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FOUNDATION STONE LAYING OF LARGE CAVITATIONAL TUNNEL AT VISAKHAPATNAM

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FOUNDATION STONE LAYING OF LARGE CAVITATIONAL TUNNEL AT VISAKHAPATNAM

Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, on 3 April 2026, laid the foundation stone of the state-of-the-art Large Cavitational Tunnel (LCT) facility at the Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), a premier laboratory of DRDO in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The facility will significantly enhance India's naval research and testing capabilities, marking a major step towards achieving technological self-reliance.

Addressing officers, staff, and research personnel at the NSTL, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri asserted that India, with these initiatives, will be able to design, develop, and test its equipment, systems, and sub-systems indigenously, utilizing its own resources, and position itself as a strong naval power and a leader in defence technology "until now, even after successfully developing equipment, systems, and sub-systems, we often had to look abroad for critical testing. This situation will now change." This facility is not merely an infrastructure project but an enabling system, which will strengthen our capabilities in advancing propulsion systems, enable focused efforts on noise reduction, and further strengthen stealth capabilities.

It will serve as a fundamental backbone for the design and development of submarines and ships, supporting future advancements in naval engineering and maritime defence systems.

Shri Rajnath Singh described that project as a symbol of the success of the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's resolve of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He stated that the government's determination to make India self-reliant is intrinsically linked to the national security apparatus and achieved complete Atmanirbharata in various sectors due to the concerted efforts of the domestic industry, academia, MSMEs, youth, and researchers.

During the visit, the Raksha Mantri was briefed about the NSTL projects and programs by the Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat.

Shri Rajnath Singh also visited the Seakeeping and Maneouvering Basin, where he witnessed an impressive display of advanced underwater systems, including torpedoes, naval mines, decoys, and autonomous underwater vehicles. A live demonstration of a swarm of man-portable AUVs showcased India's growing power in autonomous maritime operations and next-generation underwater warfare technologies, underlining the nation's focus on future-ready defence systems. The Raksha Mantri also inspected some of the vital products realized as spin-off technologies by the Naval Systems Material (NSM) cluster lab post Operation Sindoor.

Shri Rajnath Singh commended NSTL for carrying out research and setting benchmarks in several

areas, including torpedo systems, underwater mines, decoys, and AUVs, while propelling India forward on the path to becoming a formidable naval power. He also acknowledged the demonstration of swarm technology and ongoing work in lithium-ion battery development, calling them crucial for future warfare preparedness.

Hon'ble Raksha Mantri urged the NSTL fraternity to continue working with dedication towards nation-building by bolstering the security infrastructure of the country. “The systems and technologies boost the confidence and morale of sailors deployed at sea. Reliable and robust technological support significantly enhances the operational effectiveness of the defence forces," he said.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathy, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Dr RV Hara Prasad, DS & DG (NS&M), Dr Abraham Varughese, OS & Director NSTL, and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

About Large Cavitational Tunnel

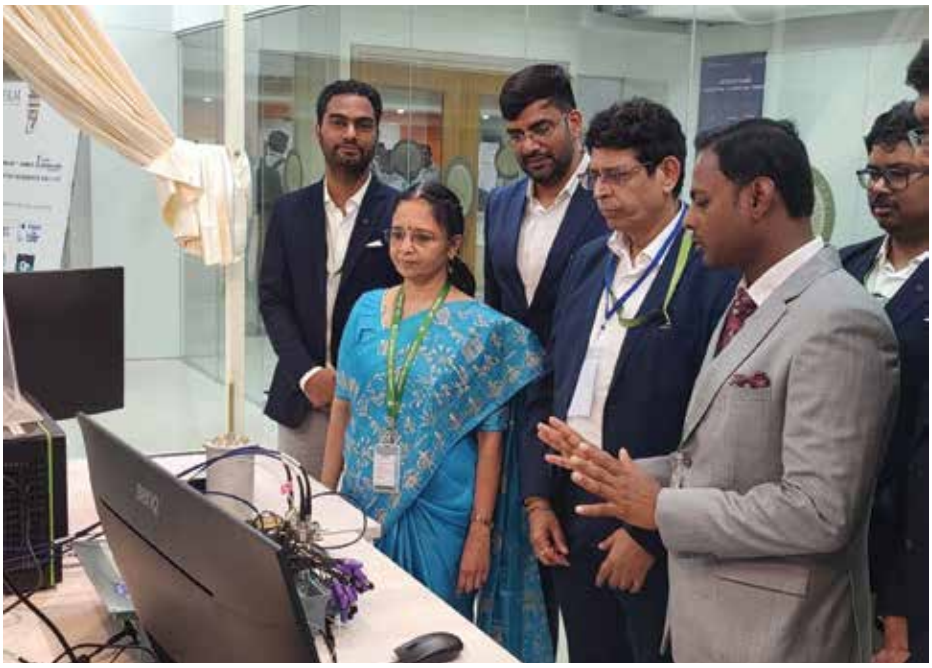
Conceived as a strategic national asset, the project is a significant step in strengthening indigenous capabilities in hydrodynamic research, aimed at supporting the design and development of next-generation ships, submarines, and underwater platforms. The project, sanctioned by the govt and being executed in turnkey mode with international technical collaboration, reflects a seamless blend of global expertise and indigenous innovation.

The facility is set to become a one-of-a-kind place that can perform two types of important tests: closed-loop simulations for submarines and free-surface simulations for surface ships, all within one system. Once it is up and running, it will greatly improve the country's shipbuilding industry by allowing accurate testing of hydrodynamic designs and propulsion systems for important naval ships, like destroyers and aircraft carriers.

INAUGURATION OF INDIA’S FIRST INDIGENOUSLY BUILT OPEN-ACCESS COMPUTERS, AMARAVATI 1S AND 1Q

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu dedicated India’s "first indigenously built," open-access computers, Amaravati 1S and 1Q, to the nation on 14 April 2026, marking an important step toward building sovereign quantum hardware. The event marks a significant step toward building a sovereign quantum hardware ecosystem in India.

DRDO Young Scientist Laboratories (DYSLs) actively participated in the national venture to establish "Amravati Quantum Reference Facilities" (AQRF) with a focus on indigenous quantum solutions. DYSL-QT and DRDO have worked together to create quantum computers that use qubits made from superconducting circuits, with DRDO focusing on electronics that work at room temperature for the Quantum Processing Unit (QPU). Years of effort had enabled



the development of an FPGA-based controller of Quantum Computer Processor (RCQCP), which allows simultaneous operation on multiple qubits in a QPU with the possibility of scaling up such systems in a cost-effective manner. At AQRF, DYSL-QT and DRDO integrated this control electronics solution with QPU to bring quantum computers to a wider audience.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu appreciated the contribution of DYSL-QT, DRDO, towards establishing "Amravati Quantum Reference Facilities" (AQRF). Dr Hara Prasad, DG (NS&M); Ms Sheena Rani R, DG (MCC); Dr Santu Sardar, Director DYSL-QT; and Dr Abraham Varughese, Director NSTL, attended the event.

The initiative will give a boost to the research in the field of quantum computing, which will lead us one step closer to self-reliance.

LAUNCH OF DISHA SOFTWARE-DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR HAZARDOUS ARCHITECTURE

In a step to enhance safety, planning and compliance of infrastructure, a specialized software has been developed which will reduce the possibilities of errors and shorten the approval time.

Secretary DDR&D & Chairman DRDO, Dr Samir V Kamat, in the presence of Prof. (Dr) Prateek Kishore, DS&DG (ACE) and other dignitaries formally launched the newly developed siting software on 24 January 2026. Dr (Mrs) Arti Bhatt, Associate Director, highlighted the key features and benefits of the software. DiSHA will assist the users to prepare the documents for siting approval and subsequently, reduction time for getting approval as the software will reduce the human errors and optimize the land usage. This will enable the users to provide all relevant information correctly to make quick decision with respect to preliminary siting locations optimally.

