North Tech Symposium 2026

Prelims: *Current events of national importance | Defence & Technology*

Why in News?

Recently, 3 day North Tech Symposium 2026 inaugural session was addressed by the Ministry of Defence in Prayagraj, UP.

North Tech Symposium 2026

- **Theme –** Raksha Triveni Sangam – Where Technology, Industry & Soldiering Converge.
- **Organised by** – Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) & Northern & Central Commands (Indian Army).
- **Participation** – 284 companies (MSMEs, private defence tech firms, start-ups, innovators in uniform) showcased indigenous solutions.
- **Goal**- To provide a platform for the defence forces, Industrial sectors, startups, and the academy to develop & innovate technological solutions indigenously for serious business roadblocks
- **Focus area –** Decision-making tools enabled by AI, Unmanned Aerial Systems & Advanced Artillery Systems**.**
- **Instituted 8 focus** - Areas to spearhead interaction with troops, industry & academia for e.g.
- Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Technology, Military Cyber Technology, Cognitive Technology, Neuromorphic Computing, Advanced Materials, Compound Semiconductors, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) Technologies.

Defence Evolution of India

- **Operation Sindoor -** A perfect example of a nation's readiness in the field of technological warfare by the deployment of indigenous equipment like

  BrahMos,

  Akash Missile System

  Akashteer(Automated air defence control & reporting system).

- **In FY 2025 -26,** Indigenous defence Manufacturing reached a record high of Rs 1.54 Lakh crore.
- **Defence Exports –**During the same period, it touched an all-time high record of Rs 38,424 Crore.
- **Budget allocation of**- 25% in defence R&D is now allocated to Industry, academia & Startups.

Policy Initiatives

- **iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence)** - To Provide Technological & innovation development in Aerospace & Defence by Involving startups, MSMEs & Individual Investors
- **ADITI Scheme** - Mastering development of Innovative technologies with iDEX. Aims to develop strategic defence technologies.

- **Technology Development Fund (TDF) -** An initiative under DRDO to support domestic development of product, system, components & technologies by Startups & MSMEs.
- **ToT (Transfer of Technology) Policy -** DRDO has waived off the 20% fee for Development-cum-Production Partners (DcPP) and Production Agencies to boost domestic manufacturing

Future warfare emerging Domains

Ministry of defence has recognized several future ready domains where Industry must progress

- **Direct energy weapons (DEWs)**– which emits high focused energy like Lasers & Microwaves.
- **Hypersonic Missiles –** Capable of Flying @ speed of Mach 5 or Higher.
- **Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) –** Surveillance & Monitoring of undersea activities.
- **Space Situational Awareness (SSa) –**Monitoring objects in orbit & analyzing space environment.
- **Use of AI & Quantum Technology**- For securing communications & Automated decision – Making.
- **Operation Sindoor** & **use of Akashteer system**- Shows recent successful deployment of indigenous defence technology.
- **Waving of**- 20% fee Transfer of Technology (ToT) & Opening of Patents - is seen as a significant move of Union Government towards Aatmanirbharta in Defence**.**

For Reference: PIB | IAS Parliament

