

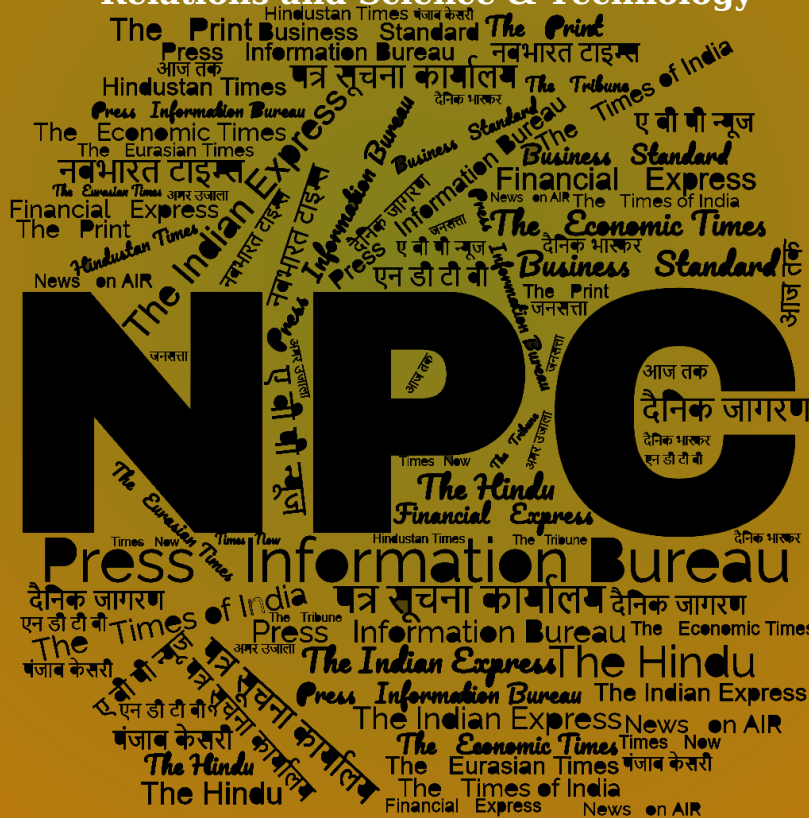
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समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

डीआरडीओ समुदाय को डीआरडीओ प्रौद्योगिकियों, रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकियों, रक्षा नीतियों, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंधों और विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी की नूतन जानकारी से अवगत कराने हेतु दैनिक सेवा

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पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
भारत सरकार

रक्षा मंत्रालय

Thu, 01 Feb 2024

स्पेस डिफेंस टेक्नोलॉजी में बड़ी छलांग: डीआरडीओ के प्रौद्योगिकी विकास कोष के तहत तैयार ग्रीन प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम ने ऑर्बिट में अपनी कार्यक्षमता को सफलतापूर्वक प्रदर्शित किया

डीआरडीओ की प्रौद्योगिकी विकास निधि (टीडीएफ) योजना के तहत तैयार एक ग्रीन प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम ने पीएसएलवी सी-58 मिशन द्वारा लॉन्च किए गए पेलोड पर ऑर्बिट में कार्यक्षमता का सफलतापूर्वक प्रदर्शन किया है। एल्टीट्यूड कंट्रोल और माइक्रो सैटेलाइट को ऑर्बिट में रखने के लिए '1 एन क्लास ग्रीन मोनोप्रोपेलेंट थ्रस्टर' नाम के इस प्रोजेक्ट को बंगलुरु स्थित स्टार्ट-अप बेलाट्रिक्स एयरोस्पेस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (विकास एजेंसी) को दिया गया था।

इसरो टेलीमेट्री, ट्रैकिंग और कमांड नेटवर्क (आईएसटीआरएसी), बंगलुरु में पीएसएलवी ऑर्बिटल एक्सपेरिमेंटल मॉड्यूल (पीओईएम) से टेलीमेट्री डेटा को ग्राउंड लेवल सॉल्यूशन के साथ मान्यता दी गई है और इसने सभी प्रदर्शन मापदंडों से अधिक प्रदर्शन किया है।

इस नई तकनीक के चलते लो ऑर्बिट स्पेस के लिए नॉन-टॉक्सिक और पर्यावरण-फ्रेंडली प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम तैयार हुआ है। इस प्रणाली में स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित प्रोपेलेंट, फिल और ड्रेन वाल्व, लैच वाल्व, सोलेनॉइड वाल्व, कैटलिस्ट बेड, ड्राइव इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स आदि शामिल हैं। यह हाई थ्रस्ट आवश्यकताओं वाले स्पेस मिशन के लिए आदर्श है।

पूरा प्रोजेक्ट डीआरडीओ के प्रोजेक्ट मॉनिटरिंग एंड मेंटरिंग ग्रुप के मार्गदर्शन में विकास एजेंसी द्वारा किया गया है। इसने वैक्यूम में पल्सड मोड में और स्टेडी मोड में फायरिंग, बाहरी अंतरिक्ष में बचे हुए प्रोपेलेंट को निष्क्रिय करने, प्रोपेलेंट प्राप्ति और टीडीएफ के तहत भरने की प्रक्रिया की सफल स्थापना का प्रदर्शन किया है।

टीडीएफ रक्षा मंत्रालय का एक प्रमुख कार्यक्रम है, जिसे रक्षा और एयरोस्पेस, विशेषकर स्टार्ट-अप और एमएसएमई में इनोवेशन की फंडिंग के लिए 'मेक इन इंडिया' पहल के तहत डीआरडीओ द्वारा क्रियान्वित किया जाता है।

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2001340>



Thu, 01 Feb 2024

Big Leap in Space Defence Technology: Green Propulsion System, Developed under DRDO's Technology Development Fund, Successfully Demonstrates In-orbit Functionality

A Green Propulsion System, developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme of DRDO, has successfully demonstrated in-orbit functionality on a payload launched by PSLV C-58 mission. This project - 1N Class Green Monopropellant thruster for altitude control and orbit keeping of micro satellite - was sanctioned to a Bengaluru-based start-up Bellatrix Aerospace Pvt Ltd (Development Agency).

The Telemetry Data from PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru has been validated with ground level solution and is found to have exceeded all performance parameters.

This innovative technology has resulted in non-toxic and environment-friendly propulsion system for low orbit space. The system consists of indigenously-developed Propellant, Fill and Drain Valves, Latch Valve, Solenoid Valve, Catalyst Bed, Drive Electronics, etc. It is ideal for space mission with high thrust requirements.

The complete project has been carried out by the Development Agency under guidance of Project Monitoring & Mentoring Group of DRDO. It has demonstrated pulsed mode and steady state firing in vacuum, passivation of residual propellant in outer space, propellant realisation and establishing of filling procedure under the TDF.

