

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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## **Safeguarding Indian coastline: Next generation maritime mobile coastal batteries to provide security net**

*The NGMMCB will directly enhance the Coastal defense capabilities of Indian Navy's existing Mobile Missile Coastal Battery (MMCB) Squadrons, which carry an older version of SSMs*

*By Huma Siddiqui*

Maritime security entails provision of a secure environment, both at and from the seas, which enhances national growth. According to the Indian Navy's chief Admiral Karambir Singh, "This maritime environment, however, is impacted by numerous trends and events, which are inimical to maritime security. Leading global powers are locked in a complex interplay across multiple domains, which include military, trade, technology, economic, climatic and many more issues affecting the strategic environment."

Earlier this month, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) of Ministry of Defence announced the induction of Next-Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (Long Range) or, NGMMCB. These NGMMCB units shall be equipped with supersonic BrahMos anti-ship missiles and operate as a cluster of Surface to Surface missile (SSM) complex along with a Command & Guidance mobile unit.

The NGMMCB will directly enhance the Coastal defense capabilities of Indian Navy's existing Mobile Missile Coastal Battery (MMCB) Squadrons, which carry an older version of SSMs.

"The BrahMos SSM is a two-stage missile, with a separable solid propellant booster as the first stage and the second stage as the liquid ramjet engine, which gives about 3 Mach supersonic speed during Cruise and Terminal phases. It is a 'fire and forget' low Radar Cross-section missile having few meters of low flying terminal altitude with a short non-interceptable flight path," explained Milind Kulshreshtha, Artificial Intelligence and C4I expert.

This super-sonic sea-skimming missile is hard to detect. Thus, any effective missile countermeasures by a hostile warship are futile. This happens because of the high level of kinetic energy due to supersonic speeds which makes the explosive warhead very potent so as to sink the ship on impact. In January 2019, against the backdrop of the 26/11 incident, the Indian Navy had undertaken the largest coastal defense exercise codenamed 'Sea Vigil', as reported earlier by Financial Express Online. The Exercise Sea Vigil was undertaken along the entire 7516.6 km coastline and EEZ involving 13 coastal States and Union Territories.

For augmenting Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) through the Coastal Radar chain and various other systems, a multi-tiered patrol, and surveillance mechanism which was focused on technical surveillance was undertaken. Real-time information sharing through the National Command Control Communication and Intelligence (NC3I) Network was achieved.

Apart from the Indian navy and the Coast Guard, the conduct of the exercise SEA VIGIL was also facilitated by the Ministries of Defence, Home Affairs, Shipping, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Fisheries, Customs, State Governments and other agencies of Centre/ State.

Definitely, a well-camouflaged NGMMCBs unit strategically positioned along the coast makes for a potent weapon as these are hard to detect and can deliver a fatal blow to an adversary lurking within its Weapon Engagement Zone, within no time.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/safeguarding-indian-coastline-next-generation-maritime-mobile-coastal-batteries-to-provide-security-net/1687834/>

## China planning 10 aircraft carriers, we need at least 3: Navy Chief

*The Indian Navy is homing in on electric propulsion for a planned future aircraft carrier*

*By Manu Pubby*

New Delhi: Raising an alarm over the ongoing expansion of the Chinese Navy that will rapidly add warships to its fleet in the next decade, navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh said India requires at least three aircraft carriers to meet operational needs in the region.

Strongly advocating the addition of another aircraft carrier to the Indian fleet—the only operating carrier currently is the INS Vikramaditya while an indigenous carrier is under construction at Kochi—the officer said China is projected to operate up to 10 of the warships by 2049.

The navy chief's comments come as a formal proposal to start work on the third aircraft carrier—planned to be the largest ever warship to be made in India—have not found favour with the defence ministry that has reservations on the funds required for the project.

“Our overall strategy is centred around the operation of Carrier Task Groups supported by multi-dimensional, state-of-the-art surface and air platforms... an aircraft carrier is central to IN's operating philosophy... accordingly, we are pursuing induction of the third carrier to ensure we have the requisite force levels to meet all operational imperatives,” the navy chief has said in his first detailed comments on the stalled project.

As reported by ET, the Indian Navy is homing in on electric propulsion for a planned future aircraft carrier, with a hybrid system likely to be considered for development, most likely in partnership with a US-based partner. As per preliminary design plans, the ship would displace 65,000 tons and would be of the CATOBAR (catapult assisted take off but arrested recovery) type.

