



# DRDO

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**23 March 2013**  
**DRDO Bhawan, Delhi**

## **NO SUBSTITUTE TO SELF RELIANCE: SAYS RM**

The Defence Minister Shri AK Antony today complimented the top brass of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for their remarkable achievements in recent years, most notably, for Agni-5 and the BrahMos missile systems. Inaugurating the 37<sup>th</sup> Directors' Conference of DRDO here, Shri Antony said, "Though we have been making efforts at indigenization, we still continue to be over-dependent on imports to meet our requirements.

We need to reverse this trend at the earliest possible and ensure that a majority of our requirements are met through indigenous production." Referring to some recent developments which have put the defence acquisition process under the scanner, Shri Antony said, such incidents highlight the need to look within and make us realise that there is absolutely no substitute to self reliance.

"If our indigenisation goals are to be realised, DRDO will have to take the lead in this regard. Other stakeholders, for instance, the Services, the Ministry of Defence and private industry in the defence sector too must cooperate to ensure quick, honest and transparent acceptance of the systems".

Shri Antony said, all the stakeholders must meet at regular intervals to undertake periodic reviews and suggest corrective action. Both DRDO and the Services must place more trust and confidence in each other's abilities and work with close synergy.

"The concept of block acceptance and spiral development that is being followed in most leading countries of the world must be embraced after due deliberations and required changes", Shri Antony said.

Responding to the DRDO's request for enhanced budget, Shri Antony said, "Continuous funding is required for Research & Development to survive, but I am sure that with more emphasis on indigenization and self-reliance, we might have to invest more to begin with, but we would save a lot of money in the long run."

Referring to the Round Table discussions with all stakeholders on future wars and technology requirements during the Conference, he said “Increased participation of Services in the Conference sessions is a satisfying development”.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Jitendra Singh, Hon’ble Raksha Rajya Mantri said that DRDO had emerged as an important pillar of national strategic departments. He said that theme of the conference was of current relevance and urged DRDO and industry to work in close association for indigenization. He emphasized that it was important to create an environment for young scientists to innovate.

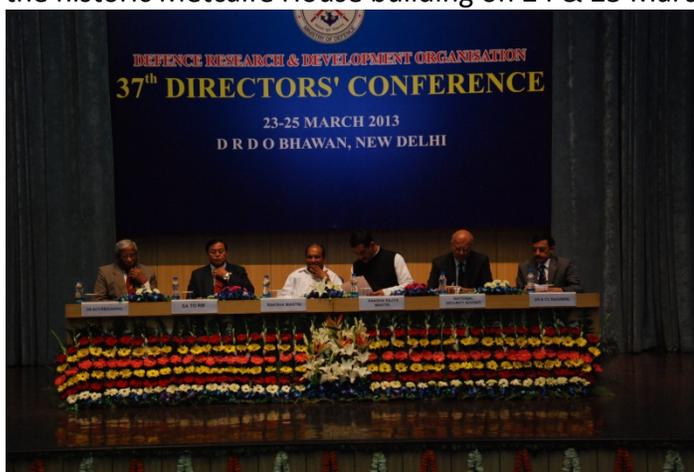
The National Security Advisor, Shri Shivshankar Menon said that the nation takes pride in what DRDO has done and as a consequence; the expectations are higher, “DRDO’s importance will further grow in the years to come”.

Highlighting the recent achievements of DRDO, Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Scientific Advisor to Raksh Mantri, Secretary Deptt. of Defence R&D and DG DRDO, while delivering the theme address, stated, “A continuous string of successes in the strategic missile arena with consecutive launches of Agni 5 by DRDO, Agni 3 & Prithvi by SFC, followed by AAD Interceptor test in November 2012 and underwater missile tests in January this year have very conclusively proved success of technology development in addition to system development in this very critical area thus giving DRDO & India a very decisive edge.” He also stated “our achievements must spur us on to greater successes. Each success should raise the bar of our ambitions, each achievement should point us to the next higher step.” Dr. Saraswat also informed the gathering that DRDO had also licensed more than 50 technologies over the last two years ranging from the APTA Lakshya for Military application to the Biodigester for societal missions.

Welcoming the gathering, Dr. AvinashChander, Distinguished Scientist and Chief Controller R&D (MSS) emphasized that there was need to enhance the production capability in manufacturing sector in the nation. At the end, Dr. K. Tamilmani, Distinguished Scientist and Chief Controller R&D (Aeronautics) presented the vote of thanks.

The function was attended by a galaxy of dignitaries from Min. of Defence, the three Armed Forces and icons from industries.

The three-day conference will continue to debate the theme issues over the next two days at the historic Metcalfe House building on 24 & 25 March 2013.



L to R- Dr K Tamilmani, DS & CC R&D (Aero), Dr VK Saraswat, SA to RM, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Sh AK Antony, Hon'ble Raksha Rajya Mantri Sh Jitendra Singh, Sh Shiv Shankar Menon National Security Advisor, Dr Avinash Chander DS&CC R&D (MSS)



Dr VK Saraswat, SA to RM presenting memento to Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Sh AK Antony



Dr Avinash Chander DS&CC R&D (MSS) presenting memento to Ms Kumud Srinivasan, President, Intel India Invited Speaker

Ravi Kumar Gupta  
Scientist 'G' and Director  
Directorate of Public Interface,  
DRDO Hqrs, Ministry of Defence  
Room 117, DRDO Bhawan  
New Delhi-110011  
Ph +911123011073, 23007602  
Mob 09868276099