The TDF is a flagship programme of Ministry of Defence executed by DRDO under the 'Make in India' initiative for funding innovation in defence and aerospace, especially to start-ups and MSMEs.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2001210>

अमर उजाला

Thu, 01 Feb 2024

अंतरिक्ष रक्षा तकनीक के क्षेत्र में बड़ी छलांग, ग्रीन प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम ने किया अपनी क्षमता का प्रदर्शन

स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित ग्रीन प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम कक्षा (ऑर्बिट) ने अपनी कार्यक्षमता का सफलतापूर्वक प्रदर्शन किया है। इसे पीएसएलवी सी-58 से एक पेलोड पर लॉन्च किया गया था। रक्षा मंत्रालय ने इसे अंतरिक्ष रक्षा तकनीक के क्षेत्र में बड़ी छलांग बताया है। ग्रीन प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम को रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) की प्रौद्योगिकी विकास निधि (टीडीएफ) योजना के तहत विकसित किया गया है। रक्षा मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा, यह अंतरिक्ष रक्षा तकनीक के क्षेत्र में बड़ी छलांग है। टीडीएफ योजना के तहत विकसित ग्रीन प्रोपल्शन सिस्टम ने ऑर्बिट में सफलतापूर्वक अपनी कार्यक्षमता का प्रदर्शन किया है। मंत्रालय ने कहा, पीएसएलवी सी-58 मिशन के

तहत लॉन्च इस सिस्टम ने सफलतापूर्वक प्रदर्शन किया। इस परियोजना के लिए बंगलूरु स्थित स्टार्ट-अपर बेलाट्रिक्स एयरोस्पेस लिमिटेड को मंजूरी दी गई थी।

<https://www.amarujala.com/india-news/green-propulsion-system-demonstrates-in-orbit-functionality-defence-ministry-2024-02-01>

THE  HINDU

Thu, 01 Feb 2024

Green Propulsion System Developed under DRDO Technology Development Fund Demonstrates In-orbit Functionality

A green propulsion system, developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), has successfully demonstrated in-orbit functionality on a payload launched by PSLV C-58 mission, the Defence Ministry said on February 1. “This project — 1N Class Green Monopropellant thruster for altitude control and orbit keeping of micro satellite — was sanctioned to a Bengaluru-based start-up Bellatrix Aerospace Pvt Ltd, which was the development agency,” a Ministry statement said. The telemetry data from PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru has been validated with ground level solution, and is found to have exceeded all performance parameters, it stated.

The TDF is a flagship programme of Ministry of Defence executed by DRDO under the ‘Make in India’ initiative for funding innovation in defence and aerospace, especially to start-ups and MSMEs. This innovative technology has resulted in non-toxic and environment-friendly propulsion system for low orbit space, the statement said and the system consists of indigenously-developed propellant, fill and drain valves, latch valve, solenoid valve, catalyst bed and drive electronics. “It is ideal for space mission with high thrust requirements.”

The complete project has been carried out by the development agency under guidance of project monitoring and mentoring group of DRDO. “It has demonstrated pulsed mode and steady state firing in vacuum, passivation of residual propellant in outer space, propellant realisation and establishing of filling procedure under the TDF,” the statement added.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/green-propulsion-system-developed-under-drdo-technology-development-fund-demonstrates-in-orbit-functionality/article67800220.ece>


दैनिक भास्कर

Fri, 02 Feb 2024

समुद्री पानी भी पीने योग्य बनाएगा: जोधपुर DRDO ने गगनयान यात्रियों के पेयजल के लिए बनाया पॉकेट प्यूरीफायर

जोधपुर गगनयान के लिए DRDO जोधपुर ने पॉकेट पोर्टेबल प्यूरीफिकेशन किट बनाया है। ट्रायल बॉम्बे में नेवल डॉकयार्ड में हो चुका है। जवानों को ड्यूटी के दौरान भी शुद्ध पानी मिले, इसमें भी यह सी वाटर प्यूरीफिकेशन किट

काम आया। किट इतना छोटा, हल्का है कि जेब में आ जाता है। समुद्री या कोई भी गंदा पानी, इससे पीने योग्य हो जाता है, बल्कि टीडीएस भी घट जाता है। जानकारी के अनुसार गगनयान प्रोजेक्ट के लिए प्यूरिफायर की आवश्यकता बताई गई। इसके बाद पॉकेट पोर्टेबल प्यूरिफिकेशन किट डीआरडीओ जोधपुर ने बनाया।

<https://www.bhaskar.com/local/rajasthan/jodhpur/news/will-also-make-sea-water-potable-132529343.html>

Defence News

Defence Strategic: National/International



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 01 Feb 2024

Indian Coast Guard Celebrates 48th Raising Day

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 48th Raising Day on February 1, 2024, in New Delhi, commemorating its remarkable journey from a modest beginning in 1977 to becoming a formidable force in maritime security. With 152 ships and 78 aircraft in its arsenal, the ICG is on track to achieve its targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 100 aircraft by 2030.

Under the motto "Vayam Rakshamah" (We Protect), the ICG has saved over 11,554 lives since its inception, including 200 lives in the year 2023. This commitment to safety and security has positioned ICG as one of the renowned Coast Guards globally.

Maintaining a 24x7 vigil in the Maritime Zones of India, the ICG deploys 50 to 60 ships and 10 to 12 aircraft daily, contributing to the nation's goal of ensuring free and secure seas for sustainable progress in the blue economy and safe maritime transportation.

In response to the evolving challenges in maritime security, the ICG has significantly strengthened Maritime Law Enforcement, resulting in the seizure of weapons, contraband, and narcotics worth Rs 15,343 crore since its inception, with Rs 478 crore seized in 2023 alone. Collaborative actions have created an effective deterrence against smugglers, making penetration nearly impossible.

Pioneering the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' missions, the ICG has inducted numerous indigenous ships, aircraft, and equipment. With 21 ships under construction, including Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs), and ongoing procurement of aircraft, the ICG continues to improve its operational capabilities.

The ICG is enhancing the operational capabilities through the procurement of eight Dornier aircraft and six Multi-Mission Maritime Surveillance aircraft. Six Dornier aircraft have been upgraded with state-of-the-art systems/sensors for the modernization of ICG aircraft as part of the 17 ICG Dornier Mid-Life Upgrade contract with M/s HAL, Kanpur. It is noteworthy that the majority of the Coast

Guard's assets are domestically manufactured, with approximately 90% of the capital budget allocated to indigenous assets.

In a strategic move towards a 'Digital Armed Force,' the Ministry of Defence and TCIL have entered into a transformative agreement for the Digital Coast Guard (DCG) mission, aligning with the government's vision for a paperless office.

On the marine environmental front, the ICG, as the Central Coordinating Authority for Oil Spill response in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), has ensured no major oil spill incidents in Indian waters in the past year. The 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar,' and 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan' campaigns, aligning with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on cleanliness, garnered mass participation of volunteers.

Sanction for the creation of 195 posts by the Government of India in the last year demonstrates the commitment to bolstering the ICG's capabilities as a credible, reliable, and omnipresent maritime force. The President, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Raksha Mantri have extended their greetings and congratulations to the Indian Coast Guard, recognizing its remarkable role in advancing the nation's interests in the Maritime Zones.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2001583>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 01 Feb 2024

Indian Navy Declares 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians'

Indian Navy has declared 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians' to improve administration, efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians by addressing all facets of Civilian HR Management in a time bound manner. Major focus areas towards maximising administrative efficiency, digital initiatives, generic and specific training programmes and welfare activities have been identified for implementation in 2024.

