



# Thunder amidst the Temples

## The DefExpo 2018 at Kancheepuram



This time around, the biennial DefExpo Land, Naval & Internal Homeland Security Systems Exhibition was held in the land of a thousand temples in southern India, specifically at Arulmigu Nithyakalyana Perumal Temple, Thiruvandanthi, Thirupurur Taluk, Kancheepuram, on the Coromandel coast of southern India. According to the Defence Ministry, over 670 firms, including 154 foreign OEMs, participated in this exhibition, whose dates and location had officially only been

announced a little over two months before the event. This naturally resulted in frenzied organisational activity, which true to the Indian tradition of being “JIT”, was pulled off with surprising results, and the obvious shortcomings accepted with patience. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited who took on the mantle of organising this DefExpo, did a Herculean job!

However, unlike during past DefExpos, there was no inaugural ceremony but instead on Day One, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held an expectedly well-attended



Press Conference, alongside RRM Subhas Bhamre. They were flanked on the stage by all senior defence ministry bureaucrats, including DRDO’s Dr S Christopher,

