



DEFENCE INNOVATORS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Call For Greater Indigenization in Indian Defence Sector to Achieve Self-Reliance

Defence Innovators & Industry Association (DIIA) organized a day long seminar at The Park, Hyderabad. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 150 MSMEs from Hyderabad and neighboring cities who pledged their commitment to resolve the crisis of self-reliance in the Indian defence sector. **Shri K.T. Rama Rao, Minister for Information Technology, Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Government of Telangana**, inaugurated the conference and stressed the pressing need for indigenization in the Indian defence sector while highlighting the potential of Telangana to develop as a global defence hub. **Shri P.Muralidhar Rao, National General Secretary, BJP**, delivered the keynote address and emphasized the importance of MSMEs as forming the backbone of any economy and highlighted their critical importance to the defence sector.

The conference touched upon various topics of relevance to the defence sector, viz. Opportunities for MSMEs in aerospace and defence, impact of indigenization in the development of a robust Defence Industrial Base (DIB), innovation strategies for MSMEs, and facilitating payments in the defence sector, respectively. Eminent speakers such as **Shri. Gowra Srinivas (President, FTAAPCI)**, **Dr. R.K. Tyagi (ex-CMD HAL, Independent Director, Air India and Mentor-Director DIIA)**, and **Dr. A.S. Rao (President, Indian Innovators Association)** shared their vision about developing indigenous capabilities. Industry veterans such as **CMDE Mukesh Bhargava (retd), VP L&T Heavy Engg and Sh. BVR Mohan Reddy, CMD Cyient** spoke of the opportunities for MSMEs in the defence sector and the stellar role they can play in opening up the sector for future growth through innovation.

Shri Ashok Atluri, CMD Zen Technologies and co-chairman, DIIA, noted that with the government moving forward resolutely with the Make in India policy, it is estimated that the defence sector will grow rapidly and will create thousands of jobs in the next few years. Mr. Atluri stressed the need for developing a robust defence industrial base in India as it would not only make the nation self sufficient in its national security needs but would also lead to all round economic growth.