

Chairman of DIIA meets the Hon'ble Defence Minister to discuss Make in India in Defence

Mr. Rahul Chaudhry, Chairman of Defence Innovators & industry Association (DIIA) and CEO - Tata Power SED met the Hon'ble Defence Minister of India, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman on 5th December, 2017 to discuss an Action Plan for Exports in defence industry and integration of the Indian MSMEs into global supply chain. The meeting discussed the scenario for our country to set the goal of securing a purchase order for exports in the next 12-15 months before the 5th Anniversary of Make in India initiative, and prove our export- worthiness in the global arms market. DIIA called upon the MoD, via the Department of Defence Production (DDP) to act as a market maker and help create a Robust Defence Industrial Base, as envisaged by the Defence Production Policy (DPrP).

Mr. Chaudhry, on behalf of DIIA suggested four bold policy recommendations towards Make in India in Defence sector: First, invest to indigenize; i.e. accept the high cost of self- reliance and invest in MAKE programs to build indigenous capabilities. Second, sustain to retain capabilities, i.e. place repeat orders to sustain the industrial and technological capability created through indigenous programs. Third, market to expand the revenue sources, i.e. develop an Exports Market for Indigenous Indian Weapons and fund upgrades of weapons and more Make Programs. Forth, facilitate via offsets, to provide the Indian Industry support in all the three key recommendations- investments, orders and exports.

These recommendations pointed towards hastening the progress of the mission to establish India as a Defence Exporting country and therefore needs Government support and intervention. The Hon'ble Defence Minister acknowledging the initiative of DIIA, gave her full consideration towards the issues and recommendations raised.