



रक्षा मंत्री
भारत
MINISTER OF DEFENCE
INDIA

MESSAGE

The contours of military operations having undergone an unprecedented transformation in recent years. In the past, operational requirements were the catalyst for evolution of technologies. Today, fast paced Technological Advancements have become the driver for metamorphosis of Operational Paradigms. This has manifested itself most prominently in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) which has become a vital Force Multiplier in the modern digitized battlefield.

Having been a witness to the phenomenal success of DEFCOM 2015, I am enthused by the theme for DEFCOM 2017 "Digital Army Infrastructure and Skilled Human Resource". DEFCOM provides a seminal platform for synergized and holistic collaboration between our Armed Forces, Indian Industry, Academia and R&D. We as a nation have some of the brightest minds who are defining technological advancements internationally. We need to harness these home-grown capabilities to usher state-of-the-art ICT into our 'Digital Army'.

I am sanguine that DEFCOM 2017 will nurture the synergized National endeavour for not just the 'Digital Army' but for self-reliance in ICT for India. The recent rollout of the Defence Communication Network, the first Pan India Tri-Services network, and the Mobile Cellular Communication System, which has re-defined the conduct of Counter Insurgency / Counter Terrorism (CI/CT) operations, are current benchmarks for realization of the 'Digital Army'. These need to be emulated and further improved upon under enabling policies of the 'Make in India' initiative so that improvements in provision of operational communications to the forward most edge of the battle field, down to the last soldier, can be affected.

I compliment the Corps of Signals for its commendable service to the Nation and especially for realization of the vision of 'Digital India' and 'Make in India'. I wish the Corps of Signals and CII the very best for conjoint success of DEFCOM 2017.

"JAI HIND"

New Delhi
6th January 2017

(Manohar Parrikar)