

# 60 years of Chetak service



(Photo: MoD)

“Chetak has proved its mettle in the battlefield by targeting enemies with accuracy and successfully landing troops. It has also helped in delivering essential logistics. It has saved precious lives through its evacuation efforts in case of emergency. It has provided important information whenever needed, which has helped in decision making and paving way for victory in wars. Chetak has always been at the forefront in providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief during natural calamities. This is the first time a platform has reached this stage.” He appreciated the fact that Chetak, through adaptation, modification and upgradation, remains a frontline platform even after 60 years of its creation.

Mr. Rajnath Singh recalled the extraordinary contribution of the Chetak

The Chetak helicopter in the inventory of the Indian Armed Forces has completed 60 years of glorious service to the Nation.

“Safety and security of the country is Government’s top priority and all efforts are being made to safeguard its unity and integrity,” stated Raksha Mantri Mr. Rajnath while addressing a conclave organised to commemorate 60 years of Chetak helicopter’s service to the Nation. The conclave was organised by the Indian Air Force at Air Force Station, Hakimpet in Hyderabad on 2 April 2022. Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhuri, senior retired and serving officers of the helicopter stream from the three services and officials of Ministry of Defence, Indian Coast Guard and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) were present on the occasion.

The Raksha Mantri described the conclave as a fitting tribute to those who have served the Nation with hard work and dedication. Paying his respects to this invaluable contribution, he said, “Whenever a country fights a war for the safety and security, it is not just the Armed Forces who take part. The whole nation fights that war. The scientists, engineers and technicians of organisations like HAL, who develop helicopters like Chetak and other platforms, play an equally important role as our soldiers. Lakhs of employees and workers



(Photo: Army PRO)

associated with MSMEs also contribute by supplying parts to these projects. This conclave celebrates the hard work and dedication of all of them”.

Comparing Chetak named horse of Rajput king Rana Pratap, Mr. Rajnath Singh described the Chetak helicopter as not just a machine, but a vibrant and dedicated entity which has been continuously engaged in the service of the nation for the last six decades and has set an example for others. He noted that nearly 700 Chetaks manufactured so far have served the nation in war and peace with full dedication, describing its multi-service employment as a shining example of jointness.

Elaborating on the capabilities of the helicopter, the Raksha Mantri stated,

helicopter during the 1971 war. “From providing air support to ground troops to heli-bridging operations and destroying enemy positions, our air warriors onboard, Chetak showed exemplary courage and professionalism during the war. The helicopter was also used to train the pilots of Mukti Bahini. Chetak’s role can also be seen as a shining example of promoting integration and jointmanship. Our victory in the war has been written in golden letters in the history books. Neither did we want any power, land, resources, nor any domination. We fought that war to protect humanity and democracy,” he stated.

The Raksha Mantri was of the view that India has shown its strength in the design, development and operation of helicopters