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समाचार पत्रों से चयनित 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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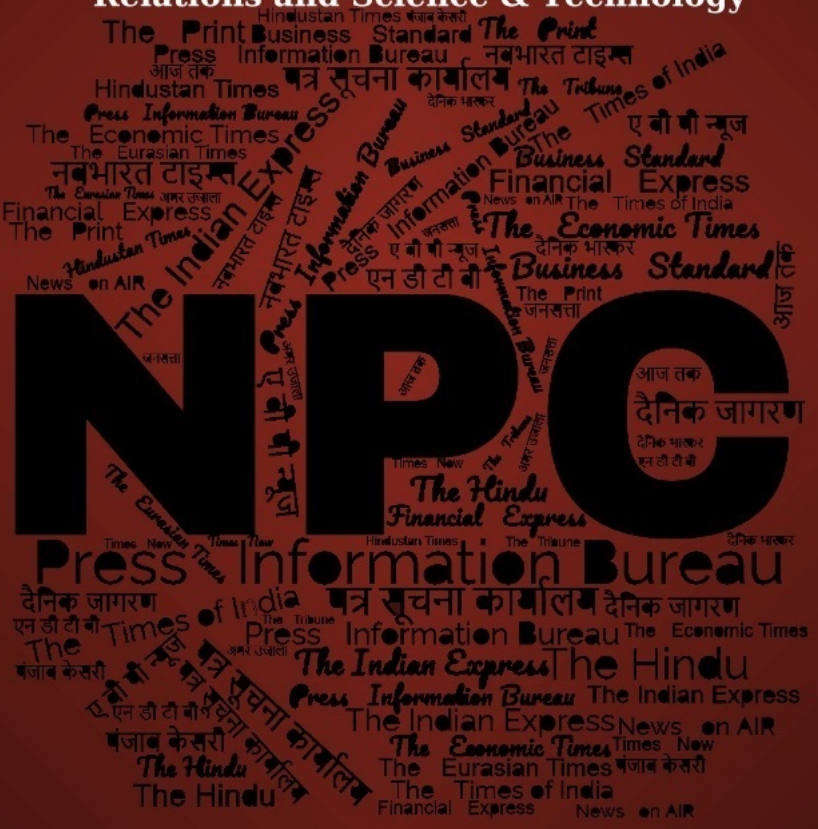

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Defence News

HAL conducts extensive tests on Dhruv ALH to fix lingering flaws

Source: Hindustan Times, Dt. 14 Aug 2025

Plane maker Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has carried out extensive tests on the Dhruv advanced light helicopters in a maritime setting in an attempt to pinpoint and fix a lingering flaw in helicopters operated by the navy and coast guard that have been grounded for more than seven months following a fatal crash in Gujarat, officials aware of the matter said on Wednesday.

The tests, carried out off the Visakhapatnam coast for two weeks, saw the ALH operate from warships in different weather conditions.

The tests, carried out off the Visakhapatnam coast for two weeks, saw the ALH operate from warships in different weather conditions, the officials said, asking not to be named.

“HAL has collected a lot of data during these trials. The data is being analysed at the Rotary Wing Research & Design Centre and the findings will be submitted to the defect investigation committee (DIC) by August-end,” said one of the officials cited above.

The military’s ALH fleet was grounded following a fatal coast guard crash at Porbandar in Gujarat on January 5, but the army and air force choppers were declared airworthy after comprehensive safety checks on May 1.

HAL has instrumented two ALH’s --- one each from the navy and coast guard --- to gather critical data on the performance of the helicopter’s integrated dynamic system, including the transmission system, gearbox and rotor hub, as well as test the loads some systems can withstand in different operating conditions.

The navy and the coast guard together operate around 30 ALHs, designed and developed by HAL. The 300 ALHs operated by the army and air force were cleared for flying duties based on the recommendations of the DIC.

The problem with the navy and coast guard appears to be linked to sustained operations in a maritime environment, as previously reported by HT.

“HAL is trying to determine the exact problem and fix it. The DIC will scrutinise the data compiled by the Rotary Wing Research & Design Centre and recommend the next steps,” said a second official. The DIC consists of officials from the Bengaluru-based Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC), the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance and HAL.

HAL had earlier broadened the scope of the investigation by involving Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to perform fatigue testing of a critical part in the helicopter’s transmission system to get to the bottom of the matter.