HANDING-TAKING OVER OF THE COMPUTERISED PSYCHOLOGICAL SCREENING TEST BATTERY (C-PSYSHOT)

The Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR), Delhi, a laboratory of the DRDO Soldier Support System (SSS) Cluster, handed over the Computerised Psychological Screening Test Battery (C-PsySHOT) to Lt Gen Gajendra Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, SM, Commandant, The Infantry School, Mhow, on 2 April 2026.

The C-PsySHOT test battery, embedded with new tests and enhanced psychological fidelity, will aid in identifying the right fit for specialised roles in infantry in the Indian Army.

The system has been designed, developed, tested, and scientifically validated by DIPR and The Infantry School, Mhow, with support from Army Training Command (ARTRAC) through a collaborative process, integrating inputs from subject matter experts, extensive field trials, and on-site evaluations.

TRIPARTITE MOU BY BEG, IIT-ROORKEE AND DRDO

A tripartite agreement as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Bengal Engineers Group (BEG) and Centre, Roorkee; IIT Roorkee; and DRDO for the project 'Object Detection Using Hyperspectral Remote Sensing' was signed on 13 March 2026 by Prof. Vivek Malik, Dean, Sponsored Research & Industrial Consultancy (SRIC), IIT Roorkee (IITR); Brig. KP Singh, Commandant, BEG; Dr PK Satyawali, Director, DGRE; Dr Ranjana Nallamalii, Director, Directorate of Futuristic Technology Management (DFTM); and the Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator(s) of project, in the presence of Dr Seema Vinayak, Director, DRDO Industry Academia Center of Excellence (DIA-CoE), and Dr Rajesh Yadav, DFTM, Coordinator. The development of an experimental site for hyperspectral signature library generation of various targets of interest under different ambient conditions is the scope of the agreement.

FOUNDATION STONE LAYING OF ADVANCED TECHNICAL, SUPPORT AND UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE AT CHESS, HYDERABAD

The foundation stone laying ceremony of "Advanced Technical, Support, and Utility Infrastructure" at Laser Complex, Center for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS), Hyderabad, was held on 23 January 2026, marking a significant milestone in the organisation's journey towards strengthening its future research infrastructure and long-term vision. The event symbolized the beginning of a new chapter aimed at fostering innovation, scientific excellence, and national capability. The foundation stone was laid by Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary DD R&D & Chairman DRDO, in the august presence of Dr BK Das, DS&DG (ECS); Dr Ravinder Singh, DG (R&M); Dr Jagannath Nayak, DS & Director CHESS; Dr Biswajit Choubey, Director DCW&E; Shri M Yagaiah, CCE (R&D) South; and Shri Rajeev Lochan, Chief Engineer MES (R&D). The auspicious occasion was also graced by Dr R Balamuralikrishnan, OS & Director, DMRL; Shri K Murali, OS & Director, DLRL; Director SAG, Garrison Engineers (I) from Kanchanbagh and RCI; Associate Directors along with senior scientists, officers, and staff of CHESS.

The event began with the unveiling of the plaque by Secretary DD R&D & Chairman DRDO, marking the official start of construction with symbolic stone laying. This was followed by a detailed presentation on the proposed infrastructure, its planning, and future utilization of the facility by Director DCW&E. Director, CHESS expressed gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the Chief Guest Dr Kamat and all dignitaries present. He emphasized that infrastructure is required for upcoming activities and projects related to the development of DEW technologies and its application. The proposed infrastructure will be equipped with a gallery-type hall for witnessing remote experiments and demonstrations from the test ranges.

The establishment of the infrastructure will contribute significantly to the development of Directed Energy weapon (DEW) by enhancing self-reliance by securing borders against asymmetric threats and fostering domestic technology ecosystems.

FOUNDATION STONE LAYING OF CONFERENCE CUM EXHIBITION HALL AND DEMILITARISATION PLANT BY CFEES

The foundation stone for construction of conference-cum-exhibition and display hall at Centre for Fire, Explosive & Environment Safety (CFEES), Delhi, was laid on 24 January 2026 by Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary DD R&D & Chairman DRDO in the presence of DS&DG (ACE),

DG (R&M), Director (DCW&E), CCE (R&D) Delhi and Director, CFEES.

The facility has been named as “Arunachalam Hall” to honour the former DG (DRDO) and SA to RM and eminent DRDO scientist Dr VS Arunachalam. The facility will be equipped with state-of-the art audiovisual technology enabling live streaming, facilitating interactive discussions and will serve as a caldron for scientific activities, constructive collaboration and knowledge sharing, bringing together subject matter experts, community leaders and stakeholders to deliberate upon key issues, innovation and positive change in our organization.

The dignitaries also laid the foundation stone for construction of Demilitarisation Plant at Centre for Fire, Explosive & Environment Safety (CFEES) Site, Borkhedi, Nagpur, via VC mode. The facility is being set-up under Project ‘DEMIL’ and it will be first of its kind in India for disposal of unserviceable ammunition and explosives in a safe and eco-friendly manner. It will be able to dispose of munitions ranging from SAA to 155 mm with annual capacity of 300 MT.

The facility will enable to reach at operational parameters for disposal of unserviceable ammunition. Most of the systems for disposal of explosives including rotary kiln incinerator, induction furnace for disposal of fuzes, debulleting equipment, small arms shredder, pollution abatement system, ammunition disassembly system, ammunition cutting system etc will be made-in-India.

RAISING DAY CELEBRATIONS

DIBT, Mysuru

The Defence Institute of Bio-Defence Technologies (DIBT), Mysuru, celebrated its 65th Raising Day with great enthusiasm and grandeur on 9 January 2026. The Chief Guest for the occasion, Dr Manmohan Parida, OS & Director, Defence Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), Gwalior, inaugurated the event. The event was presided over by Dr R Kumar, Centre Head, DIBT.

Dr VA Sajeev Kumar, Associate Centre Head, DIBT, welcomed the Chief Guest, dignitaries, retired personnel, and staff members. In his address, Dr R Kumar highlighted the major R&D achievements of DIBT during the year 2025 and encouraged the staff to continue their dedicated efforts to achieve new milestones in research and development in the coming years. Dr Parida appreciated the significant contributions of DIBT in the areas of space food, logistics support to the Armed Forces, development of field-amenable test kits, and the development of Meals Ready-to-Eat (MRE) rations with extended shelf-life. He appreciated the institute for its yeoman service to the Armed Forces as well as to the civilian population.

On the occasion, various awards were presented to meritorious employees by the Chief Guest. Sports competitions were also organized and prizes were distributed to the winners. The celebrations concluded with a colourful cultural program showcasing the talents of the staff and their families.

The event reflected the rich legacy, scientific excellence, and continued commitment of DIBT towards strengthening national defence and ensuring food and bio-defence preparedness for the country.

DTTC, DMSRDE, Lucknow

The Defence Technology & Test Centre (DTTC) and Defence Materials Stores and Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Lucknow, celebrated its 2nd Laboratory Raising Day on 11 March 2026. Dr Kingsuk Mukhopadhyay, OS & Director, DMSRDE, Kanpur, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and addressed the DTTC fraternity. During the inauguration, Dr Ashish Dubey, PD DTTC, presented a brief progress report of the DTTC. Dr Anshuman Srivastava, Prof. & Head, Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), Lucknow, was the Guest of Honour and he delivered a technical talk on 'Polymer Ceramic Composites: A Potential Material for Advanced Engineering Applications.' Shri Amit Saraiya, Sc 'F', Head TC & HRD, also attended the event and delivered a talk on 'DMSRDE ToTs.' The program concluded with an in-house cultural program.