Naval Civilian Personnel constitute about a third of the Indian Navy's total workforce and contribute significantly to its operational effectiveness across all domains. Civilian personnel impact the overall performance of Naval formations such as Command Headquarters, Dockyards, Material Organisations, Naval Armament Depots, Naval Armament Inspectorates, Training Establishments and several other types of support units.

A number of initiatives have been conceived and implemented in the past in order to enhance organisational efficiency and satisfaction levels amongst civilian personnel. However, it is imperative that impetus be provided to their administration, training, welfare etc. so that they effectively contribute towards ensuring that the Indian Navy always remains a combat ready, credible, cohesive and future proof force. Declaring 2024 as a year dedicated to them is a step in this direction.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2001395>



पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
भारत सरकार

रक्षा मंत्रालय

Thu, 01 Feb 2024

अंतरिम केंद्रीय बजट 2024-25 में रक्षा मंत्रालय को रिकॉर्ड 6.21 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक का आवंटन; वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 से 4.72 प्रतिशत ज्यादा

1.72 लाख करोड़ रुपये - कुल रक्षा बजट का 27.67 प्रतिशत - पूंजी अधिग्रहण के लिए आवंटित; राजस्व व्यय (वेतन के अलावा) के लिए सशस्त्र बलों का बजट 92,088 करोड़ रुपये है

रक्षा पेंशन के लिए बजटीय आवंटन बढ़कर 1.41 लाख करोड़ रुपये हुआ

सीमा पर बुनियादी ढांचे को मजबूत करने के लिए 6,500 करोड़ रुपये निर्धारित; भारतीय तटरक्षक बल को 7,651.80 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित; डीआरडीओ को बजटीय आवंटन बढ़ाकर 23,855 करोड़ रुपये किया गया

युवाओं/कंपनियों को दीर्घकालिक ऋण के लिए डीप टेक के लिए एक लाख करोड़ रुपये का कोष

उत्साहजनक 'अंतरिम बजट' प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के दृष्टिकोण से प्रेरित, एक आत्मविश्वासी, मजबूत और आत्मनिर्भर 'विकसित भारत' के लिए सरकार के दृष्टिकोण को रेखांकित करता है: रक्षा मंत्री श्री राजनाथ सिंह

वर्तमान भू-राजनीतिक परिदृश्य में और आत्मनिर्भरता एवं निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने के दोहरे उद्देश्य के साथ, वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 में रक्षा बजट 6,21,540.85 करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंच गया है। यह कुल केंद्रीय बजट का 13.04 प्रतिशत है, जिसे वित्त मंत्री श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण ने 01 फरवरी, 2024 को संसद में पेश किया था।

रक्षा मंत्रालय (एमओडी) को मंत्रालयों में सबसे अधिक आवंटन प्राप्त होता रहा है। वित्त वर्ष 24-25 के लिए रक्षा का बजटीय आवंटन वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 के आवंटन से लगभग एक लाख करोड़ (18.35 प्रतिशत) और वित्त वर्ष 23-24 के आवंटन से 4.72 प्रतिशत अधिक अधिक है। इसमें से 27.67 प्रतिशत का एक बड़ा हिस्सा पूंजी में जाता है, 14.82 प्रतिशत जीविका और परिचालन तैयारियों पर राजस्व व्यय के लिए, 30.68 प्रतिशत वेतन और भत्ते के लिए, 22.72 प्रतिशत रक्षा पेंशन के लिए और 4.11 प्रतिशत रक्षा मंत्रालय के तहत नागरिक संगठनों के लिए जाता है।

'आत्मनिर्भरता' को बढ़ावा देने वाले रक्षा पूंजीगत व्यय में वृद्धि का रुझान जारी है

वित्त वर्ष 24-25 के लिए रक्षा में पूंजीगत व्यय के लिए बजटीय आवंटन 1.72 लाख करोड़ रुपये है जो वित्त वर्ष 22-23 के वास्तविक व्यय से 20.33 प्रतिशत अधिक है और वित्त वर्ष 23-24 के संशोधित आवंटन से 9.40 प्रतिशत अधिक है। यह आवंटन तीनों सेनाओं की दीर्घकालिक एकीकृत परिप्रेक्ष्य योजना (एलटीआईपीपी) के अनुरूप है, जिसका उद्देश्य वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में कुछ बड़े अधिग्रहणों को मूर्त रूप देकर सशस्त्र बलों के आधुनिकीकरण के माध्यम से महत्वपूर्ण क्षमता अंतराल को भरना है। बढ़े हुए बजटीय आवंटन से सशस्त्र बलों को अत्याधुनिक, विशिष्ट प्रौद्योगिकी वाले घातक हथियारों, लड़ाकू विमानों, जहाजों, प्लेटफार्मों, मानव रहित हवाई वाहनों, ड्रोन, विशेषज्ञ वाहनों आदि से लैस करने में सुविधा होगी।

विमानों की अतिरिक्त खरीद, मौजूदा मिग-29 के लिए उन्नत इंजनों के अधिग्रहण, परिवहन विमान सी-295 और मिसाइल प्रणालियों के अधिग्रहण के साथ-साथ मौजूदा एसयू-30 बेड़े के नियोजित आधुनिकीकरण को आवंटित बजट से वित्त पोषित किया जाएगा। इसके अलावा, 'मेक इन इंडिया' की पहल को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए घरेलू उत्पादन में अत्याधुनिक तकनीक सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एलसीए एमके-आई आईओसी/एफओसी कॉन्फिगरेशन को अतिरिक्त रूप से वित्त पोषित किया जाएगा। भारतीय नौसेना की परियोजनाएं जैसे डेक-आधारित लड़ाकू विमान, पनडुब्बियां, अगली पीढ़ी के सर्वेक्षण जहाजों आदि का अधिग्रहण इस आवंटन के माध्यम से पूरा हो जाएगा। पूंजी के तहत बड़ा आवंटन रक्षा क्षेत्र में 'आत्मनिर्भरता' को बढ़ावा देने पर केंद्रित है। आवंटन का बड़ा हिस्सा देश को घरेलू

स्तर पर निर्मित अगली पीढ़ी की हथियार प्रणाली प्रदान करने के लिए घरेलू स्रोतों के माध्यम से खरीद के लिए उपयोग किया जाएगा, जिसका जीडीपी पर कई गुना प्रभाव पड़ेगा, रोजगार पैदा होगा, पूंजी निर्माण सुनिश्चित होगा और घरेलू अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा।

भारतीय आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट 2023 के अनुसार, जहाज निर्माण क्षेत्र में निवेश गुणक लगभग 1.82 है, जिसका अर्थ है कि गुणक प्रभाव के कारण जहाज निर्माण क्षेत्र में नौसेना जहाज निर्माण परियोजनाओं में लगभग 1.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये के निवेश से 2.73 लाख करोड़ रुपये का संचलन प्राप्त होगा।