The navy chief referred to an increasing Chinese Navy presence in the Indian Ocean Region as well as its plans to expand forces to drive home the point that a third aircraft carrier is of urgent need. “It is pertinent to mention that the PLA(N) (Peoples Liberation Army Navy) is projected to have a force level of five to six aircraft carriers within the next decade and up to 10 carriers by 2049,” he said.

The defence ministry has been going slow on what some consider a prohibitively expensive naval programme, with officials suggesting optimal utilisation of resources for other critical purchases, like submarines and advanced frigates. By conservative estimates, the cost of construction of the carrier itself, without the aircraft, would exceed Rs 70,000 crore.

The navy, however, is certain that the way of the future is to operate aircraft carrier battle groups that can project power. The logic is that a third carrier is needed to ensure that at least two are at sea at any given point. The INS Vikramaditya is based at Karwar while the indigenous INS Vikrant that is under construction will be based at Visakhapatnam. The third carrier would be rotated around whenever one of these is in refit or in need for repairs.

The navy chief also pointed to a power competition for the maritime domain, referring to the increase in Chinese force levels to match the US that uses carriers as its main weapon to project power worldwide. “The ongoing crisis in the straits of Hormuz, confrontations in the South China Sea and increasing use of naval platforms for political signalling are unmistakable fallouts of the great power competition in the maritime domain,” Admiral Singh said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-planning-10-aircraft-carriers-we-need-at-least-3-navy-chief/articleshow/70864740.cms>

## **Former Navy Chiefs on reduced share in defence budget: Short-sighted decision, may lead to stagnation**

*Asked by the media if the budgetary cut had affected any of the Navy's projects, Admiral Singh had said, "Because of the budgetary allocation, we had to do a little bit of revamp of the procurement plan. So yes, it has to a limited extent."*

*By Sushant Kulkarni*

Pune: Reacting to the recent statement by Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh — that the Indian Navy's share in the defence budget has come down, which has forced a revamp of its procurement plan — two former Navy chiefs have said that the said reduction was a short-sighted policy and may lead to stagnation.

Delivering the General B C Joshi Memorial Lecture in Pune on Monday, Admiral Singh had said, "Long-term budgetary projections and understanding of resource envelope are important to plan comprehensive capability development. Specifically, in case of the Indian Navy, we were 18 per cent of the defence budget in 2012-13, now we are down to 13 per cent. This way, we find it very difficult to move with the nation, which wants to become a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2024 and give it impetus on the maritime front."

Asked by the media if the budgetary cut had affected any of the Navy's projects, Admiral Singh had said, "Because of the budgetary allocation, we had to do a little bit of revamp of the procurement plan. So yes, it has to a limited extent."

Admiral Arun Prakash (retired), who was Chief of Naval Staff between August 2004 and October 2006, said, "The Navy has been getting the least share traditionally, but there was a realisation that the share should increase considering the fact that India is a maritime nation. And it had started going up. We had hoped that it would reach around 25 per cent. But if it has gone down, then it is a very short-sighted policy decision. So, the Navy chief is right in expressing his displeasure. Ship-building takes five to six years, at times we import and it is very important that bills are paid on time."

Admiral Prakash added, "China's PLA Navy is increasingly present in our waters. At a time when we call ourselves the net provider of security in the Indian Ocean Region, then reduction in the share is dichotomous to that notion. A major chunk of our trade comes by sea, so does a major chunk of energy in the form of oil and gas. As much as 40 per cent of our GDP comes from trade and 97 per cent of that trade is sea-borne. If this trade can't be protected adequately, then the growth is in danger."

The Army is a manpower-intensive force but Navy is heavily dependent on technology, so cutting back on that is never an option."

Admiral Sureesh Mehta (retired), who was the Chief of Naval Staff between November 2006 and August 2009, said, "If such reduction has happened, it is going to affect the implementation of the expansion plans of Navy and may lead to a stagnation scenario. The conditions in the Indian Ocean Region are currently hot, with China trying to increase its presence in the region."