HEMRL, Pune

High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune, celebrated its 118th Raising Day on 2 March 2026. Dr BHVS

Narayana Murthy, Vice Chancellor of DIAT, Pune, and Prof. (Dr) Prateek Kishore, DS and DG (ACE), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour, respectively. Guests, along with Director HEMRL, Dr AP Dash and Shri Arvind Kumar, Director, CFEES, garlanded the statue of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at the Self-reliance Point of HEMRL. The Director, HEMRL in his address, congratulated HEMRL employees for their excellent contributions for the progress of HEMRL and urged all to work with full vigor for further progress. Guest of Honour Prof. Kishore, in his address, complimented all for the excellent contributions made by HEMRL for realising various critical materials, technology, and systems.

The Chief Guest stressed the importance of High Energy Materials (HEM) and their research for the defene capabilities of India. He appreciated the contributions made by the HEMRL, a unique laboratory in this country covering all aspects of HEM research, for the defence preparedness of the country and to work with vigor to be the world leader in this domain. The Chief Guest and Guest of honour presented mementos to the employees of HEMRL who had completed a glorious 25 years of service. Prizes were distributed to the winners of the innovative idea contest, DRDO Commendation Certificates for outstanding contributions, trainers of the Karmayogi program, and MES employees for excellent services support.

Children of the employees of HEMRL were also felicitated for their meritorious performance in HSC and SSC board examinations.

DR AMBEDKAR'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT NSTL

The Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam, organized Dr BR Ambedkar 135th birth anniversary celebration in a grand manner on 14 April 2026. The Chief Guest Shri Satya Rao Ungatla, District Judge (Retd.), Dr HN Das, OS & Officiating Director NSTL, and Guests of Honor Dr Ragu Mallepalli (former Scientist, University of Hyderabad) participated in the celebration. Dr D Ratan Sunjay, Sc 'G' gave the opening remarks. Shri Ch Subakara Rao, President, NSTL SC/ST Employees Association, Member, NSTL SC/ST Employees Association, addressed the gathering. Dr Das opined that Ambedkar's vision is to educate, agitate, and organize. On the occasion, sarees were distributed to poor and needy women by Smt Ilin Abraham, first lady of NSTL, and Smt Krishna Das, vice president of NSTL Mahila Kalyan Manch.

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

CABS, Bengaluru

Shri Gaurav Gupta, Sc 'E' of the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), Bengaluru, delivered a talk on "Advanced Audio Data Management for Defence Application: A Glimpse into Advanced Audio Applications" on the occasion of National Science Day 2026 (NSD 2026), celebrated on 3 March 2026. The oration was attended by the entire scientific fraternity of the laboratory. At the culmination of the oration, Ms P Santhya, OS & Director, CABS, presented the NSD 2026 medal and a certificate to Shri Gupta.

CFEES, Delhi

On 27 February 2026, Centre for Fire, Explosive & Environment Safety (CFEES), Delhi, celebrated NSD 2026 with great enthusiasm and pride. As a part of program, the orator, Shri Santosh Kumar Singh, Sc 'E' delivered his talk on, "Predictive Modeling of Pre-detonation Length during Deflagration to Detonation Transition in Explosives." He presented his research work done in the field of Deflagration to Detonation Transition of explosive. He highlighted the importance of determination of pre-detonation length of ammunition at designing stage.

Dr (Ms) Monika Jaggi, a plant biotechnologist working at the intersection of plant sciences, science communication and science diplomacy was the guest speaker of the event.

DIBT, Mysuru

The Defence Institute of Biodefence Technologies (DIBT), Mysuru, celebrated NSD 2026 with great enthusiasm and scientific fervor. The program commenced with a welcome address by Dr I Laiyaraja, Sc 'E'. The NSD oration was delivered by Dr Shylaja R, Sc 'F'. In her oration "CRISPR-Cas Beyond Gene Editing: A New Era of Molecular Diagnostics," Dr Shylaja elaborated on the transformative potential of CRISPR-Cas systems. She explained that CRISPR-Cas, originally an adaptive immune mechanism found in prokaryotes, has evolved into a powerful tool not only for precise gene editing but also for advanced molecular diagnostics.

Dr R Kumar, Centre Head, DIBT, presented the NSD medal and a certificate to the orator. The event witnessed active participation from scientists, technical staff, and employees of the institute, reaffirming DIBT's commitment to scientific excellence and innovation in the field of bio-defence technologies.

INMAS, Delhi

Dr I Prem Kumar, Sc 'G', delivered the NSD oration-2026 on "Beyond the Blast: Regional Nuclear Impact Simulation for Preparedness and Resilience" at the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), Delhi, on 5 March 2026. The presentation honored Sir CV Raman and discussed the growing importance of nuclear consequence assessment in

today's geopolitical landscape. It highlighted the shortcomings of existing global simulation tools for India's unique demographic and climatic conditions, emphasizing the need for a tailored nuclear impact simulation platform. This platform includes various analytical modules—blast modeling, atmospheric dispersion, casualty estimation, infrastructure evaluation, and medical response—aimed at providing comprehensive support for planners and emergency responders in India. The development of such capabilities is seen as pivotal for enhancing national preparedness and strategic planning in nuclear consequence management.

Dr Sudhir Chandna, OS & Director, INMAS, presented the NSD medal and certificate to the orator.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

ASL, Hyderabad

Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL), Hyderabad, celebrated International Women's Day 2026 (IWD 2026) on 27 March 2026. Smt Justina Geetha, Chairperson, Women's Cell, ASL, welcomed the Chief Guest and all dignitaries for the celebrations and highlighted the role of women in ASL. Dr M Raghavendra Rao, Director, ASL, congratulated the women fraternity of ASL and commemorated the contributions by the women scientists and emphasized the support of women as homemakers for the smooth working of all scientists of the organization. Shri U Raja Babu, DG (MSS), stated that women are more responsible and they are capable of handling both the roles at home and in the office with equal dedication. Smt Durga Padma Latha, First Lady, DG (MSS), and Smt M Saradamani Acharya, First Lady, ASL, graced the occasion. Chief Guest Prof. Shantha Sinha, Former Chairperson, NCPCR and Padma Shri Awardee, highlighted breaking gender stereotypes and that women have to be treated

equally and responsibilities have to be shared equally among men and women instead of burdening women or overprotecting them. A workshop by Dr Gurupreet Kaur, Sc 'F' from DIPR, on "Enhancing Cognitive Ability" was also conducted as part of the celebration.

CFEES, Delhi

The IWD 2026 was celebrated at Centre for Fire, Explosive & Environment Safety (CFEES), Delhi, on 12 March 2026 to recognize the achievements and contributions of women. To mark the occasion, present and past senior women scientists were invited to share their valuable experiences. Dr Meenakshi and Mrs Alka Diwan both retired as scientist 'G' from CFEES also spoke at the gathering, to motivate and inspire the young audience. Mrs Alips, Sc 'F' gave a presentation on women's role in scientific and technological advancement. Dr Arti Bhatt and Dr Marry Celin both the Associate Director's heading different group of CFEES also shared their insightful thoughts with the audience. Shri Arvind Kumar OS & Director CFEES, in his address, appreciated the contribution of women

employees and emphasized the importance of gender equality, professional growth and supportive work environments.

DIPR, Delhi

The Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR), Delhi, celebrated IWD 2026 under the inspiring and empowering theme "Unapologetically Her" on 24 March 2026. The event was graced by Dr N Ranjana, OS & Director, Directorate of Futuristic Technology Management (DFTM).

Dr Ranjana greeted the DIPR family and reminisced about the opportunities, enabling policies, and vast canvas provided by DRDO to the scientific fraternity, including the women scientists. In her address, she shared that support for women opens up vast opportunities, and thrust in this direction through mentoring and skill-building by the scientific community would be a great enabler for strengthening the human capital of the country. She stressed the need for active engagement with academia via the DRDO-Industry-Academy Center for Excellence (DIA-CoE) model to translate research into tangible products for national challenges in defense and beyond. Collaboration across genders and across institutions lays strong R&D foundations and is the engine of self-reliance.

