

DRDO identifies 20 acres for AMCA project in Coimbatore

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'IAF is looking for instrumentation and calibration from industries'*

The Defence Corridor to come up in Coimbatore will get a major boost with the country's premier defence project of making the Advance Medium Compact Aircraft (AMCA) expected to take shape here.

Air Marshal B. Suresh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Air Command, said here on Wednesday that 20 acres had been identified by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the AMCA project in Coimbatore.

"Air Force Station Sullur is unique that it's the IAF's only airbase to accommodate and operate fighter, transport, and helicopter aircraft together. It is one of the most active air bases of the IAF. The Defence Minister last month announced the opening of the Tamil Nadu Defence Corridor of which Coimbatore is an integral part. With that happening, Sullur will gain added importance," said Air Marshal Suresh at Air Force Station, Sullur.

According to him, Coimbatore is a hub of industries and that is one of the reasons why the Defence Minister has announced the opening of Defence Corridor here.

"When we talk about the aviation industry, we need to have an ecosystem around it. IAF is already looking for instrumentation and calibration from industries here," he said.

A. K. Puntambekar, Air Officer Commanding at Air Force Station, Sullur, said, "We have interactions with the industry regularly in the form of seminars and conferences wherein we have got encouraging participation. Our demands and the capabilities of the local industries are worked out in such interactions. As a result, over the years, we have been able to develop many indigenous items for fighter and transport aircraft which are already in service and use".

Adding more on the indigenisation, Air Marshal Suresh said that IAF was till able to operate very old aircraft by developing parts for them as procuring spares was difficult.

"So there is a need for indigenisation. Not many people know that IAF has indigenised 47,000 to 49,000 lines of spares. These range from small parts to major components. That is where the strength of Coimbatore is and it is the future," he said.

Citing the commendation for indigenously developed Light Compact Aircraft from every quarters, Air Marshal Suresh pointed out that it was not affordable to keep depending on foreign supplies.

"Make in India has a very strong thrust. For this, we need to have a system, skill care centre and an industry in place. That is where the strength of Coimbatore lies. So, whatever we have now will be multiplied tenfold. I can assure you that this will happen in the next five to ten years," he said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/drdo-identifies-20-acres-for-amca-project-in-coimbatore/article26394363.ece>

ISRO to launch defence satellite in March for DRDO

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In a special mission in March, the Indian space agency will launch an electronic intelligence satellite Emisat for the DRDO, 28 third party satellites and also demonstrate its new technologies like three different orbits with a new variant of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket, said a top official. The exact date has not been specified yet.

"It is a special mission for us. We will be using a PSLV rocket with four strap-on motors. Further, for the first time we will be trying to orbit the rocket at three different altitudes," K. Sivan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) told IANS. "The main passenger for the PSLV rocket will be the defence intelligence satellite Emisat belonging to Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

"The satellite weighs about 420 kg. The 28 satellites belonging to our customers would cumulatively weigh about 250 kg," Sivan said. The DRDO's Emisat is an electronic intelligence satellite, he added. The ISRO will also be launching two more defence satellites sometime in July/August with its new rocket Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).

In January, the space agency launched a defence imaging satellite Microsat R for the DRDO. Sivan said, after launching Emisat at an altitude of 763 km, the rocket will be brought down to put into orbit the 28 satellites at an altitude of 504 km. "Following that the rocket will be brought down further to 485 km where the fourth stage will turn into a payload platform carrying three experimental payloads - one developed by the students of Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, besides ISRO's own technology demonstrator and a Hamsat," Sivan said.

The PSLV is a four-stage engine expendable rocket with alternating solid and liquid fuel. In its normal configuration, the rocket will have six strap-on motors hugging the rocket's first stage. On January 24, the ISRO flew a PSLV with two strap-on motors while in March it will have four strap-on motors. The Indian space agency also has two more PSLV variants viz Core Alone (without any strap-on motors) and PSLV-XL a larger rocket. The ISRO selects the kind of rocket to be used based on the weight of satellites it carries.

<https://www.news18.com/news/tech/enemies-alert-isro-to-launch-defence-satellite-in-march-for-drdo-2050049.html>