Admiral Mehta added, "Ship-building is a cumbersome, time-consuming process and is capital-intensive. It needs suitable budgetary support. The Indian Navy, among the three forces, was the first to get onto the path of indigenisation. But these processes need sustained budgetary support for a long time. Operational ships also need large budgets for spares, maintenance and overhaul. Life expired

ammunition and missiles cannot be carried on board and often have to be replaced by in-date ones. These processes might get affected by reduction in budgetary share.”

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/former-navy-chiefs-on-reduced-share-in-defence-budget-short-sighted-decision-may-lead-to-stagnation-5942895/lite/>



Wed, 28 Aug 2019

## **Indian Army hands over 10 Tata Safari Storme SUVs to Myanmar Army**

*The Tata Safari Storme will now become the primary vehicle of the Indian Army. That said, the Army has received a waiver from the Ministry of Defence against the new emission and safety norms for the continued use as well as the procurement of Maruti Suzuki Gypsys for patrolling over tough terrains*

*By Ayush Arya*

The Indian Army has handed over 10 military-spec Tata Safari Storme SUVs to the Myanmar Army. The said vehicles were handed over by the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar. According to a recent tweet by ANI, the delivery of the vehicles to was promised to the Myanmar Commander-in-Chief by the Indian Army Chief General Bipin Rawat in his recent visit to India. The Tata Safari Storme is the new chariot of the Indian Army. It is set to replace the ageing Maruti Suzuki Gypsy which will be removed from the Army's fleet in a phased manner. The reason for the replacement comes in the wake of the upcoming safety and emission regulations which the Gypsy is not going to meet.

The Tata Safari Storme and the Mahindra Scorpio were in contention to be the replacement vehicle for the Indian Army and were undergoing trials for the last five years. Ultimately, it was the former that was chosen as Tata Motors made the lowest bid. The Army had placed an order to 3,192 units of the Safari Storme to Tata Motors of which more than 90 per cent has already been delivered. That said, the Indian Army recently approached the Ministry of Defence in order to allow them with a waiver over the new emission and safety regulations, which it received and hence placed an order to 3,051 units of the Gypsy to Maruti Suzuki.

The reason cited by the Indian Army for the continued use of the Maruti Suzuki Gypsy is the smaller dimensions of the vehicle, in comparison to that of the Tata Safari Storme, allows them to easily tread the narrow paths that the Army has to encounter while patrolling in Kashmir as well as the northeastern states. In addition to this, the military-spec Tata Safari Storme is only available with a hard-top configuration while the Maruti Suzuki Gypsy comes with hard as well as soft-top models allowing the Army with greater flexibility.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/auto/car-news/indian-army-hands-over-10-tata-safari-storme-suvs-to-myanmar-army/1687378/>

## Astra Rafael opens facility for defence communication system

*JV poised to become first private sector firm to make software defined radios*

Hyderabad: A state-of-the-art, over 20,000 sq ft facility of an Indo-Israel joint venture to design, develop and manufacture tactical communication systems for Indian armed forces was inaugurated here on Tuesday.

With this, Astra Rafael Communication System (ARC), the JV, has positioned itself to become India's first private sector firm to manufacture cutting-edge software defined radios in multiple variants. While the initial focus will be software defined radios and supplies to the country's defence forces, the 51:49 JV between Astra Microwave and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems intends to over the time get into development and manufacture of a wide range of other advanced capabilities and export too.

In a media interaction, after Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the facility, Astra Microwave Products managing director S. Gurunatha Reddy said the JV "will be doing something for Defence communication, more specifically in manufacturing of software defined radios to start with. Later, we will graduate into design and development of various equipment for defence communication, get into electronic warfare and signal intervention systems".

### **\$30 million order**

The JV partners have invested nearly ₹ 35 crore. The facility, located in the Hardware Technology Park, is executing a \$30 million order from Rafael, which the Israel firm in turn received from Indian Air Force. The order will be executed in next 24 months. An R&D centre to be set up as a part of the facility, within 18 months, would work on products the JV would manufacture down the line, he added.

Rafael's president and CEO Maj Gen (Ret) Yoav Har-Even said the facility will make BNET software defined radios, the world's most advanced battle communication system in use by Israeli's defence forces and other advanced militarys around the world. Another JV of Rafael, with Kalyani Group, is also in Hyderabad and had recently bagged a \$100 million contract from the Israeli partner. A release said ARC has commenced operations with 32 personnel, largely comprising skilled technical manpower, and planned to provide employment to an estimated 185 personnel in the next two years.