This was after a high-powered panel found that a swashplate fracture caused the January 5 coast guard ALH crash in which two pilots and an aircrew diver were killed, but the reason for the breakdown of the critical component that compromised the ability of the pilots to control the helicopter’s motion could not be determined.

A fleet-wide inspection conducted after the January 5 crash revealed that some navy and coast guard ALHs were facing the same problem --- cracks in the swashplate assembly.

HT was the first to report that a detailed analysis by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), Bengaluru, pointed to a swashplate assembly failure.

The ALH underwent a design review followed by a replacement of a defective control system only in 2023-24. The helicopter has been involved in around 15 accidents during the last five years, putting the spotlight on its safety record.

The coast guard suspended ALH operations following an accident last September when a helicopter crashed into the Arabian Sea near Porbandar. Then too, two pilots and an aircrew diver were killed. The grounding was for a one-time check; the three services did not ground their fleets then. The coast guard cleared the helicopters for flying a few weeks later, after a safety inspection involving HAL, CEMILAC and all coast guard units.

Last September’s accident, too, came after the design review that culminated in a critical safety upgrade on the ALH fleet. It involved installing upgraded control systems on the helicopters to improve their airworthiness. The comprehensive design review came after the ALH fleet was grounded several times in 2023 too after a raft of accidents called into question its flight safety record.

https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/hal-conducts-extensive-tests-on-dhruv-alh-to-fix-lingering-flaws-101755113406510.html

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Smart fence system, drones & ATVs boost security along LoC in J&K

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 14 Aug 2025

Amid growing infiltration attempts by Pakistani terrorists, the Army has significantly upgraded its surveillance and defense capabilities along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Rajouri and Poonch sectors of the Jammu region, introducing high-tech equipment and enhanced patrol systems.

In recent weeks, several infiltration bids were reported in Poonch, all of which were successfully foiled by alert Army personnel. On July 30, two terrorists attempting to cross into Indian territory

were neutralised by soldiers deployed at the LoC in Poonch. The intruders were carrying a cache of arms and ammunition from Pakistan.

To counter such threats more effectively, the Army has deployed a range of modern surveillance tools, including the Smart Fence System, which significantly boosts border security through real-time monitoring and automated alerts.

Lt Col Suneel Bartwal, Defence PRO based in Jammu, said, “There are formidable challenges faced by soldiers stationed at the border, who steadfastly defend the nation with determination and selflessness. Amidst the breathtaking yet unforgiving landscapes, the soldiers display an indomitable spirit as they tackle adversities with unwavering commitment and an assuring smile.”

He added that despite extreme weather conditions, isolation, and the constant need for vigilance, the soldiers continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience.

To enhance their capability, the Army is now equipped with quadcopters, advanced surveillance tools, bulletproof vehicles, All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), modern weaponry, and night vision devices to detect and neutralise infiltration attempts—especially during night operations when visibility is low.

Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) have benefited from the induction of military vehicles such as the Armado and ATVs, enabling them to operate efficiently in challenging terrain and dense forests.

Also, drones have become a central part of the Army’s surveillance strategy. The official said the increasing integration of Mini Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Surveillance Drones is transforming operations by enabling persistent monitoring of sensitive areas and supporting potential strike missions.

Night vision devices are also proving critical, especially during dark hours when infiltrators exploit poor visibility. These tools allow border guards to identify and engage threats even in pitch darkness.

On the International Border (IB)—guarded by the Border Security Force (BSF)—locals are being trained as Village Defence Guards (VDGs) in arms handling and self-defense. This initiative is particularly active in the Akhnoor sector, which has witnessed infiltration attempts this year. BSF officials are providing training in the use of semi-automatic weapons to enhance community-level defense.

