

WE HAVE TO WORK FAST TO SOLVE CHALLENGES IN SPACE TECH: MODI

Relevant for: Science & Technology | Topic: Defence related developments

Eye on sky: Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at the Defence Expo 2022 in Gandhinagar on Wednesday. VIJAY SONEJI VIJAY SONEJI

In an ambitious effort to develop innovative solutions for the three Services in the space domain through the Indian industry and start-ups, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched the 'Mission DefSpace' at the ongoing DefExpo.

He also released the fourth defence indigenisation list at the ongoing DefExpo-2022, which bars import of 101 items after certain timelines.

"Space technology is an example of what security will mean for any strong nation in the future. Various challenges in this area have been reviewed and identified by the three Services. We have to work fast to solve them," Mr. Modi said.

Under Mission DefSpace, 75 challenges are being opened to get innovative solutions, based on the defence requirements in the space domain, the Defence Ministry said.

Stating that space technology was shaping new definitions of India's generous space diplomacy and giving rise to new possibilities, the Prime Minister stated, "Many African countries and many other small countries are benefiting from this."

Real-time access to data

There are more than 60 developing countries with whom India is sharing its space science. "The South Asia satellite is an effective example of this. By next year, 10 Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries will also get real-time access to India's satellite data. Even developed countries like Europe and America are using our satellite data," he stated.

Explaining the significance, Lt. Gen. A.K. Bhatt (retd.), Director General of the Indian Space Association (ISpA), said this was the first time an opportunity was being given to the private industry in the defence space sector.

"Defence space challenges, which have been worked with the Services, Ministry of Defence, along with private industry and the ISpA, are primarily aimed at making a range of defence applications to enhance the capability of the three Services," he stated.

A senior official explained that the effort was not meant to develop offensive capabilities in space but to build technology enablers for the Services.

As part of efforts to boost the domestic defence industry and promote defence exports, the Defence Ministry had earlier promulgated the first, second and third Positive Indigenisation Lists, comprising 310 items.

The items on the lists cannot be imported by the Services and should be sourced from within the country.

In the fourth list too, import substitution of ammunition which is a recurring requirement has been given special focus, the Ministry stated.

Mr. Modi also unveiled the HTT-40 indigenous trainer aircraft designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. The Cabinet Committee on Security is expected to give its final approval for procurement of these trainers for the Air Force.

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