

Hypersonic vehicle programme to be back on track soon

DRDO programme was reviewed by Union minister Rajnath Singh last week as part of a larger audit of the research body

By Manu Pubby

New Delhi: Hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle (HSTDV) programme is being put back on track after the first developmental trial failed to meet test parameters. Scientists are expecting success within four months.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) programme, which will have futuristic applications for next generation missiles and aerial systems, was reviewed by Union minister Rajnath Singh last week as part of a larger audit of the research body.

Scientists are confident that another test can be carried out in less than four months after identifying what went wrong in the first trial last week, when Agni-I missile platform carrying HSTDV could not reach the desired altitude, sources said.

Singh, who was present during the June 12 trial in Odisha, later reviewed the progress at DRDO headquarters and met scientists who had worked on HSTDV.

Sources told ET that the June 12 trial was successful in the first and second stages when the Agni-I missile carrying the HSTDV took off from the Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha but the test vehicle was not released. The missile lost control mid-way through the flight path and HSTDV could not be tested during the trial, indicating that the fault could be localised.

While this could come as a worry for the strategic forces who have the Agni-I in active service, an investigation is on to find the exact reason for the failure. DRDO is testing HSTDV that has to demonstrate its ability to fly at speeds in excess of Mach 6 while using atmospheric oxygen as oxidizer. Other nations that have demonstrated this technology are the US, Russia, Japan, China and the European Agency.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/hypersonic-vehicle-programme-to-be-back-on-track-soon/articleshow/69835671.cms>

Research should be main focus of students: DRDO Chairman G Satheesh Reddy

He was speaking at the seventh annual convocation of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research(IISER)

Thiruvananthapuram: Research is crucial to the country's development and instilling a culture of research on campuses across the country is of paramount importance, G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Defence Research and Development Organisation chairman, said here on Saturday.

He was speaking at the seventh annual convocation of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research(IISER).

“It is heartening to see more female students passing out from the institution. It is even more great to know that 90 per cent of the students are going to pursue research. Many of the students are going to foreign universities for the same. It is extremely important to learn from the best in the world. Also, come back and teach everyone what you have learnt rather than stay back. We are making leaps and bounds in many sectors. The missions announced by the ISRO chief the other day are crucial. We will be sending a man into space within two years. This are the kind of achievements we are planning to realise in the coming years,” he said.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/2019/jun/16/research--should-be-main-focus-of-students-department-of-defence-rd--1990756.html>