



Report on
Defence Industry Development Meet on
“Forging new partnership with industry for Defence Production”
18th & 19th January 2018 at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai

The two days ‘Defense Industry Development Meet’ organized by Department of Defense Production, Ministry of Defense (MoD) was inaugurated by Raksha Mantri **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** in the august presence of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **Shri Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai wherein more than 1000 delegates including Senior Officials from Ministry of Defense, State Government, Services, Chairman OFB, CMDs of DPSUs, senior executives of DPSUs/OFB and private industries participated.

The objective of the meet was to forge new partnerships with private industry with the aim of achieving self-reliance in Defense production under the overarching ‘Make in India’ initiative of the Government. The meet focused on indigenization, import substitution and technology infusion.

Speaking on the occasion, Raksha Mantri **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** announced that the next **DEFEXPO INDIA 2018** would be organized in Chennai between **11th & 14th April 2018** at Arulmigu Nithyakalyana Perumal Temple, Thiruvudanthai, Thiruporur Taluk, Kancheepuram, East Coast Road, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Highlights of Event on 18 January 2018

- Raksha Mantri released the simplified ‘Make-II’ procedure, which stipulates relaxed eligibility criteria, minimal documentation, provisions for suo-motu proposals from individuals/industry, particularly for innovative solutions and relaxed eligibility criteria for start-ups. This procedure envisages for assurance of order on successful development of prototype.
- Raksha Mantri launched Defense Investor Cell being set up by Department of Defense Production, which will facilitate the investment in Defense production sector. The Defense Investor Cell will directly interact with all interested investors with regard to potential investment and the queries related to policy and the projects handled by the MoD.
- The Department of Defense Production presented policy initiatives for supporting Indian vendors especially MSME in the field of Defense Production
- Defense Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) showcased the technologies, which are available for the private sector for commercial exploitation. Raksha Mantri handed over three representative Transfer of Technology agreements of DRDO to Industry – one each for the Army, Navy and the Air force
- HAL, BEL, BEML, BDL, MIDHANI showcased over 50 products for indigenization by the industry.
- OFB offered more than 20 products to vendors for indigenization.
- MDL, GRSE, GSL showcased vendor development opportunities.
- The Indian Army, Navy and the Air Force are projecting their requirements, especially related to MSMEs, for indigenization.
- Ministry of MSME presented the policy initiatives to support MSME.

- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion brought out the initiatives taken by the Government for 'ease of doing business' processes and issues related to licensing of Defense products.
- Ministry of Home Affairs presented their requirement for police and paramilitary forces.
- The Meet will not only strengthen the existing partnership but also provide scope for new collaborations during the two-day event.
- DPSUs/OFB are providing facility for on-the-spot vendor registration for prospective vendors for supplying Defense needs.
- This event has brought all Defense related vendors and suppliers of Tamil Nadu and other parts under one roof and will facilitate creation of an aerospace & Defense ecosystem in the region.
- Raksha Mantri also highlighted the recent policy initiatives including 'Make-II' procedure released by the government on January 16, 2018, Innovation Hub for Coimbatore, CODDISSIA and Defense Investor Cell. She said more initiatives to promote 'Make in India' in defense would be taken up.

The inauguration was followed by the Plenary Session wherein FICCI Secretary General **Dr. Sanjaya Baru** addressed the gathering along with other panelist. Dr. Baru said that FICCI was already engaged with startups in identifying their concerns and apprehensions and was also helping them with organised capacity building and outreach programmes. He assured the Raksha Mantri that FICCI will work closely with Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry Coimbatore and CODDISSIA in Coimbatore to bring the startups and MSME in Defense to DEFEXPO 2018 at Chennai to make it a big success.

The Plenary Session was followed by the Panel Discussion on Forging Partnership wherein **Mr Vivek Pandit**, Assistant Secretary General was part of the panel discussion and discussed the initiatives taken by the Government of India to promote the indigenization of the defense production sector and the Industry's perspective.

Photo 1 Caption L to R: **Dr S Christopher**, Chairman, DRDO and Secretary Department of Defense R&D, **Dr. Ajay Kumar**, Secretary, Defense Production, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Shri. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**.

Photo 2 Caption L to R: **Dr. Sanjaya Baru**, Secretary General, FICCI, **President** of Laghu Udyog Bharti of Tamil Nadu, **Shri Sandeep Jajodia**, President, ASSOCHAM, **Lt Gen (Retd.) Subrata Saha**, DG, SIDM, CII, **Dr S Christopher**, Chairman, DRDO and Secretary Department of Defense R&D