army's ongoing offensive in Kashmir to corner and eliminate all hardcore militants before the onset of winter or the military operations

▶ **In a first, all the Army commanders of the seven commands will put forth their views separately on important issues**

against insurgents especially the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Khaplang faction) in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

While the first four days will be sessions open to all invitees, the last three days will be closed-door sessions that will focus on military operations.

The meet that undertakes a 360 degree look at the current emerging perspectives on issues relating to operations, logistics and welfare, assumes outmost significance with India transitioning from a country with a 'soft' image to a 'hard state' posture amid the acceptance by the military that all future wars expected to be "short, swift and intense".

The top Army brass will deliberate on the lessons learnt during the course of the operations as well as the future policies that need to be adopted.

## China Says It's Not Thrusting OBOR

China has played down the US criticism of the Belt and Road project, especially the controversial China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) artery, and denied that Beijing is trying to foist the project.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry told IANS that the CPEC, which goes through Pakistan-administered Kashmir that is claimed by India, was an economic project that does not target New Delhi.

Beijing also said that it “adhered to the ‘discuss, build, share’ concept and followed reasonable and transparent international economic and trade investment rules system”.

US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis on Wednesday slammed China’s Belt and Road initiative and backed India’s stance that the project passed through disputed territory.

“In a globalized world, there are many belts and many roads, and no one nation should put itself into a position of dictating ‘One Belt, One Road,’” Mattis told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee during a Congressional hearing.

“That said, the One Belt One Road also goes through disputed territory, and I think, that in itself shows the vulnerability of trying to establish that sort of a dictate,” Mattis said, referring to India’s concern over CPEC.

To this, China said that while the initiative was indeed its, more and more countries were willing to join the project.

“We have repeatedly said that the ‘one side’ initiative is made by China, but we always adhere to the ‘discuss, build, share’ concept ... discuss with everyone, together, and finally let everyone benefit,” the Foreign Ministry told IANS in a statement.

China has an ambitious plan to connect Asia, Africa and Europe through a maze of roads and waterways. Analysts, however, say it is not just an economic project and there is more to it than meets the eye.

India has openly opposed the Belt and Road, whose CPEC cuts through Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

India in May skipped the mega conference organised by China solely because of the CPEC.

## Trump plans to ‘decertify’ Iran nuclear deal

In a move that could possibly lead to a gradual collapse of the landmark Iran nuclear deal, US President Donald Trump is planning to announce next week that he would ‘decertify’ the deal and toss the prickly issue into the court of US Congress, which would then have 60 days to decide what to do.

Trump, who has all along attacked his predecessor Barack Obama’s administration for having negotiated an ‘embarrassing’ deal along with five other world powers, plans to declare that the pact is not in the US national interest, The Washington Post reported on Friday, citing persons briefed on the White House strategy.

Trump, however, was expected to refrain from recommending that Congress reimpose the Iran sanctions, thus staving off a move that could immediately trigger the unravelling of the deal. President Obama had lifted the crippling sanctions, paving the way for implementation of the deal that was reached between Iran and the P-5 powers (the US, Britain, China, France and Russia) plus Germany in July 2015.

There is no official word yet on the decertification plan and The Post, citing unnamed officials, spoke of the possibility that Trump's plans could still change. Michael Anton, spokesman for the White House National Security Council, confined himself to saying, "The administration looks forward to sharing details of our Iran strategy at the appropriate time."

Under the US law on the subject, the White House is required to notify Congress every 90 days whether Iran is in compliance with the terms of the accord and whether the agreement remains in the US national security interest. Since assumption of office, Trump has certified he deal twice and the next deadline is October 15.

If the President does not certify the agreement, the Congress then has a statutory 60-day period to decide whether to reimpose sanctions.

In enforcement of the accord that is backed by the UN Security Council, the International Atomic Energy Agency has periodically determined that Iran is meeting its obligations.

Significantly, Defence Secretary Jim Mattis and Gen. Joseph F Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, expressed qualified support for the deal during congressional testimony this week. Gen. Mattis also indicated that decertification need not spell the end of the deal.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said that he and other top national security aides would be presenting a couple of options to Trump and make a recommendation to him.

"You'll be hearing about Iran very shortly," Trump himself said while speaking ahead of a dinner with military officers on Thursday. Accusing Iran of not living up to the spirit of the agreement, he once again attacked it as a supporter of terror and violence.

"The Iranian regime supports terrorism and exports violence, bloodshed and chaos across the Middle East," he said. "That is why we must put an end to Iran's continued aggression and nuclear ambitions. They have not lived up to the spirit of their agreement."

Trump also caused raised eyebrows while taking photos with the military leaders and their spouses with an off-the-cuff comment that it was "the calm before the storm".

"You guys know what this represents? Maybe it's the calm before the storm," he told reporters during the photo session. When asked what he meant, Trump cryptically said: "You'll find out."



Sat, 07 Oct, 2017

## Nobel Peace Prize goes to ICAN

*Nuclear disarmament campaign group gets the recognition for its efforts to rid world of atomic bomb*

Nuclear disarmament campaign group the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for its efforts to rid the world of the atomic bomb, warning that Donald Trump's presidency showed how dangerous the weapons of mass destruction truly are.

More than 70 years since atomic bombs were used on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Nobel committee sought to highlight ICAN's tireless non-proliferation efforts as nuclear-related crises swirl around North Korea and Iran.