इस वर्ष से, भारत सरकार ने तीनों सेवाओं की मांग को भूमि, विमान और एयरोइंजन, भारी और मध्यम वाहन आदि जैसे व्यय की समान वस्तुओं में समेकित करके सेवाओं के बीच संयुक्तता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक सचेत आह्वान किया है। इससे वित्तीय प्रबंधन में लचीलापन आएगा और रक्षा मंत्रालय अंतर-सेवा प्राथमिकता को ध्यान में रखते हुए तीनों सेवाओं के बीच निधि का पुनः विनियोजन करने में सक्षम होगा। यह तंत्र निर्णय लेने में तेजी लाएगा और पूंजी बजट का बेहतर उपयोग सुनिश्चित करेगा।

राजस्व व्यय के तहत परिचालन तत्परता के लिए बढ़ा हुआ उच्च आवंटन कायम रखा गया

वित्त वर्ष 24-25 के लिए सशस्त्र बलों को राजस्व व्यय (वेतन के अलावा) के लिए जीविका और परिचालन प्रतिबद्धता के लिए आवंटन 92,088 करोड़ रुपये के उच्च स्तर पर बना हुआ है, जो वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 के बजटीय आवंटन से 48 प्रतिशत अधिक है। मध्य वर्ष समीक्षा के दौरान वित्त वर्ष 22-23 के बजटीय आवंटन की तुलना में इस मद में आवंटन 82 प्रतिशत बढ़ाकर पहली बार एक लाख करोड़ रुपये के आंकड़े को पार कर गया। इसका उद्देश्य विमान और जहाजों सहित सभी प्लेटफार्मों पर सर्वोत्तम रखरखाव सुविधाएं और सहायता प्रणाली प्रदान करना है। यह गोला-बारूद की खरीद, संसाधनों की गतिशीलता, कर्मियों की आवाजाही, आगे के क्षेत्रों में तैनाती को मजबूत करने में सशस्त्र बलों के दिन-प्रतिदिन के खर्च को पूरा करने और किसी भी घटना से निपटने के लिए बलों को हमेशा तैयार रखने की सुविधा प्रदान करता है। इस मद में वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 से निरंतर उच्च आवंटन ने बलों की शिकायतों का समाधान किया है और उनकी आजीविका और परिचालन तत्परता में सुधार किया है।

रक्षा पेंशन बजट बढ़कर 1.41 लाख करोड़ रुपये हुआ

रक्षा पेंशन के लिए कुल बजटीय आवंटन 1,41,205 करोड़ रुपये है जो 2023-24 के दौरान किए गए आवंटन से 2.17 प्रतिशत अधिक है। यह 'स्पर्श' और अन्य पेंशन संवितरण प्राधिकरणों के माध्यम से लगभग 32 लाख पेंशनभोगियों के मासिक पेंशन पर खर्च किया जाएगा।

पूर्व सैनिक कल्याण योजना (ईसीएचएस) के लिए अभूतपूर्व आवंटन, पूर्व सैनिकों को बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सुविधाएं सुनिश्चित करना

वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए पूर्व सैनिक कल्याण योजना का कुल आवंटन वित्त वर्ष 23-24 के आवंटन (5,431.56 करोड़ रुपये से 6,968 करोड़ रुपये) से 28 प्रतिशत अधिक है। यह चालू वर्ष के दौरान संशोधित अनुमान चरण में अभूतपूर्व आवंटन के अतिरिक्त है, जहां ईसीएचएस को बजटीय आवंटन 2023-24 के बीई से 70 प्रतिशत बढ़ाकर 9,221.50 करोड़ रुपये कर दिया गया था। यह उल्लेखनीय रूप से अधिक आवंटन कोविड अवधि के दौरान किए गए चिकित्सा उपचार संबंधी व्यय (एमटीआरई) का ध्यान रखने और ईसीएचएस दरों में वृद्धि की भरपाई करने के लिए है, ताकि इसे सीजीएचएस दरों के बराबर लाया जा सके। यह पूर्व सैनिकों, युद्ध वीरों, वीर नारियों और उनके परिवार के सदस्यों को सर्वोत्तम स्वास्थ्य देखभाल सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के सरकार के संकल्प के अनुरूप है।

सामरिक आवश्यकताओं के लिए सीमा अवसंरचना में सुधार की आवश्यकता को सुदृढ़ करना

भारत-चीन सीमा पर लगातार खतरे की आशंका के मद्देनजर, सीमा सड़क संगठन को पूंजीगत बजट आवंटन में उछाल जारी है। बीई 2024-25 के लिए आवंटन 6,500 करोड़ रुपये है, जो वित्त वर्ष 23-24 के आवंटन से 30 प्रतिशत अधिक है और वित्त वर्ष 2021-22 के आवंटन से 160 प्रतिशत अधिक है। यह सीमा पर बुनियादी ढांचे में सुधार के लिए सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है। इस वर्ष बजट के दौरान किए गए वित्तीय प्रावधान, सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में रणनीतिक ढांचागत विकास को बढ़ावा देने के साथ-साथ पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के साथ-साथ उस क्षेत्र में

सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास को भी बढ़ावा देंगे। 13,700 फीट की ऊंचाई पर लद्दाख में न्योमा एयर फ़ील्ड का विकास, अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप में भारत की सबसे दक्षिणी पंचायत के लिए स्थायी पुल कनेक्टिविटी, हिमाचल प्रदेश में 4.1 किमी रणनीतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण शिंकू ला सुरंग, अरुणाचल प्रदेश में नेचिफू सुरंग और कई अन्य परियोजनाएं परियोजनाओं को इस आवंटन से वित्त पोषित किया जाएगा।

भारतीय तटरक्षक के नेतृत्व में मल्टी मिशन सेवा को मजबूत करना

इस वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए भारतीय तट रक्षक (आईसीजी) को 7,651.80 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित हुए हैं जो वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 के आवंटन से 6.31 प्रतिशत अधिक है। इसमें से 3,500 करोड़ रुपये केवल पूंजीगत व्यय पर खर्च किए जाने हैं, जिससे जल में उत्पन्न होने वाली उभरती चुनौतियों का समाधान करने और अन्य देशों को मानवीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए आईसीजी के शस्त्रागार में ताकत जोड़ी जाएगी। आवंटन से तेज गति से चलने वाले गश्ती वाहनों/इंटरसेप्टर, उन्नत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक निगरानी प्रणाली और हथियारों के अधिग्रहण की सुविधा मिलेगी।

सभी हितधारकों को शामिल करते हुए नवाचार और अनुसंधान के माध्यम से रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकी और विनिर्माण में आत्मनिर्भरता की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करना

रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) को बजटीय आवंटन वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 में 23,263.89 करोड़ रुपये से बढ़ाकर वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में 23,855 करोड़ रुपये कर दिया गया है। इस आवंटन में से 13,208 करोड़ रुपये का बड़ा हिस्सा पूंजीगत व्यय के लिए आवंटित किया गया है। इससे बुनियादी अनुसंधान पर विशेष ध्यान देने और विकास-सह-उत्पादन भागीदार के माध्यम से निजी पक्षों को मदद देने के साथ नई तकनीक विकसित करने में डीआरडीओ को आर्थिक रूप से मजबूती मिलेगी। प्रौद्योगिकी विकास निधि (टीडीएफ) योजना के लिए आवंटन 60 करोड़ रुपये है, जो विशेष रूप से नए स्टार्ट-अप, एमएसएमई और शिक्षाविदों के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है, जो नवाचार में रुचि रखने वाले युवा प्रतिभाशाली दिमागों को आकर्षित करते हैं और डीआरडीओ के सहयोग से रक्षा के क्षेत्र में विशिष्ट प्रौद्योगिकी विकसित करते हैं। तकनीक-प्रेमी युवाओं/कंपनियों को दीर्घकालिक ऋण के लिए डीप टेक के लिए एक लाख करोड़ रुपये के कोष और स्टार्ट-अप को कर लाभ से संबंधित घोषणा से रक्षा क्षेत्र में नवाचार को और बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

एक्स पर एक पोस्ट के माध्यम से, रक्षा मंत्री श्री राजनाथ सिंह ने एक सकारात्मक और उत्साहजनक 'अंतरिम बजट' पेश करने के लिए वित्त मंत्री श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण को बधाई दी, जो एक आश्चर्य, मजबूत और आत्मनिर्भर 'विकसित भारत' के दृष्टिकोण को रेखांकित करता है। उन्होंने कहा, बजट भारत के तीव्र आर्थिक परिवर्तन की झलक देता है, जो प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के 2047 तक भारत को एक विकसित राष्ट्र बनाने के दृष्टिकोण से प्रेरित है।

रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि इस बजट में बुनियादी ढांचे, निर्माण, विनिर्माण, आवास और प्रौद्योगिकी विकास पर बड़ा जोर दिया गया है। उन्होंने कहा, “कोविड-19 के दौरान जब दुनिया लड़खड़ा रही थी, भारत आशा की किरण बनकर उभरा। यह बजट पूरी तरह से प्रधानमंत्री के 'पंचामृत लक्ष्यों' के अनुरूप है और यह अगले पांच वर्षों में अभूतपूर्व विकास का मार्ग भी प्रशस्त करता है।”

पूंजीगत व्यय परियोजना में वृद्धि को श्री राजनाथ सिंह ने इसे एक बड़ा कदम बताया, जो 2027 तक भारत को पांच ट्रिलियन डॉलर की अर्थव्यवस्था बनाने में बड़ा बढ़ावा देगा।

Congratulations to Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman for presenting a positive and encouraging 'Interim Budget' which outlines the vision for a confident, strong and self-reliant #ViksitBharat. Inspired by PM Shri @narendramodi's vision of making India a developed nation by...

— Rajnath Singh (@rajnathsingh) February 1, 2024

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2001585>



**Press Information Bureau
Government of India**

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 01 Feb 2024

Record over Rs 6.21 Lakh Crore Allocation to Ministry of Defence in Interim Union Budget 2024-25; 4.72% more than FY 2023-24

Rs 1.72 lakh crore - 27.67% of total defence budget - allocated for capital acquisition; Budget to Armed Forces for revenue expenditure (Other than Salary) stands at Rs 92,088 crore

Budgetary allocation for Defence pensions increased to Rs 1.41 lakh crore

Rs 6,500 crore earmarked to strengthen border infrastructure; Rs 7,651.80 crore allocated to Indian Coast Guard; Budgetary allocation to DRDO enhanced to Rs 23,855 crore

Rs one lakh crore corpus for Deep Tech for long term loan to youth/companies

The encouraging 'Interim Budget' outlines the Govt's vision for a confident, strong & self-reliant 'Viksit Bharat', inspired by PM Modi's vision: Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh

In the current geopolitical scenario and with the twin objective of promoting self reliance and exports, the Defence Budget has touched Rs 6,21,540.85 crore in the Financial Year 2024-25. This comes out to be 13.04% of total Union Budget, which was presented by Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on February 01, 2024.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) continues to receive the highest allocation among the Ministries. The budgetary allocation to Defence for FY 24-25 is higher by approx. one lakh crore (18.35%) over the allocation for the FY 2022-23 and 4.72% more than allocation of FY 23-24. Of this, a major share of 27.67% goes to capital, 14.82% for revenue expenditure on sustenance and operational preparedness, 30.68% for Pay and allowances, 22.72% for defence pensions and 4.11% for civil organisations under MoD.

Upward trend continues in Defence Capital Expenditure promoting 'Aatmanirbharta'

Budgetary allocation for capital expenditure in Defence for FY 24-25 is Rs 1.72 lakh crore which is 20.33% higher than the actual expenditure of FY 22-23 and 9.40 % more than the Revised Allocation of FY 23-24. The allocation is in line with the Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) of the three Services aimed to fill the critical capability gaps through modernisation of the Armed Forces by materialising some big ticket acquisitions in FY 2024-25. The enhanced budgetary allocation will facilitate in equipping the Armed Forces with state-of-the-art, niche technology lethal weapons, Fighter Aircraft, Ships, Platforms, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Drones, Specialist Vehicles etc.

Planned modernisation of existing Su-30 fleet along with additional procurement of aircraft, acquisition of advanced engines for existing MiG-29, acquisition of transport aircraft C-295 and missile systems will be funded out of the budget being allocated. Apart from this, to take the initiative of 'Make in India' further the LCA MK-I IOC/FOC configuration will be additionally funded to ensure state-of-the-art technology in domestic production. The Indian Navy projects such as acquisition of Deck-based fighter aircraft, Submarines, Next generation survey vessels etc. will all materialise through this allocation. The sizeable allocation under capital is centered around promoting 'Aatmanirbharta' in Defence. Large portion of the allocation will be utilised for

procurement through domestic sources to provide domestically manufactured next generation weapon system to the country which will have a multiplier effect on the GDP, create employment, ensure capital formation and provide a stimulus to the domestic economy.

As per the Economic Survey of India report 2023, in the ship-building sector, the investment multiplier is around 1.82, which means that an infusion of approx. Rs 1.5 lakh crore in naval ship-building projects would accrue a circulation of Rs 2.73 lakh crore in the ship building sector due to the multiplier effect.

This year onwards, the Government of India has taken a conscious call to foster jointness among the services by consolidating the demand of the three services into similar items of expenditure such as Land, Aircraft and Aeroengines, Heavy and Medium Vehicles etc. This will bring flexibility in financial management by enabling the MoD to reappropriate the fund among the three services keeping in view the inter services priority. This mechanism will also expedite decision making and ensure better utilisation of the capital budget.

Enhanced higher allocation sustained for operational readiness under Revenue Expenditure

Allocation to the Armed Forces for revenue expenditure (Other than Salary) meant for sustenance and operational commitment for FY 24-25 continues to be high at Rs 92,088 crore, which is 48% higher than the budgetary allocation of FY 2022-23. During the mid-year review, the allocation on this head was increased by 82% over the budgetary allocation of FY 22-23 crossing the figure of Rs one lakh crore for the first time. This is aimed at providing best maintenance facilities and support system to all platforms, including aircraft and ships. It also facilitates procuring of ammunition, mobility of resources, movement of personnel, catering to day-to-day expenditure of Armed Forces in strengthening the deployment in forward areas and keeping the forces always ready to take care of any eventuality. The continued higher allocation since FY 2023-24 in this head has resolved the grievance of the forces and has improved their sustenance & operational readiness.

