



BMP-2M with AVision's loitering munitions and Rafael Spike ATGM

Defexpo 2022 at Gandhinagar—a review



IAF and Indian Army LCH Prachand's

The 12th and largest-ever defence exhibition Defexpo 2022 marked the emergence of India's defence industry as a sunrise sector for investment on the global scale in line with the theme of the expo 'Path to Pride'. Held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, the five-day event, which commenced on 18 October 2022, witnessed unparalleled participation of over 1,340 exhibitors, businesses, investors, start-ups, MSMEs, Armed Forces and delegates from several countries, with engagements spread over four venues.

The overwhelming response of investors and businesses showed that the objective of a defence sector worth USD 22 billion, with exports of Rs 35,000 crore by 2025, will be achieved. The best minds of defence sector came together at over 20 seminars across three business days to brainstorm over wide ranging topics on defence research and development, new technologies for air warfare, indigenisation of defence production, promotion of exports and encouraging investments.

Conclusion of 451 MoUs, Transfer of Technology agreements, product launches and orders to domestic businesses, worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore, reflected India's progress towards achieving *aatmanirbharta* in defence and integration between the Armed Forces requirements, R&D and defence production by public and private players. The prowess of the Indian defence and aerospace manufacturing was evident in the display of aircraft, tanks, arms and ammunition, cutting-edge technologies and weapons systems at the first Defexpo exclusively for domestic companies. The visits of the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister and other dignitaries - both local and foreign - to the stalls encouraged the Indian defence industry.

For the first time, an investor outreach event 'Invest for Defence' was organised bringing together businesses and investors. The importance of this historic Defexpo was reinforced when Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi graced the inaugural ceremony on 19 October 2022 and invited the world to be part of the '*Aatmanirbhar Bharat*' journey. The Prime Minister made a number of announcements, including