### **Equipping security forces**

Mr. Kishan Reddy said the Centre is "committed to ensuring that the security forces are adequately equipped to safeguard the nation against all kinds of threat, both internal and external". "Creating defence industries and technological capabilities which can empower our security forces to meet these challenges effectively is an important component of this commitment," he added.

Telangana Industries and IT Secretary Jayesh Ranjan described the opening of the facility as "another milestone day in the defence and aerospace landscape of Telangana and Hyderabad... the most thriving, most dynamic defence cluster in the country." Ambassador of Israel Ron Malka, COO of ARC Brig Ravi Hariharan also spoke.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/astra-rafael-opens-facility-for-defence-communication-system/article29272299.ece>

# Government to name new IAF Chief soon, what will be the big task for BS Dhanoa's successor?

*The Indian Air Force is facing the depleting fighter squadron strength and even the new Rafale jets won't be sufficient to improve that*

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- *IAF Chief BS Dhanoa will retire on September 30.*
- *Air Marshals B Suresh and R Nambiar are in the race of next IAF chief.*
- *Improving IAF's squadron strength will be the big task for new chief.*

New Delhi: The Narendra Modi government is expected to name the new Indian Air Force (IAF) chief very soon. While the government has already appointed new cabinet secretary and defence secretary, the next IAF chief's appointment is still pending. The successor of current IAF chief BS Dhanoa, who is set to retire on September 30, will be decided by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by the prime minister. Since PM Modi has returned from his three-nation tour, the decision is expected in the next few days.

### **Who are in the race of new IAF chief?**

Usually, the senior-most Indian Air Force officer of the senior-most batch is chosen as the Chief of the Air Staff. The appointment, however, is approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet and the appointee's abilities and confidence with the prime minister are also considered. As far as the successor of BS Dhanoa is concerned, Air Marshals B Suresh and R Nambiar are the two senior officers in contention.

Suresh is the chief of Southern Air Command and Nambiar is the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Air Command and looks after all the aerial operations along the borders with Pakistan. While the Southern Air Command chief is the senior most officer after BS Dhanoa, Nambiar is equally competent and their elevation will depend on decision of the Appointments Committee.

According to reports, another name, Air Marshal Rakesh Bhadauria, who is the current Vice Chief of Air Staff, is also in the race. Although Bhadauria's name was not in the file first sent to the PMO. He was one of the key negotiators of the Rafale fighter aircraft deal with the Government of France and Dassault Aviation, the firm responsible for manufacturing the fighter jet.

Although, he is set to retire on September 30, there is a precedent in the Air Force that allows two men retiring on the same day to have been IAF chiefs. On July 31, 1991, both Air Marshal NC Suri and Air Chief Marshal SK Mehra retired as AIR chiefs. This happened because Mehra retired earlier in the day and Suri became the Chief. Later in the day, he also retired.

### **What will be the daunting task ahead for new IAF chief?**

The Indian Air Force is facing the depleting fighter squadron strength and even the new Rafale jets won't be sufficient to improve that. And to improve this, the Air Force needs major reforms in terms of strategy and systems. As of now, the Air Force has a strength of 30 squadrons against the sanctioned 42. And even if we include the two Rafale squadrons, that are expected to be delivered by 2020, the total strength would be 32.

This also includes 44-year-old MiG-21 fighter jets. Recently, IAF Chief Dhanoa while speaking at a seminar on modernisation and indigenisation of the Indian Air Force had said that people don't even drive cars that old. The basic version of the Russian fighter jet, the MiG-21 had joined the Indian Air Force in 1973-74.

When Pakistan violated Indian air space after Balakot air strike, Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman had flied Mig 21 Bison, an upgraded version of the same aircraft. Although he did shot down an enemy jet, his own plane was also downed by a Pakistani F16 and Varthaman got captured. This was a major embarrassment as a country like Pakistan has better fighter jets than India.

The MiG-21 has seen several crashes over the years. India has lost more than half of its MiG combat fleet of 872 aircraft over the last 40 years. So, who ever replaces BS Dhanoa, the new IAF chief will have two big tasks - modernisation of the Indian Air Force and improving its squadron strength.

