

## ‘Varunastra’ is ‘pride of India’, says DRDO Chief

There is immense potential for export of ‘Varunastra’, an advanced heavy weight anti-submarine torpedo indigenously developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), with many countries evincing interest in buying it, DRDO Chairman G. Sateesh Reddy has said.

The DRDO chief, who participated as chief guest in the 49th Lab Raising Day celebrations at NSTL here on Saturday, described ‘Varunastra’ as the ‘pride of India’. Similarly, Mareech, TAL and many mines, also developed by NSTL, have already been accepted by users.

Dr. Reddy, who is also Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D), however, called upon scientists and employees not to rest on laurels but to rededicate themselves to take the lab to greater heights in its golden jubilee year.

“This is the time to look at the progress made, the growth rate achieved, the position of the lab in comparison to those in the developed nations and the way forward to make the golden jubilee year ‘memorable.’”



*DR Chairman G. Sateesh Reddy, fourth from left, and others receiving a cheque from representatives of BEL, Bengaluru, at NSTL Raising Day celebrations on Saturday*

Dr. Reddy said: “Developing world-class products and world-class technology at lower cost will enable India to export. We should transform into ‘technology leaders’ from being ‘technology followers’. Every lab should spend at least 25% of its resources on R & D. We (DRDO scientists) cannot do everything and we need to encourage academia and local industry.”

He urged the scientists not to look upon the private industry as ‘competitors’ but as the one that complements their work.

NSTL Director Nandagopan briefed about the activities of the lab.

The DRDO Chairman presented awards to outstanding scientists in various categories. Later, in a brief chat with newsmen, Dr. Reddy said India was still largely dependent on imports to meet its defence requirements. The Defence budget has increased from Rs. 10,000 crore in 2013 to Rs. 18,000 crore this year. A roadmap has been prepared to reduce Defence imports.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/varunastra-is-pride-of-india-says-drdo-chief/article25416932.ece>

## **DRDO to fund defence start-ups, says its Chief**

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India is still one of the largest importers of defence equipment and DRDO laboratories in the nation will prepare an agenda for the next 10 years. DRDO wants to encourage start-ups and smaller units in the areas of research, development and production in the defence sector, he added.

Satheesh Reddy, who is known for his R&D in missile systems and contribution in aerospace technologies, was the chief guest at the 49th Raising Day celebrations of Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) in Vizag city on Saturday.

India has focused on indigenous defence production to become self-reliant in the area of security, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Satheesh Reddy said there is a need to encourage youngsters in a big way in the research and development sector, besides the need for supporting start-ups by funding and providing technology and testing support.



*NSTL director Dr O.R. Nandagopan presents a memento to the chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D), Dr G. Satheesh Reddy at the 49th Raising Day Celebrations of NSTL in Visakhapatnam on Saturday*

A lot of talent is there but the young stars don't have incubation centres.

They can develop an idea but to sustain that idea till it becomes a mature product, they require some funding support, he added.

DRDO is planning to work with everyone in an integrated manner and support all the others for better results in defence production.

DRDO will play a key role in backward research and utilise all the resources and simplify the procedures for more efficiency in the coming days.

“If we encourage the start-ups in bigger ways and centres of technologies where youngsters in specialised fields can work on various defence related projects, India will lead in the sector in the next 10 years,” Dr Satheesh Reddy added.

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/041118/drdo-to-fund-defence-start-ups-says-its-chief.html>