Meanwhile, ahead of Independence Day celebrations, the Army has intensified patrolling and implemented a three-layered security system along the LoC to prevent any terrorist attempts to disrupt the national event.

https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/j-k/smart-fence-system-drones-atvs-boost-security-along-loc/

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सेना के तरकश में अब होंगे भैरव, दिव्यास्त्र, शक्तिबाण

Source: NavBharat Times, Dt. 14 Aug 2025

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■ **नई दिल्ली:** भारतीय सेना की ताकत का सबसे ताजा उदाहरण है ऑपरेशन सिंदूर। जिसमें सेना ने न सिर्फ पाकिस्तान के अंदर आतंकी ठिकानों को ध्वस्त किया बल्कि पाकिस्तान की तरफ से किए गए हर हमले को नाकाम भी किया। ये दशक भारतीय सेना के लिए ट्रांसफॉर्मेशन का दशक है और इस दिशा में तेजी से काम हो रहा है। इस महीने के आखिर तक भारतीय सेना में 5 भैरव बटालियन, 5 दिव्यास्त्र बैटरी, 3 शक्तिबाण रेजिमेंट के साथ ही हर इंफ्रेंट्री (पैदल सेना) बटालियन में ड्रोन प्लाटून बन जाएगी। ये पहला फेज है। ये सेना की कैपेबिलिटी बढ़ाने के साथ ही भविष्य के खतरे और नई तकनीक के खतरों से निपटने की भी तैयारी है।

लाइट कमांडो बटालियन: जैसा कि नाम से ही साफ है ये छोटी और ज्यादा घातक बटालियन होंगी। ये भैरव बटालियन दुश्मन को चौंकाने के लिए काफी होंगी। इस महीने के आखिर तक भारतीय सेना में ऐसी 5 बटालियन तैयार हो जाएंगी। ये घातक हथियारों से लैस होगी और हाई इंटेंसिटी के ऑपरेशन करने में माहिर होंगी। ये पैरा-कमांडो से अलग होंगी क्योंकि ये बॉर्डर पर त्वरित और छोटे पैमाने पर ज्यादा घातक ऑपरेशन करने पर केंद्रित हैं।

हर इंफ्रेंट्री बटालियन में ड्रोन प्लाटून

ऑपरेशन सिंदूर में दुनिया ने ड्रोन और एंटी ड्रोन का खूब इस्तेमाल देखा। पाकिस्तान की तरफ से जब बड़ी संख्या में ड्रोन भेजे गए तो भारतीय सेना ने उन्हें मार गिराया। अब भारतीय सेना की हर इंफ्रेंट्री बटालियन में ड्रोन प्लाटून होगी। वैसे अभी भी ड्रोन का इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है और इसके लिए लगातार ट्रेनिंग भी दी जा रही है। लेकिन अब डेडिकेटेड प्लाटून होगी। इस महीने के आखिर तक ये भी तैयार हो जाएगी।

दिव्यास्त्र और शक्तिबाण

भारतीय सेना की आर्टिलरी (तोपखाना) रेजिमेंट ने ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के दौरान एलओसी पर पाकिस्तान की कई पोस्ट और आतंकियों के लॉन्च पैड नष्ट किए थे। आर्टिलरी रेजिमेंट दुश्मन को दूर से इंगेज करती है और ये टारगेट विजुवल रेंज से बाहर होते हैं। तोपखाने की ताकत बढ़ाने के लिए इस महीने के आखिर तक 5 आर्टिलरी रेजिमेंट में एक- एक दिव्यास्त्र बैटरी बन जाएंगी और 3 शक्तिबाण रेजिमेंट भी तैयार हो जाएंगी। दिव्यास्त्र बैटरी आर्टिलरी की हर रेजिमेंट में बनेगी। पहले फेज में जिन 5 रेजिमेंट में यह बन रही हैं वे सेना की अलग अलग कमांड में होगी (सेंट्रल कमांड को छोड़कर)। शक्तिबाण रेजिमेंट डेडिकेटेड ड्रोन और लॉइटरिंग (टारगेट के ऊपर मंडराकर सटीक अटैक करने वाले) एम्युनिशन की रेजिमेंट होगी। दिव्यास्त्र बैटरी में ड्रोन और लॉइटरिंग एम्युनिशन होंगे।

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Post-Operation Sindoor performance, talks on in Armed Forces to up retention of Agniveers

Source: The Indian Express, Dt. 14 Aug 2025

The Armed Forces are discussing a reassessment of the Agnipath scheme, keeping in mind the requirement for an ideal ratio between technically proficient and trained manpower and a reduced age profile of soldiers in the military, The Indian Express has learnt.

The services have been periodically reviewing the scheme — for recruitment of soldiers, airmen and sailors for a limited period of four years — ever since it was introduced in 2022. While there have been discussions between the services and the Department of Military Affairs on possible tweaks, no major changes have been cleared so far.