Dr Nishi Misra, Director, DIPR, felicitated the Chief Guest and urged all the scientists and exhorted them to leverage opportunities by valuing every inherent strength of human beings and integrating capabilities across wide spectrum. On the occasion, an exhibition was also organised and all the DIPR fraternity actively participated in the event.

DMSRDE, Kanpur

The IWD 2026 was celebrated on 17 March 2026 at the Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur, to acknowledge the contribution of women employees and to promote the spirit of equality and empowerment. The program was inaugurated by Dr Kingsuk Mukhopadhyay, OS & Director, DMSRDE, and the Chief Guest, Mrs Bandev Kumari Singh, President, All India Women Development & Training Society (AIWDTS), Delhi.

The celebration began with a heartfelt welcome address by Dr Kavita Agarwal, Head, Women Cell. She briefly shared the achievements and activities carried out by the Women Cell, DMSRDE, and appreciated the active participation of its members. Director DMSRDE addressed the gathering and spoke about the evolving role of women in today's society. He acknowledged the dedication and achievements of women employees and encouraged continued efforts toward professional excellence and equality.

The Chief Guest, Mrs Bandev Kumari Singh, addressed the gathering and spoke about the need for equal opportunities for women in the workplace. She also emphasized that every woman has inner strength and potential, and it is important for them to recognize their abilities to achieve success. A talk was also delivered by Dr Jyoti Srivastava, Sc 'G' & Advisor Women Cell, on the theme of women empowerment. She spoke about the achievements of women across the world and encouraged everyone to continue working towards self-growth and excellence.

HEMRL, Pune

The IWD 2026 was celebrated at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune, on 17 March 2026. Nearly 350 women employees of HEMRL participated in the celebration with outstanding enthusiasm. Capt. G. Sowjanya Sree, Addl. Registrar (Acads) at the Indian Naval Academy, was the Chief

Guest for the occasion. She shared her experience and knowledge regarding women empowerment and self-resilience. The talk was well appreciated by the audience and created awareness about the overall progress of women in society.

As part of the celebrations, the HEMRL women's council organised "HER BIZ FEST," an exhibition by women entrepreneurs on 16 March 2026. Dr AP Dash, Director HEMRL, inaugurated the exhibition. Stalls such as home décor, imitation jewelry, ethnic wear, handicraft products, and a variety of food items were the attraction of the exhibition. In addition, various competitions, viz., Rangoli, Mehendi, greeting card making (theme: family), and fun games were conducted.

MTRDC, Bengaluru

The IWD 2026 was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Microwave Tube Research & Development Centre (MTRDC), Bengaluru, on 18 March 2026. The event was graced by Smt Julia Mohapatra, General Manager (Postal Accounts and Finance), Karnataka Circle, as the Chief Guest. Group Captain Rajalakshmi Prithviraj, Principal of Sainik School Bijapur and a distinguished military educationist and strategic planning analyst, attended as the Guest of Honour through VC. The program commenced with a warm welcome address by the Center Head, Dr SK Datta, who highlighted the significance of celebrating Women's Day and acknowledging the contributions of women in all spheres of life. The Chief Guest delivered an insightful speech on the evolution of women's empowerment in India, from ancient times to the present day. Emphasisng the 2026 theme, "#Give To Gain," she encouraged empowered women to extend their support and uplift those who are less privileged, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. The Chief Guest also released the Hindi in-house magazine UMANG (non-technical). She motivated women to strive for excellence, break barriers, and inspire future generations to reach their fullest potential.

The program ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Smt Mala Ramasamy, Sc 'G'.

NATIONAL SAFETY DAY CELEBRATIONS

CAS, Hyderabad

The 55th National Safety Day was observed at the Centre for Advanced Systems (CAS), Hyderabad, with the core theme "Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Workplace Safety." In line with the spirit of this year's theme, CAS organised various activities, including an essay writing competition, poster making, and a slogan writing competition, along with a comprehensive safety aptitude test.

A specialized demonstration on best safety practices to suppress all types of fire at the workplace was also conducted. The employees were guided and advised about dos and don'ts in case of fire emergencies.

The highlight was a guest lecture that provided critical insight into fire and explosive hazards caused by static electricity and its prevention. Prizes for winners of the safety competitions were distributed in the event by

Dr Sivasubramaniam N, DS & Director CAS, in the presence of Shri Praveen Tandon Sc 'G'& GD, Shri S Srinivas Sc 'G' & DOMS, and Shri K Sathaiah Goud, Head, Safety.

DEBEL, Bengaluru

The Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bengaluru, observed National Safety Month 2026 during 4-31 March 2026. In this connection, various programs were conducted to take stock of the laboratory's safety preparedness and enhance awareness among the employees. A one-day training program on emergency preparedness was organized for the officers and staff with a live demonstration/ mock drill of various firefighting/ extinguishing methods. DEBEL

employees participated in the event. Further, an elocution competition for the employees and a lecture on safety were organized. Several officers, staff, and contract employees participated in the elocution competition. Five best speakers were awarded during the valedictory session. Dr Siddappaji B, Sc 'F', ADE, delivered an invited lecture on safety during the valedictory session.

DGRE, Chandigarh

Every year, 4 March is observed as National Safety Day in India to highlight safety measures and explore ways to make the office a safer place for people. National Safety Week was organized at Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE) during 4-10 March 2026 with the theme "Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety" to promote safety precautions among employees of DGRE. As a part of observance, DGRE coordinated various competitions like slogan writing, "Engage, Educate, and Empower people to Enhance Safety" and making of posters on "Safety Aspects in High Altitude Areas," highlighting challenges and safety measures in elevated terrains. A talk on fire safety and firefighting was delivered by the Station Officer and Firemen. They also conducted the mock drill to assess contingency response procedures to provide practical experience and ensure staff readiness for various safety scenarios during the unforeseen period. The combination of educational activities and hands-on experiences demonstrated DGRE's commitment to fostering a culture of safety and vigilance among its personnel.

DMSRDE, Kanpur

The Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur, celebrated the 55th National Safety Day/Month during 9-27 March 2026. The event was inaugurated by Dr Kingsuk Mukhopadhyay, OS & Director, DMSRDE. He said that safety should be a matter of concern for every individual and expressed his satisfaction that there are no major safety issues in the establishment. A lecture on 'National Safety through Capacity Building for Sustainable Development' was delivered by invited speaker Dr Droupti Yadav, Asst. Professor, CSJM University, Kanpur, on the occasion. A mutual aid fire mock drill-cum-awareness and training program about fire-fighting equipment was conducted by the fire and safety experts from Govt. Fire Station, Jajmau, Kanpur, and COD, Kanpur. A quiz competition, speech competition, and poster/slogan competition were also organised during the Safety Month. The valedictory event was conducted on 27 March 2026, where the Director,

DMSRDE, distributed the prizes to the winners of the various competitions. The program was coordinated by Dr AK Singh, Sc 'F' & Head QRS, and his team.

DYSL-QT, Pune

The 55th Safety Week Celebration at DRDO Young Scientist Laboratories (DYSLs)-QT, Pune, was held during 4-10 March 2026, marking yet another milestone in the organization's commitment to workplace safety and employee well-being. The event was inaugurated by the Dr Santu Sardar, Director, DYSL-QT, who addressed the gathering with an inspiring message on the importance of safety in every aspect of operations. He emphasized that safety is a collective responsibility and urged employees to actively participate in the week's activities. The inaugural session also featured the Safety Pledge, where employees reaffirmed their dedication to safe practices, symbolizing the organization's unified commitment to accident-free operations.

The week was filled with engaging competitions like essay, poster and slogan, quiz, and safety awareness programs along with emergency drills designed to involve employees at all levels. These activities not only encouraged participation but also instilled a more profound understanding of safety principles across the workforce. The week-long celebration concluded on 10 March 2026 with a closing ceremony that recognized the winners of various competitions. The Director, in his concluding remarks, reiterated that safety is a continuous journey and encouraged everyone to carry forward the lessons learned into their daily routines.

