

'Arms exports may rise 9x to ₹2.8 trn by 2047'



“INDIA AIMS TO BECOME A SELF-RELIANT, ALL-DOMAIN MILITARY FORCE CAPABLE OF PROJECTING POWER ACROSS THE INDO-PACIFIC AND BEYOND BY 2047”

Rajesh Kumar Singh
Defence Secretary

BHASWAR KUMAR

New Delhi, 12 May

India aims to field a military largely equipped with homegrown capabilities and capable of projecting power across the Indo-Pacific and beyond by 2047, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Tuesday. The domestic defence production output is expected to rise to six times the present level at ₹8.8 trillion by that year, while arms exports are projected to increase nine times to ₹2.8 trillion, he added.

Delivering his keynote address ahead of a panel discussion at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Annual Business Summit 2026 in the national capital, Singh said, “Under the armed forces’ 2047 vision, from 2040 onwards, India aims to become a fully integrated, self-reliant, all-domain mili-

tary force capable of projecting power across the Indo-Pacific and beyond.”

The panel discussion was held on the theme, “Geostrategy, Supply Chains and Strategic Resilience: The New Imperative for Defence and Industry”.

Referring to the Mission Sudarshan Chakra initiative, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address last year, Singh said the “layered ballistic and air missile defence system”, intended to protect critical strategic and civilian infrastructure, is expected to mature between 2030 and 2040.

Underscoring that the country had historically been limited, at best, to assembling foreign defence equipment and had consequently remained vulnerable to geopolitical disruptions and supply-chain bottlenecks, Singh said, “India is on a transformative journey from being one of the world’s largest

arms importers to becoming a global defence manufacturing hub... Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) is not about protectionism, it’s about survival.”

Describing self-reliance as the cornerstone of the country’s defence posture, Singh highlighted that arms exports had skyrocketed to a record ₹38,424 crore in FY26, marking a 62 per cent increase over the previous fiscal year.

Setting out the country’s targets for 2047, Singh said both goals were “entirely within our reach”.

Highlighting improved fund utilisation, the secretary said the Ministry of Defence had awarded contracts worth almost ₹4.5 trillion over the past one-and-a-half years, with over 70 per cent by value going to domestic industry.

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