

[DRDO Successfully Test Flight Rustom 2](#)

DRDO successfully flew its Rustom 2 today at its Aeronautical Test Range(ATR) at Chalakere at Chitradurga. This flight assumes significance due to the fact that this is the first flight in user configuration with higher power engine.

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[Text of PM's address at Auroville, Puducherry](#)

I am happy to be here today on the occasion of the golden jubilee week of Auroville. Sri Aurobindo's vision of India's spiritual leadership continues to inspire us, even today.

Indeed, Auroville is a manifestation of that vision.

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[The EU seems intent on No deal](#)

The EU decided to reject the proposed UK/EU partnership they think the UK wants before the PM has even set it out! It was further evidence that the EU either does not want a deal or thinks the UK will just take dictation for a very bad deal.

They need to consider that any deal has to be put into UK legislation, and needs to pass muster with the Brexit majority in the UK to do so. Why would Parliament vote to give the EU large sums of money with no full free trade agreement and fuller partnership on offer? How could Parliament pass legislation to give the EU powers back that we had just reclaimed through the Article 50 process thanks to the referendum decision?

The EU offered Mr Cameron far too little in his renegotiation and lost a valuable member as a result. Now they run the risk of messing up a favourable trade and partnership relationship for them by being so negative and unhelpful.

[CE celebrates Chinese New Year with families of Light Housing project in Sham Tseng \(with photos\)](#)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, attended a New Year Feast this afternoon (February 25) with dozens of residents of the Light Housing project in Sham Tseng to extend her Chinese New Year greetings to them. She was accompanied by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr Law Chi-kwong; the Chairman of Light Be, Mr Laurence Li; the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Light Be, Mr Ricky Yu; and the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Social Ventures Hong Kong, Mr Francis Ngai.

The Sham Tseng Light Housing project, which involves a previously vacant factory staff quarters building belonging to the Government, is the first collaboration between the Government and the social enterprise Light Be. With the support of donations from the business sector, Light Be renovated the building to provide more than 40 units of rental housing with affordable rent below the market level to families in need for a maximum of three years. Aside from providing a secure place to stay for the resident families, Light Be also offers a wide range of support and counselling services to encourage the residents to help one another as well as their own self and develop self-reliance upon expiry of the lease. The concept is similar to the measure promulgated by the Chief Executive in her maiden Policy Address to develop transitional housing to alleviate the hardship faced by families on the public rental housing waiting list and the inadequately housed. In fact, the Sham Tseng Light Housing project was made possible with active involvement of Mrs Lam while she was the Chief Secretary for Administration.

Noting that she had visited the Light Housing in Sham Tseng several times, she said she is pleased to know that circumstances of some families had improved during their stay at the Light Housing. Coupled with the provision of professional guidance and support, they were able to start again to fend for themselves and look after their children down the road. She said she appreciates Light Be for its ongoing efforts. Since the launch of the first Light Home in September 2012, Light Be has, including the Light Housing in Sham Tseng, provided over 100 flats, benefitting about 200 families with over 600 members. Expressing her gratitude to the community and the business sector as well for their active participation in helping the disadvantaged, she said that the Government will continue to facilitate the implementation of various short-term community initiatives to increase the supply of transitional housing and pool the efforts and resources from all sectors in society to alleviate the housing problem faced by the grassroots.

Mrs Lam enjoyed a hot pot meal with the residents on the rooftop where they hold gatherings frequently. She also harvested lettuces which were grown by the residents on the rooftop farm for a "lo hei" ceremony, wishing all the

residents a smooth, vibrant and prosperous year ahead.



The UK as a leader for free trade

Most people in the UK want us to promote more free trade, not introduce new barriers.

If this can be done fairly, with reductions in barriers on both sides, it will help boost our prosperity.

Our trade with the rest of the world is in surplus, showing that we have an EU trade problem, not a global trade problem.

There can be some early and easy wins for trade policy as soon as the UK takes back control over this important matter.

The UK can offer tariff free access to our market to emerging market producers of tropical produce in return for better access to their markets.

Old friends and trading partners like Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA will welcome Free Trade Agreements with us.

The Free Trade Agreements the EU has with third countries can novate to us as well as to the rest of the EU.

I know of no country that has a trade agreement with the EU that wants to impose new barriers against the UK once we have left.

Some say such arrangements may be possible but will not offset the loss of our current trading arrangements with the rest of the EU
I disagree.

It would be strange indeed if the EU want to impose tariffs and other barriers on trade in goods given their huge surplus in that trade today

We will carry on exporting to them one way or another.

Today the bulk of our trade is carried out under WTO rules with tariffs imposed by the EU.

This is why I do not think we have to choose between being free and being rich

We do not need to stay in some Faustian pact, trading freedom for more exports

The gloomy arguments that we will suffer from leaving are not merely misleading about the economy

They are also too narrowly concentrated on business profit and loss when we should be talking more of freedom and self government.