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The Current and Strategic Affairs Forum

## **Examining Successful Models of Atma Nirbharta in Defence**

Webinar Summary Report

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### **Acknowledgements:**

The Webinar “**Examining Successful Models of Atma Nirbharta in Defence**” held on 06 December 2020 at 5pm IST was organised by The Current and Strategic Affairs Forum (CASA) jointly with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM). We would like to thank our panelists for their comprehensive analysis and candidly expressing their views:

- Vice Admiral Ramakant Pattanaik, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd)  
Erstwhile DCNS
  
- Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar, PVSM, AVSM, VM & Bar ADC (Retd)  
Erstwhile AOC-in-C, WAC
  
- Lt Gen PR Shankar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd),  
Erstwhile DG Artillery

Introductory remarks by Lt Gen Gautam Moorthy, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), Former DG Ordnance and Moderated by Brig Ashis Bhattacharyya (Retd), Senior Advisor, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers

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We would also like to thank the many other distinguished attendees including many senior veterans, business leaders, professors, think tank researchers, contributors, analysts, and others who took time out of their busy schedules to attend and shared their inputs with views, including some very relevant Q&A and comments during the Webinar.

We would like to thank Lt Gen Gautam Moorthy, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC (Retd), Former DG Ordnance Services for his motivational role in guiding the CASA Core Committee and all our CASA Core Committee members for their ongoing assistance in coordinating and contributing towards organising the Webinar.

**DISCLAIMER:**

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### **Presentation:**

**Lt Gen Gautam Moorthy** introduced the eminent panelists on the Webinar with a broad overview of the key challenges impacting Indian Defence sector procurement, growing need for import substitution to effectively manage our supply chains and reduce dependence on overseas suppliers in the current challenging geopolitical environment.

**Adm Pattanaik** shared his insightful views that are summarised below:

1. Navy is self confident and self reliant.
2. Indigenous content of 41 ships of the Indian Navy- 40% (float component), 60% (moving parts) & 50% (fighting components).
3. Two most complex military hardware to produce are aircraft carriers and submarines.
4. In 1952 the Indian Navy set up the Indian Navy Physical Laboratory. Staffing by Naval Officers as well as scientists from DRDO. Work on underwater sensors commenced. The NSTL and the NCML also came up later.
5. The WSEEE was established in 1978 and India produced its first Leander class ship with sensors from Western countries and weapon systems from Eastern countries. WSEEE made this interface happen.
6. The Navy's vision statement is self-reliance and indigenisation.
7. Indian Navy has a focused approach to self real reliance. Naval teams working in dockyards did make effective use of financial powers and decision making is decentralized.



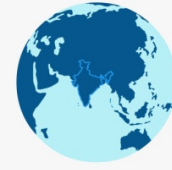
**Air Marshal Nambiar** shared his insightful views that are summarised below:

1. Till 1964 Avros were being produced by HAL.
2. Utilised services of Dr Kurt, a German engineer to produce the HF-24 fighter aircraft.
3. Tejas has taken 40 years. Project sanctioned in 1983. GSQR in 1985. Was expected to fly by 1990.
4. At NAL, separate teams were created for the Wing, Fuselage and for Flight Testing. The PMG was initially headed by an AVM, now by an AM. Now two sqns worth. Order for 83 Tejas Mk 1A placed.
5. Atmanirbharta is now a way of life. It is crucial to the success of the IAF. However, for propulsion, no indigenous engine. Also, radar imported. However, for future radar will be Indian.
6. CAG Report-67% imported parts.
7. Atmanirbharta is the way of life for the Air Force. They must innovate. Tejas Mk1A would replace the MIG 29. For propulsion there is no Indian engine. The radar is imported. However, the future radar will be Indian.

**Lt Gen PR Shankar** shared his insightful views that are summarised below:

1. Artillery profile was finalized in 2017 but made no progress till 2010. In guns and ammunition, we have reached a dead end.
2. However, despite that, Arty Profile 2027 was drawn out. We have progressed to a point that within one decade we will have the best strongest artillery in the world.

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3. This was achieved by clarity of thought, long term vision, knowledge, taking ownership, generating macro level teamwork, creating a level playing field, engaging with multiple agencies with an open mind, direct connect and support of strong political leadership. The wisdom of experience of veterans was utilised.

**ACM Arup Raha** while concurring with the other speakers, he indicated that we need vision and leadership, especially political leadership as well as Director Generals leading their teams. A balanced approach is also required.

## Summary

General Moorthy in his closing comments sincerely thanked the eminent speakers and the audience for their incisive comments with diverse questions. A vote of thanks was also given to Brig Bhattacharyya and his SIDM team for providing their platform on this important topic and the CASA team members for helping organise the event.

The Webinar closed at 6.30 pm IST.