IRDE, Dehradun

The Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun, observed National Safety Week during 4-10 March 2026. Dr Saleem Faruqi, Principal Scientist, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, delivered a lecture to sensitize IRDE employees about industrial and fire hazards and mitigation techniques. He highlighted the causes of industrial and fire hazards and emphasized safety audits. He also pointed out the precautions to be taken during any fire accident, such as the importance of having fire extinguishers readily available, conducting regular fire drills, and ensuring clear evacuation routes. Dr Ranabir Mandal, Sc 'G' & Chairman Safety Council, thanked Dr Faruqi for his very informative lecture.

A safety awareness campaign and a fire safety demonstration/ drill were also conducted as part of the celebration. IRDE officers and staff attended the drill. During the demonstration, fire safety officer Shri Rajesh Bansal, Technical Officer 'C,' and his team explained the class and use of different types of fire extinguishers.

Slogan and essay writing competitions were also organized during the event for the employees of IRDE to show the importance of safety in day-to-day activities. Dr Ajay Kumar, OS & Director, IRDE, awarded the prizes to the winners of the competitions.

MTRDC, Bengaluru

The 55th National Safety Month was observed at the Microwave Tube Research & Development Centre (MTRDC), Bengaluru, during 4-31 March 2026. A series of events and safety lectures was conducted during this period, with active participation from MTRDC personnel. The primary objective

of the celebration was to promote safety awareness.

As part of the awareness initiative, a safety pledge was administered, and a safety lecture was also organized. Additionally, two online safety lectures conducted by CFEES, Delhi, were also broadcasted. The MTRDC safety team conducted a hands-on training session on the operation of CO_2-based and other extinguishers for officers and staff. The session witnessed enthusiastic participation, with practical demonstration followed by hands-on experience for the attendees.

A fire safety emergency evacuation mock drill was carried out on 25 March 2026, and to further encourage the culture of safety, slogan and poster competitions were organised for MTRDC employees.

NSTL, Visakhapatnam

Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam celebrated the 55th National Safety Month-2026 during 4-31 March 2026. The month-long celebration commenced with display of safety banners and posters at various vantage locations and test centres of NSTL. Various safety events like fire extinguisher training program, administration of safety pledge, essay writing competition, slogans, posters, safety quizzes, etc. were organized to create awareness about occupational safety, health, and environment among all groups of NSTL employees. As a part of the celebration, a workshop on safety and health was also conducted. The Chief Guest, Dr Abraham Varughese, OS & Director NSTL, inaugurated the workshop along with Dr Rajeswari Devi, OS; Dr D Radha Krishna, Sc 'G'; Shri Anish Gopal, Sc 'F' from DRDO-RCI, Hyderabad; Dr Vinay Mishra, DGM, from NAD-Visakhapatnam; Mrs Citralekha Vaidy, CEO, Varashookt Pvt. Limited-Mumbai; and Dr Abhay Kumar Mahanta, Sc 'F' & Chairman, Organizing Committee, in the presence of all officers and staff of NSTL. All the employees of the NSTL participated actively in various events and made the one-month long safety campaign a grand success.

RAC, Delhi

Recruitment and Assessment Center (RAC), Delhi, organized a fire safety mock drill on 24 March 2026. Shri Surya Kant, Sc 'E,' and Shri KK Sharma, TO 'B,' from the Centre for Fire, Explosive, and Environment Safety (CFEES), Delhi, were invited as the Chief Guest to deliver a lecture on safety measures, hazards at the workplace, and effective strategies to prevent fire-related incidents. After the lecture, a practical firefighting demonstration was conducted by the expert along with his team. The demonstration provided hands-on knowledge about the usage of firefighting equipment and techniques to RAC personnel.

DGRE ACCREDITED ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFICATE

The Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE), Chandigarh, has been awarded the ISO 9001:2015 certificate vide Registration No. QMS/NR/0322/003 dated 19 March 2026, valid until 28 February 2029, in recognition of maintaining a Quality Management System (QMS). The scope of the certificate of registration covers research and development of technologies for geo-intelligence and mitigation of geo-hazards, particularly

avalanches and landslides. The Quality Policy of DGRE states that the Establishment will continually improve through research and innovation to become a "Leader in the development of critical technologies for enhancing combat effectiveness with a focus on terrain and snow."

DRDO ORGANISES MEGA EXHIBITION SHOWCASING INDIGENOUS DEFENCE TECHNOLOGIES AT MOTIHARI, BIHAR

The exhibition organised by the DRDO in Motihari, Bihar held during 15 April to 18 April 2026, served as a major platform to showcase India's advancements in science, technology, and defence innovation. The event was organised under the guidance of Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, who also delivered a video message during the inauguration of the exhibition. The event was inaugurated by the Director General (R&M) Shri Ravindra Singh, underlining its importance in promoting indigenous defence capabilities and scientific awareness.

The exhibition was organised under the theme 'Shanti, Satya Aur Vigyan Ka Sangam-Surakshit Aur Aatmanirbhar Bharat Ki Aur'. The exhibition focused on presenting India's progress in defence research and development, highlighting the country's growing self-reliance in critical technologies.

A key highlight of the event was the participation of nearly 20,000 students, reflecting strong interest among the youth in science and defence technologies. Around 22 DRDO laboratories participated and showcased a wide range of advanced defence systems and innovations.

The exhibition featured several key indigenous technologies, including air defence systems such as Akash and Akash-NG missiles, strike systems like BrahMos and Pralay missiles, and anti-tank systems including the NAG missile and MPATGM. It also displayed major platforms such as the Arjun Main Battle Tank (Mk-I & II), Indian Light Tank, Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), and the Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System.

In addition, advanced surveillance and sensor technologies such as the Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system, Uttam AESA radar, and drone detection radar were presented. The exhibition also included soldier support and protection systems like CBRN defence equipment, blast protection suits, ballistic helmets, and chemical detection systems, along with engineering solutions such as modular bridging systems and a prototype of the Kaveri engine.

During the closing ceremony of the event, Hon'ble MP Shri Mohan Singh appreciated DRDO's contribution to strengthening India's defence capabilities and highlighted its role in advancing indigenous technologies under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

DRDO YOUNG SCIENTISTS MEET 2026 AT ASL

Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL), Hyderabad, and Directorate of Human Resources Development (DHRD) jointly organised a three-day DRDO Young Scientists Meet (YSM) during 30 March 2026 to 1 April 2026 at Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad. This was the 12th edition of DRDO YSM, with the core theme 'Together We Grow.' The sub-theme was 'Invent, Impact, Inspire,' which emphasizes the need for inventing to create impact in advanced defence technologies and inspire the next generation of breakthroughs.

The event was inaugurated by Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, DD R&D & Chairman, DRDO.

Shri U Raja Babu, DS & DG (MSS), and Dr Mayank Dwivedi, OS & DG (HR), also graced the event. A total of 218 young scientists from all DRDO laboratories and DRDO Young Scientists Laboratories participated in the event. Shri Mrinmoy Biswas, Sc 'D' and Coordinator of YSM 2026, welcomed the dignitaries and participants and briefed them about the various events planned during YSM 2026. YSM provides an opportunity to interact with the eminent personalities of the academic and scientific worlds. It brings together talented young scientists from across the nation to exchange ideas, learn from each other's experiences, promote fraternity, and grow together.

In his inaugural address, Dr Kamat emphasised achieving self-reliance through government-supported R&D and focused on disruptive technologies like cyber warfare and directed energy weapons. Shri Raja Babu strengthened on the need to restricting defence imports, prioritize indigenization, and accelerate innovation in a rapidly changing warfare landscape. He focused on shrinking supply lead times and ensuring the judicious allotment of resources for future readiness. Dr Dwivedi highlighted the role of young scientists in innovation and stressed their involvement in various defence projects. He commended the young scientists for their commitment and dedication in achieving the excellent results.