The decision sent a strong message at a time when Mr. Trump has threatened to tear up a 2015 deal curbing Iran's nuclear abilities. And the U.S. President last month alarmed delegates at the UN General Assembly by warning he may be forced to "totally destroy" North Korea because of its atomic weapons programme.

"We live in a world where the risk of nuclear weapons being used is greater than it has been for a long time," said Norwegian Nobel committee president Berit Reiss-Andersen in announcing the prize in Oslo.

"Some states are modernising their nuclear arsenals, and there is a real danger that more countries will try to procure nuclear weapons, as exemplified by North Korea."

However, she stressed that the committee's decision wasn't aimed at any particular world leader, adding: "We're not kicking anyone's leg with this prize."

Founded in Vienna in 2007, ICAN comprises more than 400 NGOs and has mobilised supporters and celebrities alike in its cause.

It was a key player in the adoption of a historic nuclear weapons ban treaty, signed at the UN by 122 countries in July.

Largely symbolic

However, the accord was largely symbolic as none of the nine known world nuclear powers put their names down. It still needs to be ratified before entering into force.

The U.S., Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea are all thought to possess weapons of mass destruction.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, ICAN's head Beatrice Fihn said Mr. Trump's movements over North Korea and Iran showed the clear danger posed by nuclear arms.

"The election of President Donald Trump has made a lot of people feel very uncomfortable with the fact that he alone can authorise the use of nuclear weapons," she said, adding that the U.S. leader had a track record of "not listening to expertise."

Although global atomic weapons stockpiles have plummeted — from around 64,000 warheads in 1986 at the height of the Cold War to more than 9,000 in 2017 according to the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists (BAS) — the number of nuclear-armed nations has grown.

Increasing pressure

Friday's award — the climax to a week of prize-giving honouring global luminaries in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine and literature — comes as a global nuclear deal with Iran is under increasing pressure from Mr. Trump.

The agreement struck in 2015 between Iran and world powers drastically curbed Tehran's nuclear enrichment capability in return for a lifting of punishing economic sanctions. Iran denies ever pursuing a bomb, insisting its nuclear programme is for peaceful energy production only.

But Mr. Trump has threatened to bin the accord altogether, and on Thursday criticised Iran's behaviour, telling military leaders in Washington that Tehran has "not lived up to the spirit of the agreement."

The U.S. leader, who has labelled the deal an "embarrassment", is planning to decertify it, the Washington Post and the New York Times reported on Friday, potentially paving the way for renewed sanctions on the Islamic republic.

Tensions have also soared between the U.S. and North Korea, which has test-fired two missiles over Japan and conducted a string of apparent underground nuclear tests this year.

"This is a time of great global tension, when fiery rhetoric could all too easily lead us, inexorably, to unspeakable horror," ICAN said.

'Shared commitment'

EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini also congratulated ICAN, tweeting: “We share a strong commitment to achieving the objective of a world free from nuclear weapons.”

But Russia, which according to BAS has the world’s largest atomic stockpile, said there was no alternative to “nuclear parity” to guarantee world peace.

“Russia is a responsible member of the nuclear club,” a spokesman for President Vladimir Putin told reporters in Moscow.

The Nobel committee has rewarded anti-nuclear weapons drives on several previous occasions, handing out the prestigious prize to Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov in 1975, the international non-proliferation IPPNW group in 1985, and the IAEA’s then head Mohamed El-Baradei 20 years later.

More than 300 people and organisations were thought to have been nominated for this year’s Peace Prize, including the UN’s refugee agency UNHCR, Syria’s White Helmets rescue service and Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege.

The Peace Prize, which comes with a gold medal and a cheque for nine million Swedish kronor (\$1.1 million) will be presented in Oslo on December 10, the anniversary of the death of its founder, Swedish philanthropist and dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel.



Sat, 07 Oct, 2017

## Space station gets a helping hand

*Astronauts replace faulty gripper*

Spacewalking astronauts have given the International Space Station’s big robot arm a new hand.

Commander Randy Bresnik and astronaut Mark Vande Hei accomplished the job on Thursday on the first of three NASA spacewalks planned over the next two weeks.

The latching mechanism on one end of the 58-foot robot arm malfunctioned in August. It needed to be replaced before the arrival of an Orbital ATK supply ship in November.

“All right, gentlemen, we show a good arm,” Mission Control radioed.

“That is great news, Houston,” Mr. Bresnik said. “Much rejoicing.” This bulky bundle of latches more than a metre long is used to grab visiting spacecraft, and provides power and data. The arm can also move like an inchworm across the space station by grabbing onto special fixtures.

**In orbit for 16 years** - The Canadian-built arm has been in orbit for 16 years. Engineers attribute the recent trouble to wear and tear. The original latching mechanisms, one on each end of the arm, have been used nearly 400 times. The latching mechanism on the opposite end will be replaced early next year.

It was the first spacewalk for Mr. Vande Hei, a rookie astronaut who arrived at the orbiting outpost a few weeks ago. “Congratulations, my friend, on becoming the 221st human to exit in your own personal spacecraft into the void of space,” said Mr. Bresnik, a veteran spacewalker.

“That’s it for all of the tender moments you’ll get from me,” Mr. Bresnik joked. “Now back to work.”

As the duo worked, they marvelled over the views of the earth below and the full moon above.

**More trips planned** - They’ll venture back out on Tuesday to lubricate the new mechanism and do other chores. The spacewalk lasted six hours and 55 minutes, almost a half hour longer than planned because the pair managed to tack on a few extra jobs that had been planned for next week.

Six astronauts — three Americans, two Russians and an Italian — currently live at the International Space Station.