



‘VIMARSH’ DRDO-Industry Synergy Meet: Raksha Mantri unveils key policy initiatives to empower MSMEs & start-ups and launches framework to share software source codes with licensee industries

**Nine Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology
handed over to 13 manufacturing partners; MoUs exchanged
to expand industry outreach**

**Need to expand DRDO-Industry collaboration, integrate
MSMEs & start-ups as integral parts into defence supply
chain to transform India into a global production hub: Shri
Rajnath Singh**

**“Viksit Bharat goal is to build an economically strong,
technologically self-reliant, socially inclusive, environmentally
sustainable & strategically secure nation”**

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Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh unveiled key policy initiatives during ‘VIMARSH’, a DRDO-Industry Synergy Meet, in New Delhi on September 15, 2026. The initiatives include a comprehensive framework to lower technical and financial entry barriers for MSMEs & deep-tech start-ups, offering direct funding, incubation support and dedicated access to DRDO testing facilities. A standardised, secure framework for sharing DRDO-developed software source codes with licensee industries was also launched to accelerate software-defined defence capabilities and obsolescence management.



Nine (09) Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LAToTS) were handed over to 13 manufacturing partners in the presence of Raksha Mantri to enable commercial production of state-of-the-art systems.

List of LAToTs handed over to Industry

Strategic MoUs were also formally exchanged with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) to expand industry outreach and foster grass-roots participation. DRDO also signed a contract with Quality Council of India for System for Advance Manufacturing Assessment and Rating (SAMAR) version 2.0 to benchmark the manufacturing maturity of domestic defence enterprises.



In his address, Raksha Mantri asserted that the DRDO-Industry collaboration should no longer be limited to production alone, but expanded across the entire value chain encompassing research, design, testing, certification, and manufacturing to transform India into a global hub for defence manufacturing. “DRDO possesses knowledge and technology, the industry has scale and manufacturing capability, start-ups bring innovation and agility, and the youth hold the dream of a New India. When these four forces converge and move forward together, no goal is impossible,” he said.



Shri Rajnath Singh underlined that the goal of Viksit Bharat is not merely to build an economically strong nation, but to also make it technologically self-reliant, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and strategically secure. “By 2047, we must achieve Aatmanirbharta in critical technologies, a significant increase in indigenous content, multi-fold growth in defence exports, and a robust presence for India in global supply chains,” he said.

Raksha Mantri enumerated the unprecedented reforms brought about in the defence sector over the past few years under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, including the notification of Positive Indigenisation Lists, ‘Make in India’ initiative, iDEX, ADITI, and the decision to allocate 25% of the defence R&D budget to the private sector to reduce import dependence and move towards self-reliance. He added that grants are being provided to start-ups through the Technology Development Fund, and numerous technologies have already reached the production stage. He highlighted that iDEX has also created a new ecosystem for defence innovation, where start-ups are developing solutions based on actual operational requirements.



Describing start-ups and MSMEs as the new flag-bearers of innovation in India, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that these industries play a pivotal role in achieving the goal of Aatmanirbhar Bharat as they develop components, sub-systems etc. for major defence systems alongside state-of-the-art technologies. He underscored the need to integrate MSMEs and start-ups as integral parts into the defence supply chain alongside large industries, expressing confidence that the new initiatives would create fresh opportunities for industry.

Raksha Mantri highlighted that the new policy initiatives focus on promoting industry-led R&D; providing funding and mentorship to start-ups and MSMEs; fostering academia-industry collaboration; and encouraging investment in futuristic technologies such as AI, quantum computing, hypersonics, and directed energy.



Shri Rajnath Singh stated that as India is rapidly transitioning from a defence importer to an exporter, there are a number of sectors such as drone technology, AI and cyber security where the MSMEs and start-ups can accelerate innovation, and elevate India's technological and strategic strengths to newer heights. "MSMEs are the backbone of the Indian economy and a critical strength of the defence ecosystem. They need to consistently focus on quality, delivery, innovation, and global standards, while expanding partnerships with large companies," he said.

Raksha Mantri emphasised that a nation that possesses its own technology holds the power to shape its own future, adding that self-reliance must become an integral part of the country's character and attitude. "Companies that invest in new and emerging technologies today will become the leaders of tomorrow as in future warfare, the country that leads in technology will secure the strategic advantage," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Defence Secretary and Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh said VIMARSH 2026, centered on the theme 'Varta se Vikas', has been strategically designed to align cutting-edge commercial innovation with national defence readiness and systematically integrate private sector capabilities into the core of the defence ecosystem. This forum serves as a key vehicle for transforming the national security framework from a mere transactional buyer-seller relationship into a collaborative, co-created technology ecosystem, he said.



Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh also highlighted the transformation witnessed by the defence sector in the recent years due to the Government's self-reliance efforts. "The expansion of technology transfer has not only facilitated the establishment of parallel production lines to meet the Defence Forces' requirements, thereby directly benefiting MSMEs, but has also helped alleviate the constraints that previously hindered a limited manufacturing base. Till date, over 2,300 Technology Transfers (ToTs) have been handed over to more than 1,100 industries. Currently, we have made technologies related to approximately 50 missiles, developed by DRDO, available to the industry to foster increased participation," he added.

A book titled 'Defence Systems for Resilient Bharat – Advancing Aatmanirbharta in Defence', a special compilation documenting significant defence systems developed by DRDO's technology clusters between 2014 to 2026 was also released during the event, along with the guidelines for Human Resource Outsourcing Service Contracts in DRDO. The guidelines provide a comprehensive framework for formulation of service specifications for the procurement, selection of suitable service providers, contract administration, performance monitoring and compliance with contractual as well as statutory obligations for Human Resource Outsourcing across DRDO labs.

Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Finance) Shri Vishvajit Sahay and Distinguished Scientist & Director General (Production Coordination & Services Interaction), DRDO Dr (Smt) Chandrika Kaushik were present on the occasion.

During the Technical Sessions, Directors General of DRDO Technological Clusters outlined technical roadmaps across Aeronautical Systems, Missiles, Armaments, Microelectronics, and Naval Systems. DRDO HQ introduced initiatives aimed at simplifying procedural compliance, fast-tracking facility access, and compressing licensing timelines.

In the High-Level Panel Discussion, senior representatives from DRDO, Department of Defence Production (DDP), and the Defence Forces deliberated on mechanisms for accelerating technology absorption, optimising Development-cum-Production Partner models, and ensuring rapid induction of indigenous technologies into active service.

The flagship event was attended by over 250 defence industry leaders, industry chamber representatives, senior civil and military officials and senior DRDO scientists. Secretary, DPIIT also participated in the meet. Designed to strengthen the national defence-industrial framework, VIMARSH 2026 provided a structured platform to align DRDO's technological research and emerging deep-tech startups with the established manufacturing ecosystem, creating an agile, transparent, and collaborative environment for private sector participation.

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