Defence Pension Budget increased to Rs 1.41 lakh crore

Total Budgetary allocation on account of Defence pensions is Rs 1,41,205 crore which is 2.17% higher than the allocation made during 2023-24. It will be incurred on monthly pension to approx. 32 lakh pensioners through SPARSH and through other pension disbursing authorities.

Unprecedented Allocation to Ex-Servicemen Welfare Scheme (ECHS) ensuring better healthcare facilities to Veterans

The total allocation to Ex-Servicemen Welfare Scheme for FY 2024-25 is 28% higher than the allocation for FY 23-24 (From Rs 5,431.56 crore to Rs 6,968 crore). This is in addition to the unprecedented allocation at revised estimate stage during the current year where the budgetary allocation to ECHS was enhanced by 70% over BE of 2023-24 and was made to Rs 9,221.50 crore. This significantly higher allocation is to take care of Medical Treatment Related Expenditure (MTRE) incurred during the COVID period and to compensate the increase in ECHS rates bringing it at par with the CGHS rates. This is in line with the Government's resolve to provide best health care facilities to Ex-Servicemen, War veterans, Veer naris and their family members.

Strengthening the need of improving Border Infrastructure for strategic requirements

In the light of the continued threat perception faced at the Indo-China border, there continues a jump in the Capital Budget allocation to the Border Roads Organisation. The allocation for BE 2024-25 is Rs 6,500 crore, which is 30% higher than the allocation for FY 23-24 and 160% higher over the allocation of FY 2021-22. This indicates the commitment of the Government to improve border infrastructure. The financial provision made during the budget this year, will, apart from promoting strategic infrastructural development in the border areas, also boost socio-economic

development in that region along with promoting tourism. Projects such as development of Nyoma Air field in Ladakh at an altitude of 13,700 feet, permanent bridge connectivity to southernmost Panchayat of India in Andaman and Nicobar island, 4.1 km strategically important Shinku La tunnel in Himachal Pradesh, Nechiphu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh and many other projects will be funded out of this allocation.

Strengthening the Multi Mission Service led by Indian Coast Guard

Allocation to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) for this FY 2024-25 is Rs 7,651.80 crore which is 6.31% higher over the allocation of FY 2023-24. Of this, Rs 3,500 crore is to be incurred only on capital expenditure, adding teeth to the arsenal of the ICG to address the emerging challenges posed in water and provide humanitarian assistance to other nations. The allocation will facilitate the acquisition of fast moving patrolling vehicles/interceptors, advanced electronic surveillance systems and weapons.

Underlining the need of self-Reliance in Defence technology and manufacturing through innovation and research involving all stake-holders

The budgetary allocation to Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been increased to Rs 23,855 crore in FY 2024-25 from Rs 23,263.89 crore in FY 2023-24. Of this allocation, a major share of Rs 13,208 crore is allocated for capital expenditure. This will financially strengthen the DRDO in developing new technology with special focus on fundamental research and hand-holding the private parties through Development-cum-production partner. Allocation to Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme stands out to be Rs 60 crore which is especially designed for new start-ups, MSMEs and academia attracting the young bright minds interested in innovation and developing niche technology in the field of defence in collaboration with the DRDO. The announcement regarding a Rs one lakh crore corpus for Deep Tech for long term loan to tech-savvy youth/companies and the tax advantage to the start-ups will give further impetus to innovation in the defence sector.

Through a post on X, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman for presenting a positive and encouraging 'Interim Budget', which outlines the vision for a confident, strong and self-reliant 'Viksit Bharat'. The Budget gives a glimpse of India's rapid economic transformation, inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047, he said.

The Raksha Mantri added that there is big push for infrastructure, construction, manufacturing, housing and technology development in this Budget. "During the COVID-19 when the world was faltering India emerged as the beacon of hope. This Budget is perfectly aligned with PM's 'Panchamrit Goals' and it also paves the way for the next five years of unprecedented growth," he said.

On the increase of capital expenditure outlay, Shri Rajnath Singh described it as a massive push, which will provide a big boost to making India a five trillion dollar economy by 2027.

Congratulations to Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman for presenting a positive and encouraging 'Interim Budget' which outlines the vision for a confident, strong and self-reliant #ViksitBharat. Inspired by PM Shri @narendramodi's vision of making India a developed nation by...

— Rajnath Singh (@rajnathsingh) February 1, 2024

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2001375>

2024 Interim Budget | Government to Consolidate the Demand of Three Services in Defence Allocation

In a significant measure to bring jointness in the procurements of the armed forces, the Government has decided to consolidate the demand of the three services in the capital head of the defence budget based on similar items of expenditure such as land, aircraft and aeroengines, heavy and medium vehicles among others. In the interim budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, there was no significant change in the allocation for defence with the total allocation for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) stands at ₹6.2 lakh crore for 2024-25.

“This will bring flexibility in financial management by enabling the MoD to reappropriate the fund among the three services keeping in view the inter services priority. This mechanism will also expedite decision making and ensure better utilisation of the capital budget,” the MoD said in a statement.

Budget 2024 updates

This is a significant measure towards bringing in jointness in procurements among the three services and addresses the shortfall often faced between committed liabilities, milestone payments to be made for past deals, versus the allocation for each service which was faced by Navy and Air Force in the past. For major capital procurements, the authority to prioritise is the Chief of Defence Staff and once cleared is sent to Defence Acquisition Council for approval.

The allocation of ₹6.2 lakh crore is 4.72% higher compared to the Budget Estimates (BE) and marginally lower, -0.38%, than the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2023-24 and is 13.04% of the total Union Budget presented. Of this, 27.67% goes to capital, 14.82% for revenue expenditure on sustenance and operational preparedness, 30.68% for pay and allowances, 22.72% for defence pensions and 4.11% for civil organisations under MoD. The capital allocation, which is for new procurements, stood at ₹1.72 lakh crore, 5.78% higher than the BE of last year.

Budget data shows that from BE to RE of 2023-24, Defence Ministry returned ₹5,371.8 Crore from the capital component while it received an additional ₹28,548.61 Crore under revenue expenditure, other than salary, meant for sustenance and operational commitment. For FY 2024-25, the revenue allocation, minus pay and allowances, is ₹92,088 crore which the Ministry said is aimed at providing best maintenance facilities and support system to all platforms, including aircraft and ships. It also facilitates procuring of ammunition, mobility of resources, movement of personnel, catering to day-to-day expenditure of armed forces in strengthening the deployment in forward areas and keeping the forces always ready to take care of any eventuality, it stated.

Ms. Sitharaman in her budget speech announced a new scheme for development of deep tech for defence purposes. On this the MoD stated, “The announcement regarding a ₹1 lakh crore corpus for Deep Tech for long term loan to tech-savvy youth/companies and the tax advantage to the start-ups will give further impetus to innovation in the defence sector.”

