

'PRIVATE SECTOR MADE WELL AWARE OF ARMED FORCES' KEY REQUIREMENTS'

Local Defence Contracts Worth ₹8 L cr Likely in Next 8 Years, says Army Chief

Pande says need to produce more ammunition in India, bring down dependence on imports

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Gandhinagar: Army chief General Manoj Pande exuded confidence on Thursday that the Indian industry can deliver on urgent needs of the armed forces and said opportunities worth ₹8 lakh crore are likely to come up in the next eight years as the indigenisation drive continues.

He said the army requires new technologies in various domains of warfare, including artificial intelligence-based satellite imagery interpretation, drone and counter-drone systems, loitering munitions, quantum computing and mo-

bility of troops which presents a viable market for the private sector.

"In the last three to four years, indigenous contracts have grown three times. In the next seven to eight years, we feel that the potential of the indigenous market will be about ₹7-8 lakh crore. It will be a viable market with adequate scope for the defence industry," Pande said in response to a question by ET.

He said one of the key learnings from the Russia-Ukraine conflict has been the critical need to establish indigenous production lines and reduce import dependence, particularly when it comes to ammunition.

Steps have been taken to enhance the private sector's understanding of the armed forces' requirements, said Pande.

We are handholding startups and smaller companies by making firing ranges available, easing trial and testing procedures, and making it easier to conduct demonstrations in forward areas