However, according to sources, following Operation Sindoor in May, there have been discussions on increasing the retention of Agniveers, based on factors such as training, experience and expertise acquired by them in their four years. Sources said the performance of Agniveers in Op Sindoor was found to be “excellent”.

The first batch of Agniveers will complete their four years by 2026-end, and a decision on making changes to the scheme is likely to take place around that time. According to current rules, at the end of the four-year tenure, up to 25% of the Agniveers can join the services, subject to merit and organisational requirements.

According to sources, discussions are underway in the Army to increase this retention percentage — with the number varying in different departments. For instance, there are discussions to increase the retention percentage of Agniveers to 70-75 per cent for infantry and other combat arms, 80 per cent for specially trained personnel such as Air Defence, Signals and Engineers among others, and 100 per cent for Special Forces. The Special Forces get selected during their probation period. However, sources said, the proposed increase in retention will be done while ensuring that the average age of Agniveers does not see a huge jump.

According to sources, these percentages are still being discussed within the Army and will be further deliberated upon at the next Army Commanders Conference, before a final proposal is sent to the government for approval.

While there are increasing efforts to procure and induct a range of new generation military platforms, equipment and modern technologies in the Armed Forces after Operation Sindoor, much of the discussions stem from the requirement of a bigger manpower trained to use them. In the Army, for instance, most of such specialised training is done after Agniveers join their respective units after the initial six months of training at their regimental centres.

Assuming that the selection of trainees is carried out within the first six months of joining a unit and subsequent specialist training takes another three to six months, the bulk of Agniveers would only be available for another two to two-and-a-half years as per the current scheme, an official told The Indian Express.

“This makes the cost of training unviable. As the specialists move out every four years, a larger number of people would be required to be trained in every cycle. This will increase the burden on the organisation and also make it difficult to find adequate instructors from a limited pool of the retained manpower,” he said.

While it is not known whether the Navy and the Indian Air Force will also propose to increase retention, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh had said last year that the IAF's feedback on Agniveers has been very positive. "We were asked if we could absorb more than 25 per cent Agniveers and we said that we could," he had said.

Sources in the Navy said it is also open to the idea of increasing the retention percentage of sailors under the scheme, when the first batch completes four years. Earlier this year, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi had said that efforts to align Agniveers' leave policies with those of regular soldiers and to harmonise benefits in case of casualties were also being considered. He also mentioned the requirement for technically skilled recruits and spoke about the possibility of increasing the upper age limit from 21 to 23 years.

"Technology-intensive services need more senior technical personnel, and the Agnipath scheme, as the only route for admitting them, may fall short of meeting the required number of senior technical personnel," an official had earlier told The Indian Express, adding that several such senior posts would otherwise fall vacant by 2035.

The Armed Forces are considering changes to the Agnipath scheme, which recruits soldiers for four years. They want to increase retention based on performance in Operation Sindoor, without significantly increasing the average age of Agniveers. The Navy and Air Force may also increase retention, and efforts are being made to align Agniveers.

https://indianexpress.com/article/india/post-operation-sindoor-performance-talks-on-in-armed-forces-to-up-retention-of-agniveers-10187828/

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स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर है बार वीरता पुरस्कार के साथ विशिष्ट पुरस्कार भी

Source: NavBharat Times, Dt. 14 Aug 2025

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नई दिल्ली : इस साल 15 अगस्त स्वतंत्रता दिवस के साथ ही ऑपरेशन सिंदूर की सफलता के भी नाम होगा। अब तक हर साल स्वतंत्रता दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर राष्ट्रपति की तरफ से गैलेंट्री अवॉर्ड का ही ऐलान होता रहा है। लेकिन इस बार उम्मीद है कि गैलेंट्री अवॉर्ड्स के साथ ही विशिष्ट अवॉर्ड (distinguished awards) का भी ऐलान हो सकता है, जो ऑपरेशन सिंदूर

विशिष्ट अवॉर्ड ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के नायकों के नाम रहेगा।

के नायकों के नाम रहेगा। साथ ही जब 15 अगस्त को लाल किले पर आजादी का जश्न मनाया जाएगा तो राष्ट्रगान के वक्त एयरफोर्स के दो Mi-17 हेलिकॉप्टर उड़ान भरेंगे। ये फूल बरसाएंगे। एक हेलिकॉप्टर में तिरंगा लहराएगा तो दूसरा हेलिकॉप्टर ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के लोगो (logo) वाला फ्लैग आसमान में लहराएगा।