On the capital allocation, the Ministry said that this was in line with the Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) of the three Services aimed to fill the critical capability gaps through modernisation of the armed forces by “materialising some big ticket acquisitions in FY 2024-25.” The enhanced budgetary allocation will facilitate in equipping the armed forces with state-of-the-art, niche technology lethal weapons, fighter aircraft, ships, platforms, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and specialist vehicles, it stated.

Planned modernisation of existing Su-30 fleet along with procurement of 12 more aircraft, acquisition of new engines for MiG-29 jets, C-295 transport aircraft under induction and missile systems will be funded out of the budget being allocated, according to the MoD. “Apart from this, to take the initiative of ‘Make in India’ further the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) MK-I IOC/FOC configuration will be additionally funded to ensure state-of-the-art technology in domestic production. The Indian Navy projects such as acquisition of deck-based fighter aircraft, submarines, next generation survey vessels etc. will all materialise through this allocation.”

Infrastructure

Referring to the allocation for Border Roads Organisation (BRO), the Ministry referred to the “continued threat perception” faced at the India-China border, and said there continues a jump in the capital allocation. The allocation for BE 2024-25 is ₹6,500 crore, which is 30% higher than the allocation for BE 2023-24.

“The financial provision made during the budget this year, will, apart from promoting strategic infrastructural development in the border areas, also boost socio-economic development in that region along with promoting tourism,” it stated. Projects such as development of Nyoma air field in Ladakh at an altitude of 13,700 feet, permanent bridge connectivity to southernmost Panchayat of India in Andaman and Nicobar island, 4.1 km strategically important Shinku La tunnel in Himachal Pradesh and Nechiphu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh are among the projects that would be funded out of this allocation.

Defence budget Estimates 2024-25

- Total allocation for defence has gone up to ₹6.2 lakh crore
- Revenue allocation: ₹2.83 lakh crore
- Capital: ₹1.72 lakh crore
- Pensions: ₹1.41 lakh crore
- Civil: ₹25,563 crore
- Compared to BE of 2023-24: 4.72%
- Compared to RE of 2023-24: -0.38%

Defence budget points:

- Total allocation for defence ₹6.21 lakh crore, 4.72% more than BE of 2023-24. This is 13.04% of total Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- ₹1.72 lakh crore - 27.67% of total defence budget - allocated for capital acquisition
- Budget to armed forces for revenue expenditure (Other than Salary) stands at ₹92,088 crore
- ₹6,500 crore earmarked to strengthen border infrastructure;
- ₹7,651.80 crore allocated to Indian Coast Guard;
- allocation to DRDO at ₹23,855 crore
- FM announced a new ₹1 lakh crore corpus for Deep Tech for long term loan to youth/companies

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/budget/govt-combines-procurement-demand-of-three-services-in-defence-budget/article67801055.ece>

A New Scheme to Develop Deep Tech for Defence Purposes: Finance Minister

For tech-savvy youth, a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore will be established with 50-year interest free loans for providing long term financing or refinancing with long tenures and low or nil interest rates, announced Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Interim Budget for 2024-25.

“This will encourage the private sector to scale up research and innovation significantly in the sunrise domains,” she added.

The Finance Minister also said that a new scheme will be launched to develop deep tech for defence purposes.

On electric vehicles, she informed Parliament that government will expand and strengthen the sector through greater manufacturing and charging infrastructure.

The government has allocated ₹1,500 crore for setting up semiconductor fabs in India under the Modified Scheme, she said.

Counting the achievements of Union Government, the FM said that the Skill India Mission has trained 1.4 crore youth, upskilled and reskilled 54 lakh youth. She added that 3,000 new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) were opened.

Nirmala Sitharaman informed that in the last ten years 7 Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), 16 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT), 7 Indian Institutes of Management (IIM), 15 All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and 390 Universities have been set up in the country.

She briefed that ₹34 lakh crore worth of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) has been achieved in the last decade, and it saved ₹2.7 lakh crore of government as a result.

More than 1360 Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (mandis) have been digitised, doing a business of 3 lakh crore, she told.

FM informed the house that Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has been instrumental in formalisation of the economy.

“Technological advancements are transforming lives and businesses, creating new economic opportunities,” she said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/a-new-scheme-to-develop-deep-tech-for-defence-purposes-finance-minister/article67799745.ece>

Navy to Induct Survey Vessel Sandhayak Tomorrow

The Navy will commission its latest survey vessel Sandhayak at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam on Saturday, with defence minister Rajnath Singh as the chief guest.

The primary role of Sandhayak, which was delivered after comprehensive trials to the Navy last Dec, will be to conduct full-scale hydrographic surveys of ports, harbours, navigational channels, coastal areas, and deep seas towards enabling safe marine navigation. In its secondary role, the ship will be capable of undertaking a range of naval operations.

Sandhayak is the first of the four survey vessel (large) ships being constructed at M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers in Kolkata. “A significant addition to the naval fleet, Sandhayak is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment,” an officer said.

“They include deep and shallow water multibeam echo-sounders, autonomous underwater vehicles, remotely-operated vehicles, side-scan sonars, data acquisition and processing system, satellite-based positioning systems and terrestrial survey equipment,” he said.

The 110-metre-long ship, with a displacement of 3,400-tonne, is propelled by two diesel engines and is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 18 knots. “With 80% indigenous content, Sandhayak is a true testament of India’s growing shipbuilding prowess,” he added.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/navy-to-induct-survey-vessel-sandhayak-naval-commissioning/articleshow/107339659.cms>



Thu, 01 Feb 2024

It’s Done! US Congress Clears 31 Predator Drones Sale to India

The US Congress has put its stamp of approval on the sale of 31 MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones to India. This means that the deal for the world’s best drones will be inked soon.

On Thursday evening, the US State Department approved a possible Foreign Military Sale (FMS) to India of MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft and related equipment for an estimated cost of US\$3.99 billion. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale today.

Next Step

From today the formal notification starts. And then after 30 days LoA (Letter of Approval) will be sent to India for final price negotiations. The whole deal is under government-to-government agreement and through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route.

The man behind the deal

MQ-9B Sea Guardian — armed category 1 UAVs to India will come from the US based General Atomics, Dr Vivek Lall, Chief Executive, an aerospace scientist, has played a pivotal role in enhancing the defence trade and cooperation between India and the United States.

His influential efforts have strengthened the bond between the defense industries of both nations, allowing India to acquire advanced defense technologies from the US. And his commitment led to a groundbreaking agreement by the White House, authorizing the release of armed category 1 UAVs to India. As the Chief Executive of General Atomics during the negotiations, he adeptly represented the company.

He has been leading negotiations for the acquisition of 31 MQ-9B Predator drones from General Atomics, a deal valued at US\$3 billion.

Financial Express Online has reported previously that approval has been given for 31 MQ-9B drones and out of these 15 Sea Guardian drones are for the Indian Navy and eight each for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Army (IA). These will be procured from the US under the government-to-government framework by March this year.