<https://www.newsnation.in/india-news/government-to-name-new-iaf-chief-soon-what-will-be-the-big-task-for-bs-dhanoas-successor-article-235615.html>



Wed, 28 Aug 2019

## **S Dhami becomes first female Flight Commander in Indian Air Force**

*Dhami took over as Flight Commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase, recently*

New Delhi: Indian Air Force's Wing Commander S Dhami has become the first female officer in the country to become the Flight Commander of a flying unit.

Dhami took over as Flight Commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase, recently.

She is a permanent commission officer of the flying branch in the Air Force and has been flying choppers.

Flight Commander is the second in command of the unit meaning that she is the number two in the unit after the commanding officer.

Her elevation in the flying branch is moving a step closer towards women officers commanding units and formations in the service.

<https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-s-dhami-becomes-first-female-flight-commander-in-indian-air-force-2785452>

## BRAVO: एस धामी बर्नी देश की पहली महिला

### फ्लाईंग यूनिट कमांडर, रच दिया इतिहास

**भारतीय वायु सेना की विंग कमांडर एस धामी ने देश की पहली महिला अधिकारी बन देश की हर बेटी का सिर फर्क से ऊंचा कर दिया है. एस धामी फ्लाईंग यूनिट की फ्लाइट कमांडर बनी हैं.**

*By: वंदना यादव*

**नई दिल्ली:** देश की बेटियां हर फील्ड में अपना नाम रोशन कर रही हैं. सेना में लड़कियां कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर दुश्मन का सामना करने के लिए तैयार हो रही हैं. [भारतीय वायु सेना की विंग कमांडर](#) एस धामी ने देश की पहली महिला अधिकारी बन देश की हर बेटी का सिर फर्क से ऊंचा कर दिया है. एस धामी फ्लाईंग यूनिट की फ्लाइट कमांडर बनी हैं और उन्होंने हिंडन एयर बेस में चेतक हेलिकॉप्टर यूनिट के फ्लाइट कमांडर का पदभार संभाला. फ्लाइट कमांडर यूनिट की कमान में यह दूसरा पोस्ट है.

पंजाब के लुधियाना में पली-बढ़ी हाई स्कूल के दिनों से ही पायलट बनना चाहती थीं. करियर में ऊंचाइयां छू रहीं धामी एक नौ साल के बच्चे की मां हैं. 15 के अपने करियर में एस धामी ने चेतक और चीता हेलिकॉप्टर उड़ाती रही हैं. विंग कमांडर धामी चेतक और चीता हेलिकॉप्टरों के लिए भारतीय वायुसेना की पहली महिला योग्य फ्लाईंग इंस्ट्रक्टर भी हैं.



Indian Air Force's Wing Commander S Dhami has become the first female officer in the country to become the Flight Commander of a flying unit. She took over as Flight Commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon air base. Flight Commander is the second in command of the unit. [pic.twitter.com/JRTzYATGMP](https://pic.twitter.com/JRTzYATGMP)

— ANI (@ANI) August 27, 2019

बता दें कि भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों में महिलाओं ने 26 अगस्त को विंग कमांडर शालिजा धामी की नियुक्ति के साथ एक और मील का पत्थर स्थापित किया जो भारतीय वायु सेना की संचालन इकाई की पहली महिला उड़ान कमांडर बनीं. विंग कमांडर धामी भी IAF की पहली महिला अधिकारी हैं जिन्हें लंबे कार्यकाल के लिए स्थायी कमीशन प्रदान किया जाएगा. दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय में एक कठिन कानूनी लड़ाई जीती और महिला अधिकारियों को अपने पुरुष समकक्षों के साथ स्थायी कमीशन पर विचार करने का अधिकार मिला.

<https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/lifestyle/wing-commander-s-dhami-become-the-first-female-officer-to-become-the-flight-commander-of-a-flying-unit/567587>

## **Soldiers in non-combat branches to get 2 additional service years**

*The government has “in-principle” cleared a proposal to offer an additional two years of service to such personnel, which will eventually be expanded to cover other army wings, a senior official who did not want to be named said*

*By Sudhi Ranjan Sen*

New Delhi: Soldiers recruited to non-combat branches of the Indian Army will be eligible for two more years of service, a move aimed at retaining skilled personnel for a longer duration, reduce pressure on training institutions and pare the army’s pension bill.

The government has “in-principle” cleared a proposal to offer an additional two years of service to such personnel, which will eventually be expanded to cover other army wings, a senior official who did not want to be named said.