ऑपरेशन सिंदूर में इंडियन आर्म्ड फोर्सेस ने पाकिस्तान में आतंकी ठिकानों को ध्वस्त किया और पाकिस्तान के हर हमले को नाकाम किया। यह संघर्ष हथियारों से हुआ साथ ही नेरेटिव का भी संघर्ष था।

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Gallantry awards set to be announced for Operation Sindoor soldiers on Independence Day

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 14 Aug 2025

Gallantry awards will be announced for defence personnel honoured for their exceptional courage during Operation Sindoor on Independence Day, a senior Defence official said.

Operation Sindoor's success will be celebrated at the Independence Day celebrations this year, including its logo on the view cutter at Gyanpath, and themed floral decorations.

Defence personnel selected for the awards will be seated at the Red Fort rampart, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver his address to the nation. The PM's address to the nation is expected to highlight the success of Operation Sindoor and the contributions of defence personnel.

The celebrations will commemorate "the continuing rise of a prosperous, secure and bold 'Naya Bharat'", the theme of this year's festivities, "as the nation is making giant strides towards realising the government's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047", the MoD stated, adding the celebration will "provide renewed power to surge further ahead on the path to progress"..

The Indian Air Force will stage a special flypast over the Red Fort, with three helicopters flying in formation carrying the National Flag as well as the Operation Sindoor flag. As in previous years, the aircraft will shower flower petals over the public.

Invitations to the event also feature Operation Sindoor on the top right corner, with a sketch of the Chenab railway bridge in the middle replacing the image of the Central Vista previously embossed on the cards. Recently inaugurated by Mr. Modi, the bridge connects the Kashmir Valley to the rest of the country by rail for the first time.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gallantry-medals-for-operation-sindoor-to-be-announced-on-independence-day/article69929246.ece

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A war game-changer in a battle for influence in Asia

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 14 Aug 2025

The world first noticed a massive shift in how wars are fought during the second Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (2020): the increasingly integral role that drones play. For India and Pakistan, Operation Sindoor (May 7-10) cemented this shift, as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) moved from serving purely reconnaissance needs to becoming instrumental for precision strikes.

An exercise of modernisation

In the aftermath of the clashes, India is trying to upgrade and modernise its military. In 2024, India finalised an order for 31 MQ-9B Reapers from the United States, including SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian models. These aircraft will supplement India's need for maritime domain awareness and reinforce the strategic partnership between the countries. Still, this partially addresses just one of the needs of a country with its varied terrains and multiple contested borders. Given its vast border territories with Pakistan and China in high-altitude regions, India requires systems that are capable of high-altitude surveillance — larger fixed-wing long-range systems that can deliver

significant payloads during precision strikes, and smaller, cost-effective systems for precision strikes.

Currently, the unmanned platforms that India has in operation address only some of these requirements. Israeli systems such as the relatively older Harop loitering munition and the medium-altitude long-range Heron are useful for aerial strikes and surveillance, respectively. But they are not the most advanced systems on the market. Apart from these, India largely operated legacy systems that were imported prior to the last decade and some indigenous models.

Despite the long defence relationship between the two countries, as India seeks to procure state-of-the-art drones, it no longer makes sense for it to look largely to the U.S. for outright purchases. There is likely to be a shift where the U.S. becomes more important for components such as power plants and electronic payloads. Conversations about leading unmanned aerial systems invariably come back to the U.S., China, Türkiye, and Israel. However, recent reports question whether American drones are good enough even to meet their domestic demands, let alone dominate the export market.

A New York Times article, written by an observer of exercises with U.S. drone companies, revealed the growing gap between American systems and those made by Russia and China. Congruent with these concerns, the ‘US Drone Dominance’ executive order was rolled out with massive plans for American drone production. A CNAS report finds that the U.S.’s adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) has resulted in it falling far behind China and Türkiye in the UAV export market, making up only 8% of the market as of the end of 2023. Although recent and upcoming reforms to the MTCR will allow the U.S. to tap into the export market more, it already lags behind.