These long-endurance 'hunter-killer' drones will help the Indian armed forces strengthen their surveillance apparatus, especially along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. And in the Indian Ocean as well as the coastal line.

What does the notification say?

India has expressed interest in acquiring 31 MQ-9B Sky Guardian aircraft, 161 Embedded Global Positioning & Inertial Navigation Systems (EGIs), 35 L3 Rio Grande Communications Intelligence Sensor Suites, 170 AGM-114R Hellfire missiles, 16 M36E9 Hellfire Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM), 310 GBU-39B/B Laser Small Diameter Bombs (LSDB), and 8 GBU-39B/B LSDB Guided Test Vehicles (GTVs) with live fuzes. The estimated total cost for this package is US\$3.99 billion.

This proposed deal aims to support India's commitment to modernizing its military capabilities. It aligns with the country's strategic goals for unmanned surveillance and reconnaissance patrols in sea lanes, contributing to the overall security and stability of the Indo-Pacific and South Asia region. The procurement is anticipated to strengthen the US-Indian strategic relationship.

The primary contractor for this transaction will be General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, based in Poway, CA. Negotiations for potential offsets will be conducted between the purchaser and the contractor. Notably, the implementation of this proposed sale is expected to have no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness, and no additional US Government or contractor representatives will be assigned to India.

It is emphasized that the description and dollar value provided are based on the highest estimated quantity and dollar value, considering initial requirements. The actual cost may vary depending on final requirements, budget authority, and signed sales agreements.

This acquisition is seen as crucial for India to meet current and future threats, enhancing its ability to conduct unmanned surveillance and reconnaissance. The country's demonstrated commitment to modernization suggests a seamless integration of the procured articles and services into its armed forces. The proposed sale is asserted not to alter the basic military balance in the region.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence/us-clears-sale-of-31-mq-9b-armed-drones-to-india-for-nearly-4-bn-bkg/3382112/>



Thu, 01 Feb 2024

US Conducts Strikes in Houthi-controlled Areas of Yemen in 'Self Defence'

The US Central Command Forces on Thursday conducted strikes against an Iranian-backed Houthi UAV ground control station and 10 Houthi one-way UAVs as they were posing an imminent threat in the region, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said.

The US forces conducted these strikes at 1:30 am (Sanaa Time) when they identified the UAV ground control station and one-way attack UAVs in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.

They determined that the Houthis presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels and the US Navy Ships in the region.

Following this, the US force subsequently struck and destroyed the UAV ground control station and 10 one-way attack UAVs in self-defence.

According to the CENTCOM, the action by the US forces will protect freedom of navigation, adding that, it will "make international waters safer and more secure for US Navy vessels and merchant vessels."

Earlier on Wednesday, Iranian-backed Houthis fired an anti-ship ballistic missile towards the Gulf of Aden. The missile was successfully shot down by US Navy missile destroyer USS Carney.

"On Jan. 31, at approximately 8:30 p.m. (Sanaa time), Iranian-backed Houthi militants fired one anti-ship ballistic missile from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen toward the Gulf of Aden. The missile was successfully shot down by the USS Carney (DDG 64)," CENTCOM said.

"At 9:10 pm, the USS Carney engaged and shot down three Iranian UAVs in its vicinity. There were no injuries or damage reported," CENTCOM added.

Iran, a Houthi supporter, persists in sending weapons and supplies to the group. Recently, the US Navy seized Iranian-made ballistic and cruise missile components off the coast of Somalia, intended for the Houthis. Two US Navy SEALs lost their lives during the operation, according to CNN.

Moreover, the US in retaliation, has conducted multiple strikes inside Yemen against Houthi weapons depots, command and control nodes, and storage facilities since January 11. While the degradation of Houthi weapons capabilities has occurred, officials have refrained from specifying the extent.

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/us/us-conducts-strikes-in-houthi-controlled-areas-of-yemen-in-self-defence20240201115910/>

Science & Technology News

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Fri, 02 Feb 2024

Need to Develop 'Greener' High Energy Materials: ISRO Chairman

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S. Somanath on Thursday stressed the need for developing "greener" high energy materials that have lesser impact on the environment.

Mr. Somanath was inaugurating the 14th international conference on high energy materials and exhibits — HEMCE 2024 — organised by the High Energy Materials Society of India.

The ISRO chairman also called for improved modelling methods to reduce dependency on exhaustive testing. He emphasised the necessity of process automation in high-energy systems to enhance productivity and safety.

Anil Prasad Dash, Director, High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Defence Research and Development Organisation; S. Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre; Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) director V. Narayanan; ISRO Inertial Systems Unit director E.S. Padmakumar; and Human Space Flight Centre director M. Mohan were present.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/need-to-develop-greener-high-energy-materials-isro-chairman/article67801679.ece>



Thu, 01 Feb 2024

2024 Interim Budget | Space Gets Nominal Hike, Likely Boost for Spaceflight Start-ups

With no major space missions slated for 2024, the Department of Space has received only a nominal hike of 4% in its allocation in the Interim Union Budget for 2024-25, from ₹12,545 crore to ₹13,043 crore. The Indian space programme will spend much of the year on pre-launch testing milestones for the lunar exploration (Chandrayaan) and human spaceflight (Gaganyaan) missions, and some other projects.

In 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched and successfully executed its long-awaited Chandrayaan-3 mission, to soft-land a robotic instrument on the moon. ISRO also launched the Aditya-L1 mission to study the sun and the XPoSat — short for ‘X-ray Polarimetry Satellite’ — mission to track and study neutron stars and black holes from space. India also signed the Artemis Accords to participate in the United States’ multilateral programme to return humans to the moon by 2025.

The major launches slated for 2024 include an uncrewed Gaganyaan test flight, the third developmental flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, and the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar mission. ISRO scientists and engineers have also been working on propellants, satellite propulsion systems, new launch vehicles, and technology transfer to the industry.

Spaceflight startups may benefit

In her Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore, with five-decade interest-free loans, to boost private sector investment in research and development. While the details are not clear, India’s nascent private spaceflight sector and its 200 or so startups are expected to benefit from this infusion. The revenue expenditure of IN-SPACE, the nodal agency setup by the Union Cabinet in 2020 to oversee the activities of this sector, also increased 24%.

Similarly, revenue for space technologies — which includes work on Gaganyaan and the development of systems for new launch vehicles and spaceflight missions — increased 27%.

The 8% increase in the allocation for space technologies is, however, out of keeping with the work planned on the next two missions in the Chandrayaan programme: Chandrayaan 4 and the Lunar Polar Exploration mission, and a partially reusable launch vehicle, among others. Then again, the Department of Space underutilised its allocation for space technologies in 2023-2024 by more than ₹1,500 crore.

Finally, expenditure for INSAT satellite systems was halved from ₹531 crore in 2023-2024 to ₹276 crore in 2024-2025, with capital expenditure dropping by 60%. ISRO is expected to launch the INSAT-3DS meteorological satellite later this month.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/budget/space-gets-nominal-hike-but-boost-for-spaceflight-start-ups-interim-budget/article67800206.ece>

