

Industry, Indian Army and Academia Deliberates on Defence Technologies

Chennai, 27 June 2016: FICCI in association with the Indian Army and IIT Madras, Chennai organised the third Industry, Indian Army and Academia interaction wherein the Indian Army spelled out its needs and expectations from the Industry. During the course of the deliberation the importance of academia was highlighted by **Lt Gen Subrata Saha, UYSM, YSM, VSM, Deputy Chief of the Army Staff (P&S), Indian Army.**

Speaking on the occasion, **Lt Gen Subrata Saha** mentioned about the recent initiatives taken by the Indian Army in partnership with Indian industry to strengthen the Army through indigenous solution for the varied needs of Indian Army. He said that Indian Army is witnessing a 'Tectonic Shift, in its approach and as a result it has come forward to interact with the industry, especially private sector, MSMEs and Start-ups to understand and map the capabilities. Indian Army is also strategically attempting to bridge the gap between the national premier research institutions in order to carry out R&D towards meeting the technological requirements of Indian Army which faces unique geographical and climatic challenges.

He brought out the MoD's clear vision to take along the MSMEs, Startups and Niche Technology Players and mentioned the recent changes in DPP 2016 wherein apart from lower cost, the technology is given adequate weightage. He added that the Army would soon constitute an Army Design Bureau which would subsume the functions of a large number of existing institutions dealing with R&D leading to product design, development and manufacture of equipment and systems needed by the Indian Army.

Prof. Krishnan Balasubramanian, Chair Professor in Mechanical Engineering, Dean of Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research (ICSR), Head of Centre for Nondestructive Evaluation (CNDE), IIT Madras, welcomed the recent path breaking initiatives of the Indian Army and desired for greater cooperation between academia, industry and users.

A panel of experts comprising **Prof. Dr. V. Kamakoti**, Reconfigurable Intelligent Systems Engineering (RISE) Lab, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Madras; **Mr. G. Madhusudan Desikan**, Principle Scientist, Reconfigurable Intelligent Systems Engineering (RISE) Lab, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Madras; **Prof. Dr. S. R. Chakravarthy**, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Madras; **Prof. Dr. Mahesh V Panchagnula**, Department of Applied Mechanics, IIT Madras, offered their views on issues leading to enhancement of self-reliance in the defence domain. The discussions brought out the given constraints of technology edge, costs and possible denial regimes, because of continuous import of military inventory, there was a crying need for innovation leading to cost economic development of weapon platforms, systems equipment, components and materials. Panelists also brought out the need to maintain the continuity in decision making with respect to defence procurement, early finalization of specification for military equipment and greater interaction amongst the four pillars of defence establishment, namely the users, the designers, industry and the academia. The panel discussion was moderated by **Cmde S Shekar** (Retd), Director Centre for Advancement of Science, Technology, Law and Engineering.

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