Today, India finds itself trying to fill these gaps in its arsenal through imports, joint ventures and domestic production, largely relying on Israel and European countries. Given the state of its ties with both China and Türkiye at the moment, India is unlikely to rely on either country for critical defence technologies. As it attempts to further its own interests, India should also leverage its technological advancements to become a supplier of fixed-wing UAVs for the broader Indo-Pacific region.

The China factor

A number of countries, including Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan have relations with China that can only be described as strained at best. Maritime Domain Awareness is essential for these countries to monitor and counter China’s use of ‘gray-zone’ warfare, using agents such as their coast guard and maritime militia, to enforce disputed territorial claims. This also enables them to protect their sovereignty and safeguard vital economic interests, such as fisheries and energy exploration, from constant encroachment.

Israel finds itself otherwise preoccupied with its long and drawn-out conflict in West Asia, and is unlikely to be a reliable supplier to the region. With the U.S. struggling to remain in the race, Türkiye is the primary option for procuring high-performance and cost-effective systems. Given that India and Türkiye find themselves in a fairly adversarial relationship, it is in India’s interest to prevent Türkiye from expanding its sphere of influence through drone diplomacy.

Many countries in the Indo-Pacific also share similar geographies with India, and, consequently, a pressing need for systems tailored to maritime domain awareness and high-altitude border patrol. If India were to develop systems to suit its own needs, they would also suit the strategic requirements of its not-so-distant neighbours.

A contested space

The U.S.-shaped vacuum in the drone market within the Indo-Pacific, is becoming a highly contested space that India would benefit from filling. Not only would it boost trade and influence with a host of countries but it would also fulfil the country's own strategic needs. Despite being held back by bureaucratic red tape and a public sector dominated defence sector, it would benefit India to capitalise on its existing ties with Israel and utilise its learnings from joint production ventures to better its domestic UAV ecosystem. Beyond just producing everything domestically, technology-sharing regimes with like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific would further mutual interests and foster trust-based relationships in a region that is becoming increasingly polarised.

https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-war-game-changer-in-a-battle-for-influence-in-asia/article69929692.ece

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Science & Technology News

PixxelSpace India-led consortium to establish India's first commercial earth observation satellite constellation

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 14 Aug 2025

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) on Tuesday announced the selection of the PixxelSpace India-led consortium to design, build, and operate India's first fully indigenous commercial earth observation (EO) satellite constellation under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.

The Bengaluru-based PixxelSpace India consortium comprises Piersight Space, Satsure Analytics India, and Dhruva Space.

IN-SPACe said the selection of the PixxelSpace India consortium was done following a competitive bidding process which involved two more consortia.

It is for the first time in the history of the Indian space sector that a private consortium would invest more than ₹1,200 crore over the next five years to launch a constellation of 12 state-of-the-art EO satellites equipped with panchromatic, multispectral, hyperspectral, and microwave Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors.

The constellation will deliver Analysis Ready Data (ARD) and Value-Added Services (VAS) for applications in climate change monitoring, disaster management, agriculture, infrastructure, marine surveillance, national security, and urban planning, while also catering to the global demand for high-quality geospatial intelligence.

IN-SPACe said that by generating high-resolution, indigenous satellite data, the initiative will significantly reduce India's reliance on foreign sources, ensure data sovereignty, and position the country among the global leaders in space-based data solutions.

“This initiative signals the coming of age of India’s private space industry in the space sector. It demonstrates the capability and confidence of Indian companies to lead large-scale, technologically advanced, and commercially viable space missions that serve both national and global markets. The EO -PPP model fosters an ecosystem where public and private capabilities reinforce each other to drive growth, innovation, and self-reliance,” Pawan Goenka, chairman, IN-SPACe, said.

Under the PPP framework, the Union government will provide strategic, technical, and policy support, while the PixxelSpace India-led consortium will own and operate the EO system, including satellite manufacturing, launches from Indian soil, ground infrastructure, and commercialisation of data services.

IN-SPACe further added that the EO constellation will be deployed in a phased manner over the next four years to ensure continuous service upgrades and expanded coverage.

Once operational, it will be among the most advanced EO systems in the world, designed, built, and operated entirely in India by Indian talent.

https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/pixxelspace-india-led-consortium-to-establish-indias-first-commercial-earth-observation-satellite-constellation/article69924236.ece

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