Dr M Raghavendra Rao, OS & Director, ASL, appreciated the YSM gathering, which plays a pivotal role in empowering the next generation of scientists by providing them with a platform to explore pioneering ideas and push the boundaries of technological advancement in defence.

WORKSHOP ON USE OF AI IN DIGITAL OFFICE TRANSFORMATION

The Directorate of Human Resource Development (DHRD), DRDO HQrs, organized a workshop on “Use of AI in Digital Office Transformation" on 8 April 2026 at DRDO HQrs. The workshop was organized in the spirit of commemoration of the Capacity Building Commission's 5th foundation day with Mission Karmayogi SADHANA Strengthening Adaptive Development and Human Aptitude for National Advancement. Saptah during 2-8 April 2026, reinforcing the Government of India’s long-term vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Dr Mayank Dwivedi, DG (HR), in his inaugural address emphasized the need to keep pace with evolving technological advancement and the importance of digital automation tools in day-to-day office functioning. He highlighted that the adoption of such tools not only enhances efficiency and accuracy but also significantly reduces manual efforts and processing time.

The workshop was aimed at creating awareness among DRDO officials on the application of AI in office administration, enhancing understanding of AI-based tools that can improve efficiency, accuracy, and decision-making in day-to-day functioning, and align organizational practices with the principle of Mission Karmayogi, focusing on continuous capacity building.

The session featured an insightful talk by Dr Karnak Roy, Associate Professor, Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, with active participation of a group of 90 officials from various directorates of DRDO HQrs.

WORKSHOP ON QSQM BY QMET TECH FOUNDATION, QETCI IN COLLABORATION WITH DYSL-QT, DIAT

Qmet Tech Foundation, established under the National Quantum Mission (NQM) by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), in collaboration with the Quantum Ecosystems Technology Council of India (QETCI) and the DRDO Young Scientists’ Laboratory for Quantum Technologies (DYSL-QT), Pune, organized a workshop on "Quantum Sensing for the Defence Sector". The event brought together leading scientists, academicians, and service officers to deliberate on the emerging frontiers of quantum sensors and their applications in national security and advanced research.

The workshop was graced by the Hon’ble Chief Guest, Dr BHVS Narayana Murthy, Vice Chancellor, DIAT, Pune, and Guest of Honour, Rear Admiral V Ganapathy, Commandant, Military Institute of Technology (MILIT), Pune.

Their presence underscored the importance of academic defence collaboration in shaping India’s quantum future. The event also witnessed the participation of Dr Santu Sardar, Director, DYSL-

QT, and Ms Reena Dayal, Founder and CEO, QETCI, who played a pivotal role in convening the workshop.

The workshop featured eminent speakers from across the country, including Prof. Kasturi Saha, Professor in charge of Qmet Tech, IIT Bombay; Dr G Rajalakshmi, Scientific Officer (F), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Hyderabad; Dr Jay Mangaonkar, Co-Founder of QuPrayog; and Dr Amit Shrivastava, Scientist at Research Centre Imarat (RCI), DRDO, each contributing unique perspectives on quantum science and its applications.

WORKSHOP ON TRUSTWORTHY 6G & IOT ECOSYSTEM FOR MISSION CRITICAL APPLICATIONS

With the rapid progress in the communications technology, it is evident that future warfare would be more technology-driven and autonomous. At this challenging global scenario, the DRDO conducted a comprehensive and futuristic workshop on "Trustworthy 6G and IoT Ecosystem for Mission Critical Applications" during 22-24 April 2026 at Metcalfe House, Delhi.

The workshop was organized under the aegis of Micro Electronic Devices, Computational Sciences & Cyber Security Cluster (MED, CoS & CS) of DRDO.

The workshop was an endeavour to gather scientists, academicians, industry experts and policy makers on a single platform. Subject experts from DRDO, DoT, IITs, IIIT and industry giants Qualcomm, Nokia, Samsung, Tech Mahindra, etc. shared their experiences with participants from defence fraternity.

This was an adept coterie for brainstorming on future networks and indigenous solutions to the threats in AI and quantum era.

SEMINAR ON MULTI-SENSOR DETECTION AND ADAPTIVE TRACKING FOR DIRECTED ENERGY SYSTEMS

A seminar on "Multi-Sensor Detection and Adaptive Tracking for Directed Energy Systems" was organized by Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS), Hyderabad, in association with Sensor Research Society (SRS) and Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) on 26 March 2026. The event witnessed the participation of more than 150 members from DRDO laboratories, academic institutes and startups. The seminar was graced by the Chief Guest, Dr RV Hara Prasad, DS & DG (NS&M), who highlighted the strategic importance of multi-sensor integration in enhancing the effectiveness of directed energy systems. A keynote lecture on "Radar for Detection of Low Observable Targets" was delivered by Prof. Kumar Vijay Mishra, Senior Fellow at the United States DEVCOM, Army Research Laboratory who elaborated on advanced radar techniques and their critical role in detecting stealth and low- signature objects. Important talks from domain experts from academia, industries and sister DRDO laboratories were delivered in different sessions. The Guests of Honour, Shri Anindya Biswas, DS & Director, RCI and Dr Dasharath Ram, DS & Ex-Director, DRDL, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the need for continuous innovation in adaptive beam tracking technologies and directed energy systems. Dr Jagannath Nayak, DS & Director, CHESS felicitated the honourable guests and concluded the inauguration session with his warm speech. The seminar concluded with a panel discussion led by Prof. Radhakant Padhi, Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IISc, Bangalore. The event was coordinated by Dr S Veerabuthiran, Sc 'G'.

TRAINING ON MOVEMENT IN SNOW BOUND AREAS USING SKI EQUIPMENT AT DGRE, RDC MANALI

The Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE), Chandigarh, organized a five-day course during 9-16 March 2026 on "Study on Low Temperature and Training on Movement in Snowbound Areas Using Ski Equipment" at DGRE, RDC Manali. The objective of the course was to enhance the knowledge of movement in the low temperature snowbound region of the Himalayas using ski equipment adapted to extreme cold and ski handling techniques and to equip the participants with the skill and knowledge to navigate snow-covered terrain safely and confidently. In-house experts of DGRE and eminent speakers from various institutes, including the director of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering & Allied Sports (ABVIMAS), a former IG of ITBP and BSF (a 07-time Mt. Everest climber), and an international ski expert, delivered technical talks on monitoring the field conditions, mountain traveling challenges, assessment for safer movement, and ski as a mode of transportation for operational commitments by

troops. Participants were given hands-on training on how to ski in different conditions of snow in the Himalayas, covering the technical aspects, approaches, risks, and various strategies to overcome the risks involved and practical aspects of hands-on training skiing at the Solang Ski slope of Himachal Pradesh. Shri PS Negi, Sc 'G', was the Course Director.

TARGETED TRAINING COURSE AT DIBT

The Defence Institute of Bio-Defence Technology (DIBT), Mysuru, organized a five-day targeted hands-on training program on "Bioinformatic Tools, Molecular Docking, Drug Design, and Bio-Simulation" during 16-20 February 2026. The training was conducted by faculty members from Pro-genome Life Sciences, Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra. The objective of the program was to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of bioinformatic tools and in-silico techniques used in molecular docking and drug design. The training aimed to facilitate the transition from theoretical knowledge to practical applications in bioinformatics and computational biology.

Participants gained hands-on experience in protein structure prediction and were introduced to various software tools and databases used for structural analysis. The training also covered aspects such as identification and validation of potential drug candidates, optimization of lead compounds, prediction of ligand–target interactions, and evaluation of toxicity of prospective therapeutic molecules.

COURSES AT ITM, MUSSOORIE

COURSE ON TECHNOLOGY FORECASTING FOR ACE CLUSTER

The Institute of Technology Management (ITM), Mussoorie, conducted a three-day course on 'Technology Forecasting' for the ACE Cluster at ARDE. Pune, during 24-26 March 2026. A total of 38 participants from ACE Cluster and Pune-based laboratories participated in the course.