Soldiers working with the Army Medical Corps as nursing and medical attendants, drivers attached to various wings of the army, those recruited as clerks and so on will be among the immediate beneficiaries of the move.

In addition, the government has cleared promotion of army jawans to the next rank – Naik - after seven years provided they clear a promotion board, putting them on par with counterparts in the navy and air force. “This will lead to quicker promotion and reduce the age profile of the men in the Indian Army,” a senior army official said. The quicker promotion will benefit several hundreds of thousands of soldiers

Typically, soldiers join the Indian army at the age of 17 years. A majority of them go home at the age of 37 -38. After serving 15 years in the army, a soldiers becomes eligible for a pension.

Under the proposal, after 15 years, an army jawan can opt for an additional two years of service, which would be cleared by the unit he is attached to, meaning that he becomes eligible for a pension after that much longer Some 100,000 soldiers are likely to benefit.

In addition, the Indian army is considering increasing the service span of all jawans in other branches, including combat units, to about 58 years as well, a second senior official said. “The seven Commands of the Indian Army has been asked for their views on increasing the service life of jawans in other wings including combat arms, too,” a second senior official said.

“On average, the Indian army spends three-five years to train a jawan to handle complicated medical procedures before they are deployed in medical units. They get hired by established medical chains as soon as hey leave the military. Increasing the years of service will lead to retaining trained manpower and retaining talent within the organization,” a third senior official who did not want to be named said.

In addition to retaining skilled personnel, lengthening the duration of service will also reduce pressure on training institutions of the army and will help the Indian military cut down its revenue expenditure.

“The burgeoning pension budget of the Indian Army will be arrested to some extent,” a senior Indian army officer who did not want to be named said and added, “increasing the service life of the soldier was conceived by the Chief of Army Staff Bipin Rawat.”

Importantly, besides retaining talent and cutting down pension bills, “the chief also feels sending jawans home in their late 30s was devised and was suitable for yesteryears when the average life span was shorter,” a second senior Indian Army officer who is aware of the details said.

“It is a welcome move and it is the larger interest of the organization. Our tradesmen, for instance, the nursing staff, clerks etc are extremely well trained,” said lieutenant general Jaswant Sandhu (retd.), who commanded the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps and was also the military secretary of the Indian Army

“There is a benefit to the army as an organization. Retaining a trained workforce and talent reduces cost. Importantly, an additional two years won’t also affect the individual who wants to leave the military for a better opportunity,” Sandhu added.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/soldiers-in-support-roles-to-get-2-additional-service-yrs/story-AP7XFw0BYmS6XbD8oEs9yM.html>



Wed, 28 Aug 2019

## **Aye, Robot: Capsule carrying Russia's Humanoid FEDOR finally docks at ISS**

*By RFE/RL*

Russia: A second attempt to dock a Russian Soyuz spacecraft carrying a Russian humanoid robot to the International Space Station (ISS) has been successful.

“While the spacecraft were flying about 250 miles [400 kilometers] above Eastern Mongolia, an uncrewed Russian Soyuz spacecraft arrived and docked” at the ISS at 03:00 GMT on August 27, NASA said in a blog.

"Docking is registered," a commentator at Roscosmos’s mission control center in Korolyov, in the Moscow region, said, according to TASS news agency.

The Soyuz MS-14 is carrying FEDOR, an experimental Russian robot, as well as supplies, following a failed docking attempt on August 24.

The ISS port where the Soyuz MS-14 docked was freed before midnight on August 25 by a three-man crew aboard a Soyuz MS-13.

The humanoid robot is scheduled to stay at the space laboratory until September 7 as it learns how to assist astronauts at the ISS.

Russia hopes that future models of FEDOR, an acronym for the Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, will be developed to carry out extravehicular activities.

A General Motors-designed humanoid called Robonaut 2 made it to space in 2011 with the similar purpose of working in high-risk environments. It returned to Earth in 2018 after technical problems.

Japan also sent the Toyota-developed Kirobo robot to space in 2013.

The ISS has been orbiting Earth since 1998 at a speed of 28,000 kilometers per hour.

*(Based on reporting by Reuters, AFP, and TASS)*

<https://www.rferl.org/a/shuttle-carrying-russian-humanoid-robot-docks-at-space-station/30130828.html>