



Foreign Defence Attaches Conclave: India Defence Industry Transiting Rapidly to being Export Oriented

Setting the tone of the power-packed 4th Foreign Defence Attaches' Conclave, Indian Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said, "We are manufacturing weapons not just to arm our defence forces, but we are now precisely becoming a export-oriented defence industry." The conclave was conducted at the Constitution Club, New Delhi on 18 October by the digital platform BharatShakti.in in association with Ministry of Defence (MOD), General Rawat added, "Our defence exports currently stand at about Rs 11,000 crore annually and is expected to grow to Rs 35,000 crore by 2024."

Echoing the theme of the event, "Enhancing Defence Capabilities through Cooperation", Indian Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh pitched for greater maritime cooperation and leveraging the collective military competence globally for facing common threats. Emphasising on foreign cooperation initiatives which include capacity building, training, exchanges and joint exercise, Admiral Singh informed the foreign defence attaches and military advisors present that, "India is hosting a large multilateral exercise MILAN 2020 at Vishakhapatnam and invited 41 countries."



He also reiterated that, "Navy is committed to enhancing cooperation and engagement with like-minded members in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and our cooperation ethos is guided as articulated by the Prime Minister Modi, by the 5Ss – Samman (honour), Samvad (dialogue), Sahyog (cooperation), Shanti (peace), and Smridhi (prosperity)."

Addressing the foreign defence diplomats, DRDO Chairman Satheesh Reddy and Sanjay Jaju, Joint Secretary, DIP, Ministry of Defence emphasised on the need of buying Indian defence products. Both officials were keen to push exports to meet the ambitious target of \$5 billion by 2025. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) considers exports essential for meeting the target of making India one of the world's top five defence producers by 2025.

Sanjay Jaju recounted the government's recent policy and regulatory reforms, which had cut down licensing requirements and speeded up export clearances, enabling Indian defence manufacturers to be more competitive for international tenders. The senior bureaucrat said, "We will have to start looking at exporting weapon platforms," referring to high-value



contracts for combat equipment like fighter planes, helicopters, tanks and artillery guns.

Sanjay Jaju also praised Indian defence platforms which are world-class and available at competitive costs and have already been purchased by the Indian armed forces. These platforms include the LCA Tejas, ALH Dhruv, Arjun tanks, Akash air defence system, Pinaka rocket launcher and a wide range of indigenous warships.

Explaining the government's seriousness about exports, Jajusad, "We have created a WhatsApp group for all the exporters. We have now a portal which is completely online; they send us digitally signed requests, we give them digitally signed approvals. Earlier we had a requirement of giving the end-user certificates in physical format, now we are going to tweak that. For all such purposes, they apply for permission in the morning; by evening they get their permissions. We have reduced this time from 15 days to even a few hours."

Dr Sateesh Reddy, Chairman DRDO informed the gathering that all patents developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) numbering over 1,700 are now available for use by the Indian industry. He added that the Defence Ministry has just unveiled a policy under which all technologies will be available free of cost for use by the Indian industry.



Indian defence conglomerate Kalyani Group's Chairman, Babasaheb Kalyani also talked about the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), which his company is developing in partnership with the DRDO as one of the finest artillery guns on the planet. He also reiterated that private sector companies need more orders from the defence forces.

The newly-formed Indigenous Defence Equipment Exporters Association (IDEEA) was launched by Lieutenant General V G Khandare, Military Advisor, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) during the inaugural session of the conclave. The event was attended by over 60 foreign military attaches and large contingents from all three services of Indian armed forces including Lt General M M Naravane, Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen S S Hasabnis, Deputy Chief of Army Staff – Planning and Systems Division, Rear Admiral Atul Anand, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff – Foreign Cooperation and Intelligence.

Delivering the valedictory address, the Vice Chief Lt Gen MM Naravane said Indian officers posted as Defence Attaches abroad, "Have been tasked to interact and advertise in host countries of the Indian equipment available."

The event witnessed participation by a galaxy of top honchos from Indian defence industry as well as the foreign OEMs including J D Patil of L & T, Ashok Atluri, Zen Technologies; Rajinder Bhatia, Bharat Forge and Kurt Knust, Lockheed Martin.

Over a dozen and half kiosks showcased the products of various public sector undertakings led by DRDO, BEL, BDL, MDL and Goa Shipyard. Prominent among the private players were Bharat Forge, Zen Technologies, Solar Group, SMPP, Salem Aeropark, Runflat Safesure, ObsEye, Shiva Texyarn, Rashtriya Metal industries. The dignitaries, including the Army and Naval Chiefs, visited these kiosks and interacted with manufacturers.

<https://bharatshakti.in/foreign-defence-attaches-conclave-india-defence-industry-transiting-rapidly-to-being-export-oriented/>

DRDO signs 30 licensing agreements on Technology Transfer

The Summit is being held at Goa University, Taleigao, Goa between October 17-19. The Ministry in a press release said, "The DRDO develops technologies for the Armed Forces and has been carrying out ToT of these technologies to the defence industry for end use of the Armed Forces." "Indian Armed Forces are procuring ready-to-eat meals, survival ration and emergency flying ration products from companies which have acquired ToT from DRDO.

These products cater to the requirements of the Armed Forces deployed in inhospitable terrain and hostile weather conditions. These products have high nutrition value and higher shelf-life. These technologies are useful for the larger interest of the society," the press note said. "Vibrant Goa Summit provided an opportunity for the companies to interact with DRDO scientists who have developed these technologies. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Goa Pramod Sawant yesterday and was attended by senior officials from the government of Goa and DRDO," it added.

<https://www.newkerala.com/news/read/232202/drdo-signs-30-licensing-agreements-on-technology-transfer.html>