



Mr K C Arora
President IDST
2025-26

It gives me immense pleasure in extending a very warm welcome to you all to the Inaugural session of DRDO – Industry – Academia Conclave 2026 and its proceeding over the next two days.

Our Patron Dr. Samir Kamat, Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO could not grace the occasion in person due to his official exigencies.

He has been kind to send a message of good wishes on this occasion.

I shall be pleased to read it for you.

MESSAGE

I am glad to know that IDST is organising a Conclave of DRDO-Industry-Academia 2026 at SSPL Auditorium Delhi on 20-21 February 2026. I consider it as a very important event, especially in the context of current national and international scenario, that these three wings of knowledge to product creation

pool viz academics, defence R&D and Industry have gathered here in this Conclave, to deliberate on exploring avenues to work together for being self-sufficient in defence sector.

Future wars will be algorithm centric wars, and at the heart of it all is the small piece of hardware we know as CHIP. This is emerging as the major area of modern warfare. These will demand tremendous efforts by all of us to anticipate future denial technologies and evolving our own to counter and blunt the adversaries. These major trends are defining the current geopolitical war and are indicative of pivots around the Future of Warfare.

India stands at a crucial juncture in its journey towards technological self-reliance and innovation-driven growth. Defence Research & Development Organisation continues to lead the nation's efforts in defence technology, innovation and research.

I convey my appreciation for the Conclave Organising Committee and wish a huge success over the next two days.

During the yearly years of DRDO, priority was set on Indigenisation of imported equipment related to Arms and Ammunition, Communication, Mobility & comfort of troops etc suitable for difficult snow bound terrain and high altitude.

Over the years, projects involving indigenous design and development of comparatively higher technology were undertaken. Our achievements have been displayed in the Republic Day parade progressively, year after year that has boosted our moral and trust & confidence of the citizens, at large.

In the next phase, our focus was on Systems. Many of the defence systems designed and developed by **DRDO**, and manufactured indigenously have been deployed, tested, performed to the full specification, and proved successful during "**Operation Sindoor**." Bulk production of these equipment and systems to meet our own services requirements and enhanced export is of course, the present priority.

Apart from many national goals set by our government like 7+ Trillion-dollar economy, to be the third largest globally by 2030, GDP, Infrastructure,

Digitisation in administration etc, challenge given to us is “**Self Sufficiency and Technological leader in Defence**”.

DRDO, as a premier agency, continues to lead the nation’s efforts in defence technology, innovation, and research. The vibrant **Indian academia** and rapidly maturing **Industrial sector** are vital partners in this endeavour.

The present defence eco system has three pillars: Basic research by Academia; Applied R&D, design, and development by DRDO and Production in Public and Private sector.

At present, these three pillars appear to have insufficient overlap. Collective efforts of these three contributors must converge to meet the requirements of Users, the fourth vital pillar.

Defence R&D has mostly been in DRDO with some support from Academia and MSMEs. Production was earlier undertaken by PSUs and Ordnance factories. Now it is changing with increasing involvement of Private Industry. It is being done based on ToTs from DRDO or from abroad.

It is interesting to note that the government has released indigenous production orders worth around 150 lakh crores in 2025.

For the broader benefit of the defence equipment manufacturers, we must keep in focus, the export opportunities and vast business market.

Winning of battle in future will entirely depend upon our indigenous defence technology and supply system as we cannot be sure of timely supplies from abroad.

To harness the collective strengths of these three pillars—DRDO, Industry, and Academia, **IDST**, is organising this conclave.

*The **Primary aim** of the conclave is to establish and deepen synergies among DRDO, Industry and Academic institutions, thereby accelerating research and development (R&D), fostering innovation, and facilitating the translation of cutting-edge research into deployable technologies for national security and societal needs.*

The two days conclave is structured to maximise knowledge exchange , networking and actionable outcomes.

Apart from **Inaugural Session** with addresses by the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and Key note speaker, 15 talks by speakers from DRDO HQs, DRDO Labs, CoEs, Academia are covered in 5 sessions.

A session is assigned for presentations by the defence equipment manufacturers, sponsors, and open house discussions.

Event concludes with summing of suggestions highlighted by all the three stake holders and proposing action plan for the same.

We feel assured that with active participation of all of you during the next two days, many vital actionable suggestions will come up that will serve the very purpose of the conclave.

Once again, welcoming you all and wishing a very productive and pleasant conclave.

JAI HIND