The primary objective of the course was to impart the scientists and engineers with the knowledge and practical skills required to identify, analyze, and leverage emerging technologies for the development of cutting-edge defence systems and strategies, ensuring alignment with user aspirations and global technological shifts.

The course was inaugurated by Chief Guest Shri MV Ramesh Kumar, OS & Director ARDE, in the presence of Director ITM. During the course, Prof. Prateek Kishore, DS & DG (ACE), shared his vision on technology forecasting and road mapping, emphasizing the current geopolitical situation. He stressed that technology development at DRDO should be aligned with dynamic war scenarios. DG (ACE) further thanked Director ARDE & Director ITM for taking initiatives and organizing courses on technology management.

COURSE ON WRITING CASE STUDIES

A two-day course on writing case studies was organized by the Institute of Technology Management (ITM), Mussoorie, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management, Visakhapatnam (IIMV), at the Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), Bengaluru, during 12-13 March 2026. The objective of the course was to equip scientists with the skills to document and communicate R&D project experiences through structured case studies that highlight challenges, methodologies, and innovations and bring out key learnings so as to streamline and utilize organizational knowledge effectively.

The course was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr BK Das, DS & DG (ECS); Guest of Honor Shri M Sheikh Althaf, OS & Director, LRDE; and Dr DK Panda, Sc 'G' & Dean (Research), ITM. The Chief Guest emphasized that case writing should be given due importance, since case studies are crucial in R&D for in-depth contextual analysis of scenarios, allowing scientists and researchers to explore complex issues in real-world settings and generate qualitative data. He also deliberated upon the importance of developing an in-house repository of case studies written by DRDO scientists.

COURSE ON ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR GEM PROCUREMENT IN PROJECT

The Institute of Technology Management (ITM), Mussoorie, conducted a three-day training program on 'Essential Skills for GeM Procurement in Projects' during 18-20 March 2026 for Group 'A' Officers of DRDO. The course was inaugurated by Cmde BK Munjal, VSM (Retd.), Advisor (Defence) GeM, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, as the Chief Guest, and Shri SP Dobhal, Director ITM. Director ITM, in his address, welcomed the course participants and urged the participants to gain maximum knowledge from the course. Cmde Munjal highlighted the various

aspects of GeM procurement, which was followed by his sessions on GeM.

Various sessions related to GeM procurement were delivered by ITM faculty and invited faculty during the training program. viz., Introduction to Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Buyer Functionality, Secondary User Management and Role of Indenter, Demand Initiation, Processing and Approval, Procurement of Technical Books & Journals and Outsourcing of Services, Procurement of Goods & Services without Bidding, Bid Process Flow on GeM Portal, Practical Issues with respect to Projects, etc. The course was concluded in the august presence of Dr Ravindra Singh, OS & DG (R&M), as the Chief Guest. He deliberated upon the importance of procurement through the GeM in the DRDO context and distributed the course completion certificate to the course participants.

COURSE ON SPECIALIZED TRAINING ON ESSENTIAL MANAGEMENT SKILLS

The Mandatory Training Program 'Specialized Training on Essential Management Skills' (STEMS 25.3) for newly promoted scientists 'G' was organized by the Institute of Technology Management (ITM), Mussoorie, during 23 March 2026 to 2 April 2026. The course was organized with the aim to orient the scientists towards leadership excellence, R&D management, strategic management, and corporate functions of DRDO. A total of 74 scientists 'G' from different laboratories/centers/ directorates of DRDO participated in the course. The Course Director, Dr DK Panda, Sc 'G' briefed about the course and highlighted the history and charter of duties of ITM. He also gave an overview of the contents of the course. The course was inaugurated by Chief Guests Dr BK Das, DS & DG (ECS), and Director, ITM, Shri SP Dobhal. The Chief Guest deliberated upon the importance of DRDO-Academia-Industry collaborations in timely execution of the projects.

Important topics like Resilient Defence Eco-System, Future warfare and role of DRDO, Handling Requirement from Services, Challenges in Development of Systems of Systems, System Engineering, Project Risk Management, Internal review committee findings and way forward, PM-2025, Strategic human resource management, Strategy for organizational excellence etc. were covered during the training course by distinguished guest faculties & ITM faculty. Additionally, learnings from various case studies like Akash, MBT Arjun, etc. were also discussed during the course.

COLLEGIATE MEETING AT DMSRDE

A collegiate meeting was held on 17 March 2026 at the Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur, under the chairmanship of the Director, DMSRDE. The meeting was conducted in hybrid mode. The meeting commenced with a welcome address by the Director, DMSRDE, who highlighted the purpose of the meeting and emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in advancing high-pressure multi-layered membrane technologies. Dr Debmalya Roy, Sc 'G', DMSRDE, delivered a detailed presentation on the development of multilayered polymeric membranes. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Directorate of Marine Engineering (DME), Indian Navy, Delhi; Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Delhi; Directorate of Interaction with Services for Business (DISB), DRDO Headquarters, New Delhi; DMSRDE, Kanpur; and strategic industry partners associated with desalination plants onboard Indian Navy and ICG ships.

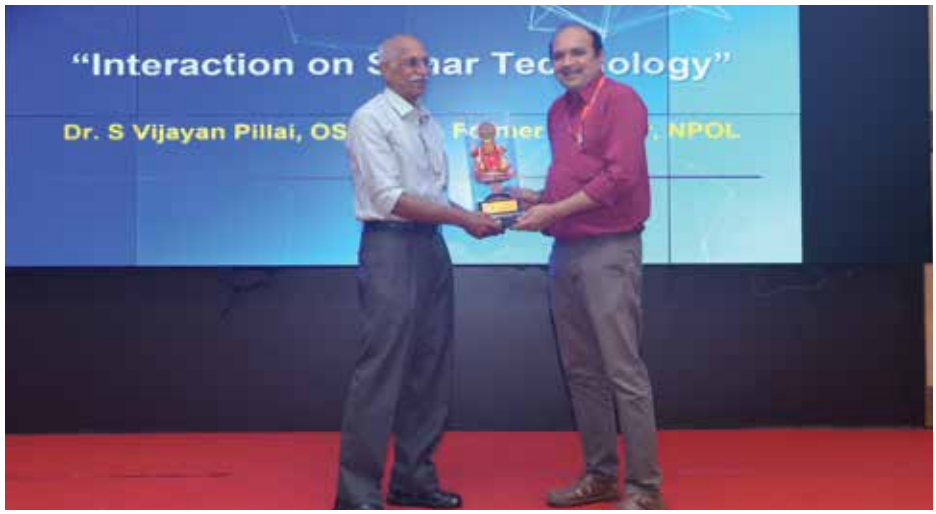
49TH NBC SSC MEETING AT DMSRDE

The 49th NBC SSC Meeting was organized at the Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur, on 11 March 2026. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of NBC SSC, Shri VS Shenoy, OS & Director DLJ. Cdr Shailesh Yadav, Secretary NBC SSC, DSC, conducted the proceedings of the meeting and presented the status. The meeting was conducted in hybrid mode. Dr JN Srivastava, Associate Director,welcomedallthemembers. The meeting was attended by Dr S Anand, Sc 'H', an external expert from BARC; representatives from different sister DRDO laboratories; representatives from M/s Gliders India Limited, Kanpur, and M/s Heavy Vehicle Factory, Avadi; and representatives from Air HQ, Naval HQ, and CE (CBRN). Members from O/o DG (SSS), O/o DGQA, R&D (E), and O/o Defence Standardisation Cell (DSC) have joined the meeting through VC.

