

# Strength of the nation is its military: Sanjay Jaju

■ VDA holds 'Emerging Opportunities for MSME in Atmanirbhar Campaign and Import Substitute'

■ **Principal Correspondent**

STATING that strength of any Nation is its Military, Sanjay Jaju, Additional Secretary, Department of Defence Production said, "Behind the military is its industries which supply the product when it is needed. There is need to change the concept for In-house indigention. Product may be costlier than import but it is worth as in the time of war import may not take place."

Jaju was speaking during the inauguration of seminar on 'Emerging opportunities for MSME in Atmanirbhar Campaign and Import Substitute' organised by Vidarbha Defence Industries Association in cooperation with

the Department of Defence Production, Government of India. The JSR Dynamics and VED were co-hosts for the event.

Jaju said, "In import foreign exchange has gone forever but in indigenous products money is churned in India only. Therefore, dependency upon foreign technology is risky. Budget of Defence ministry is 3rd highest and big chunk is available for MSME. It is right time to get into the supply chain system and take participation in defence manufacture though it is risky but profitable also."

Government has changed many things and further changes are in the pipeline. Quality and inspection next in line, which will bring level playing field for everyone and DGQA inspection will be for final acceptance only. 209 nos Indigenisation positive list is already out and after 2025 there will not be import of any items as all have to be manufactured in India under Atmanirbhar Bharat, pointed out Jaju.



Sanjay Jaju, Additional Secretary, Department of Defence Production, addressing the gathering while others look on.

In Session I: Emerging opportunities for MSME in Atmanirbhar Campaign and Import substitute Indigenisation, AVM Shirish Deo (Rtd) stated that there is need to bring commonality in stamp duty for Bank Guarantee for MSME. This will be great relief to MSME in government Tenders.

Lt. Gen. Vinod Khandare (Rtd), Dr Jajit Bhattacharya also spoke. In Session II: Opportunities in India with Overseas Partners in Defence Sector, Shiv Kumar Rao -President, Vidarbha Economic Development Council was the Facilitator. C G Shegaonkar, President MIDC Industries Association.

Nitin Lonkar, Former President Butibori Industries Association; Ramesh Patel, Convener Automobile Cluster Nagpur; Mahesh Tapase, Chairman Vibrant India Economic Council Mumbai participated.

In Session III: Emerging Opportunities Post Corporation of Ordnance Factories, Dilip V Gondal, Senior Deputy Director General (Rtd) and Member VDA (Advisory Board) was the Facilitator. Speaker were A N Srivastava, Director (Operations) Yantira India Limited Nagpur and Sanjeev Kumar Bholia, Additional General Manager, Ordnance Factory, Chanda.

Maj Gen Anil Bam (Rtd), Chairman Designate VDA Nagpur acted as Facilitator in the Session IV which was on 'Vidarbha the Land of Eternal opportunities'. Rahul Pande, State Information Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra, was the speaker. Rahul Pande said, "Vidarbha

has lost two big chance in past. First one in last decade of Nineteen Century at Surjagarh due to non-availability of railway line for transport of iron ore, which is of the best quality in the world. Tata wanted to put up a factory but it could not be materialised due to under development of Infrastructure. Second time again, Tata wanted to set down old Empress Mill and wanted to set up a state of the art Textile factory but that the Govt of Maharashtra denied the permission for close down. The new factory was set up at Pimpri-Chinchwad Pune and rest is the history. Now VDA has brought MSME under one roof and this time MSME should not miss the bus under Atmanirbhar Bharat. Brig S K Chatterjee (Rtd), Editor, Bharat Shakti commented, "Government of today is more proactive and ready to listen and make changes as suggested. These are quite evident from the perusal of DAP 2020 and over DPP 2016."

# Level-playing field for local producers of def items soon

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**Nagpur:** A policy to bring a further level-playing field for domestic players against foreign entities dealing in defence items is being worked out, according to **Sanjay Jaju**, the additional secretary for defence production. This would also deal with aspect of trials needed for clearing an item. Subject to the approval of the cabinet, it is expected to be included in the defence procurement policy.

"A decision on this is expected in a soon," said Jaju who was in here to chair a seminar on MSME's participation in defence sector. It was organized by Vidarbha Defence Industrial Association (VDIA) & JSR Dynamics.

Jaju said it is easier for a foreign vendor to sell a product in India. "For the same item, it is like baptism by fire for an Indian manufacturer. If its a foreign manufacturer, often the basis is that the product is already established in the country. Do we really go and see? If it is an Indian entity, the product is subject to be proven on multiple parameters," he said.

A number of steps have been taken to encourage In-

dian industries. "Over 200 items have been included in the no-import lists. This includes even artillery guns leaving a big slice for Indian companies," said Jaju.

Jaju stressed on better coordination between armed forces for churning out a product. "The Army gives a certain requirement and by the time a manufacturer comes up with an item, its often said that it's not in lines with the specifications. The question is that why wasn't



any corrective action taken during the development process," he asked.

Air Vice Marshall (retd) SB Deo, now running a defence industry after retiring as IAF's vice-chief, said Nagpur is emerging as "explosive capital" of the country.

Lt General (retd) Vinod Khandare, who recently retired as the military advisor to the National Security Council, also stressed on the need for promoting private industries. Khandare said, "Out of 500 M36 grenades lobbed, around 400 did not explode. The army had been using the grenades of World War II make. It will finally be replaced with the latest multimode grenades. The soldiers will be grateful for that."

## VDIA to hold seminar on emerging opportunities for MSMEs in region

■ VDIA is an established association of Aerospace and Defence industries with an aim to create and establish self-sustaining Industrial Hub

### ■ Staff Reporter

THE Vidarbha Defence Industries Association in association with Vidarbha Economic Development Council and JSR Dynamics is organising a seminar titled "Emerging opportunities for MSMEs in Atmanirbhar campaign and import substitute industrialisation".

The seminar is proposed to be held on Thursday. The seminar is an ongoing exercise to integrate Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Defence and Aerospace Production Ecosystem and supply chain. It will be held on Thursday at Hotel Centre Point between 2 to 5 pm.

Intended participants are - Industrialist, Entrepreneur, MSMEs, Startup in and around Nagpur and Central India. VDIA which is an established association of Aerospace and Defence Industries with an aim to create and establish self-sustaining Industrial Hub with collaborative efforts by installing State of Art Technologies available across the globe and providing access

to the local and regional industries to enhance inclusive growth. The proposed Centre of Excellency (CoE) in Aerospace and Defence is Public Private Partnership module (PPP), being spearheaded by VDIA, aptly supported by Industrial leaders like Economic Explosives, JSR Dynamics, VED, VIA, BMA, MIA and Nagpur Electronic cluster etc and Government of Maharashtra.

The Tata technologies and Dassaults systems are Tech partners.

Dushyant Deshpande Convener Vidarbha Defence Industries Association, Nagpur has appealed to the Industrialist, Entrepreneur, MSMEs, and start-ups to attend the event.