'PEARLS OF WISDOM' – SERIES OF TECHNICAL TALK AT NPOL

'Pearls of Wisdom' is a technical talk series organized by Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi, for promoting knowledge sharing within the scientific community. During the year 2026, four talks were arranged in this series. Dr S Vijayan Pillai, Former Director, NPOL delivered a talk on 'Sonar Technology' on 26 March 2026. He explained the challenges of low-frequency sensing, panoramic LOFAR as an early detection tool and tonal energy tracking for bearing estimation.

Four more lectures were conducted in the past two months by eminent personalities in various subject areas. They are 'SAGAR MAITRI' by Dr Raghunadha Rao, Sc 'G', NPOL; 'Hyperbaric Stress and Human Psychological Responses by team DIPAS, Delhi; and 'Radar Electronic Warfare and Directed Energy Weapons' by Shri P Raghavendra Rao, Former Associate Director & Sc 'G', CHESS, Hyderabad; and 'Nurturing High Performing R&D Project Teams' by Dr Kiran Govind V, Sc 'F', NPOL.



OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR CONTRACTUAL WOMEN EMPLOYEES AT CVRDE

A one-day outreach program in the form of a health camp was organized at Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), Chennai, on 25 March 2026 for CVRDE contractual women employees and members of WWA in coordination with Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Porur.

The camp provided essential basic medical check-ups, consultations, and healthcare services to support the overall health and well-being of women. A group of specialist doctors along with their support team camped at CVRDE and carried out the medical examinations in various branches. viz., Cardiology, Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Dental, General Medicine & Mammogram.

The program was presided over by Shri J Rajeshkumar, OS & Director, CVRDE, and appreciated the Ramachandra team for carrying out the comprehensive medical test at CVRDE.

RAJBHASHA WORKSHOP AT NSTL

A Rajbhasha workshop was organized 24 March 2026 at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam. A lecture was delivered by the invited speaker Shri Khagesh Kumar Chowdhary, Sc 'E,' on the "Importance of Hindi Language in India's Progress." A total of 25 participants participated in the workshop. Shri Vivek Sharma, Sc 'F' & Rajbhasha Officer, coordinated the workshop.

AESI AWARD

Dr Jagannath Nayak, DS & Director, Centre for High Energy System & Sciences (CHESS), Hyderabad, has been awarded the prestigious National Aeronautical Prize for the year 2024 from Aeronautical Society of India and was presented by Shree D Sridhar Babu, Hon'ble Minister of Information Technology, Government of Telangana on 17 April 2026. Dr Nayak has delivered transformational national leadership by spearheading two decisive breakthroughs for India: Combat-ready Directed Energy Weapons and Fully Indigenous Fiber Optic Gyroscopes for critical missile avionics. He led these complex programs end-to-end—defining vision, building world-class laboratories, driving high-risk innovation, and delivering mission-proven systems now inducted and successfully transferred to industry.

His contributions have secured Country's technological sovereignty in precision navigation and elevated the nation into the global league of leaders in high-energy weapon systems. Beyond technical excellence, his leadership has reshaped defence preparedness, reinforced strategic deterrence, and laid a resilient foundation for sustained indigenous innovation.

By seamlessly integrating science, engineering, and large-scale execution, Dr Nayak has established enduring capabilities that will power country's strategic and technological advantage for decades—marking a defining leap toward self-reliance and global competitiveness in advanced defence technologies.

PARTICIPATION IN POINTS-24

Three newly inducted scientists from the Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bengaluru, participated in the Post Induction Training School-24 (POINTS-24 Batch-V) program held at DIAT (DU), Pune during 5 January 2026 to 13 March 2026. Mr Naveen Kumar, Ms. Harsha Jilowa, and Mr Madan Lal Prajapat took part in the program and won prizes and medals in various technical and sports events. Their group, consisting of a total of 8 scientists, also received a cash prize. Further, Mr Madan received the Excellence Award for his leadership, valuable support, coordination, and contribution towards the successful conduct of training. In other sports events, Mr Naveen, received 2nd position in Mix Double Badminton and 3rd position in Men's Double Badminton. Ms Harsha secured 1st position in Badminton (Doubles) organised by DIAT (DU) and 2nd position in Mixed Double Badminton.

AWARDS

Certificate of Commendation has been conferred to Shri Vipin Kumar Kaushik, Outstanding Scientist and Director-Directorate of Rajbhasha, Parliament and Public Interface (DRPPI) for commendable contribution by Shri RK Singh, Defence Secretary of India.

Certificate of Commendation has been conferred to Shri Amit Sharma, Scientist'D', Directorate of Rajbhasha, Parliament and Public Interface (DRPPI) for commendable contribution by Shri RK Singh, Defence Secretary of India.

VISITORS TO DRDO LABORATORIES

DGRE, RDC Manali

Students (336 Nos.) and teachers (34 Nos.) of Govt Senior Secondary School (GSSS) Kinza Kharhal; GSSS Bhang; GSSS Nagar & Dhalpur, Kullu; Govt High School Archandi Nagar, Kullu; Indo Swiss Training Center (CSIR-CSIO), Chandigarh; and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (ABVIMAS), Manali, visited DGRE RDC Manali in the months of February and March 2026. Students were briefed about hazards associated with snow, dangers of avalanches in snowbound regions of the Indian Himalayas, snow-meteorological data instruments of DGRE and their operational working, AWS, and data transmission for avalanche forecasting. They were also detailed about various engineering control structures installed by DGRE in snow regions of the Himalaya prone to snow and ice avalanches for all-weather connectivity of border areas with the rest of the country.

DIBT, Mysuru

Dr (Ms) Chandrika Kaushik, DS & DG (PC&SI), DRDO HQrs, New Delhi, visited the Defence Institute of Biodefence Technologies (DIBT), Mysuru, on 14 April 2026 to participate in the Startup and Innovation Meeting organized in association with the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), Mysuru Cluster. Dr R Kumar, Sc 'G' & Centre Head, DIBT, delivered a brief presentation highlighting the major activities, ongoing research program, and key technologies developed at the institute. Dr Kaushik interacted with the Heads of various departments of DIBT and shared her valuable insights and guidance on strengthening research, innovation, and technology development.

She also visited the DIBT Exhibition Hall, where various technologies, products, and achievements of the institute were showcased.

DMSRDE, Kanpur

❑ Shri VS Shenoy, OS & Director, DL Jodhpur, visited the Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur, on 11 March 2026. He was welcomed by Dr JN Srivastava, Associate Director, DMSRDE, followed by a discussion and demonstration of products

and technologies developed by DMSRDE in the area of ceramics and Ceramics Matrix Composites (CMCs), stealth and camouflage materials, fuels and lubricants, personal protection systems, and technical textiles.

❑ A team comprising four faculty members and one student from Krishna Institute of Engineering & Technology (KIET), Ghaziabad, visited the Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur, on 9 March 2026. The team interacted with Dr Kingsuk Mukhopadhyay, OS & Director DMSRDE, and was briefed about the various R&D activities being carried out by the laboratory. The purpose of the visit was to discuss and explore actionable avenues for collaborative training programs, research projects, and academic engagement.

INMAS, Delhi

Shri Piyush Anand, IPS, Director General of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), visited the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), Delhi, on 24 March 2026. DG NDRF was given an overview by Director and Dr Himanshu Ojha, Sc 'F' & Head CBRN Defence Dept., about the R&D activities carried out at INMAS. DG NDRF interacted with the senior scientist of the laboratory and visited the exhibition area where he was apprised about the INMAS products and ongoing research activities, including medical responder protection suits, super absorbent gel, decontamination wipes, CBRN stretchers, and Buddy Care R&N decontamination kits. DG NDRF visited the Advanced Isotope Production Facility, RAPID Facility, and HiRAD Facility and was briefed about INMAS regarding CBRN training courses & INMAS developed products that could be used by NDRF during R&N exigencies. DG NDRF appreciated the work carried out at INMAS and other new initiatives by INMAS, especially Vikiran Prehri, a permanent flagship program for MoD and MHA. He expressed his keen interest in enhancing the collaboration with INMAS to the next level.

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