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Land Forces 2026 Opens in Perth with Global Defence Industry in Focus

Land Forces 2026 opens at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre in Western Australia, bringing together leading global defence companies, military delegations, government representatives and industry professionals for three days of technology, innovation and industrial engagement. The seventh edition of the International Land Defence Exposition, taking place from 6–8 October, is expected to provide a comprehensive showcase of the technologies and capabilities shaping the future of land warfare.

For visitors arriving on the opening day, the exhibition floor will offer an extensive view of modern land-force capabilities, ranging from armoured vehicles, artillery and precision weapons to battlefield communications, surveillance, electronic warfare, autonomous systems and counter-UAS technologies.

With Australia strengthening its defence capabilities and expanding its sovereign industrial base, Land Forces 2026 also provides an important meeting point for Australian industry and international defence companies seeking partnerships, supply-chain opportunities and access to the wider Indo-Pacific market.

Global Defence Industry on Display

A strong international industry presence will be one of the defining features of Land Forces 2026. Major defence companies including Rheinmetall, Hanwha Aerospace, Thales, L3Harris Technologies,

Lockheed Martin, Kongsberg and Saab are among the leading participants, alongside numerous Australian and international companies.

Their presence will give military and industry visitors an opportunity to examine the latest developments in land combat systems and supporting technologies, while also exploring potential industrial partnerships.

The breadth of participation reflects the increasingly interconnected nature of modern defence programmes, where platforms, sensors, communications, weapons and information systems must operate as part of an integrated battlefield network.

What Visitors Can Expect on Day One

The opening day will provide visitors with an immediate look at technologies designed to enhance soldier survivability, situational awareness, connectivity and precision.

L3Harris Technologies is showcasing a range of advanced systems, including the AN/PVS-31A Binocular Night Vision Device, Battlefield Awareness and Targeting System-Dismounted and the AN/PRC-163 multi-channel handheld radio.

The company will also display the AN/PRC-158 and AN/PRC-167 multi-channel manpack radios, together with its WESCAM MX-series systems.

These capabilities highlight a key direction in modern land warfare: the increasing integration of individual soldiers, tactical units, sensors and command networks through secure and resilient communications.

Counter-UAS and Electronic Warfare

Another major area for visitors to explore is the rapidly expanding counter-drone and electronic warfare sector.

Australian company DroneShield will showcase its newly introduced RfRecon





RF intelligence system, adding another capability to its counter-UAS and electronic warfare portfolio.

The growing presence of counter-UAS technologies at major defence exhibitions reflects the changing battlefield environment. Small unmanned aircraft are now increasingly used for surveillance, targeting and strike missions, creating an urgent requirement for technologies capable of detecting and identifying these systems and supporting effective responses.

India Showcases Indigenous Capabilities

The India Pavilion, featuring BEML and DRDO, will add another important dimension to the international presence at Land Forces 2026.

The participation provides an opportunity to highlight India's indigenous defence technologies and explore cooperation with Australian and international companies. BEML's expertise in specialised land systems and mobility solutions, together with DRDO's defence research and technology capabilities, represents India's growing engagement with international defence markets.

For visitors and industry representatives, the pavilion will provide an opportunity to examine potential areas of cooperation in land systems, technology development, manufacturing and supply chains.

Business and Supply-Chain Opportunities

Land Forces 2026 is not only about equipment displays. A significant part of

the opening-day programme is focused on connecting companies with defence primes and potential industrial partners.

The Global Supply Chain: Pitch to the Primes sessions taking place on 6 and 7 October will give companies the opportunity to present their capabilities to major defence contractors. One-on-one meetings with prime contractors will follow on 8 October.

These initiatives are particularly important for Australian SMEs and emerging technology companies seeking to enter global defence supply chains, as well as international companies looking to establish partnerships within Australia's growing defence ecosystem.

Innovation at the Forefront

Innovation will feature prominently throughout the exhibition, with Army Innovation Day, Innovation Pitchfest and the Innovation Awards providing dedicated platforms for emerging technologies and new solutions.

Artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, advanced sensors, electronic warfare, robotics, communications and counter-UAS technologies are increasingly influencing how armies operate. Land Forces 2026 provides an opportunity to see how these technologies are moving from development programmes towards practical battlefield applications.

Building on Previous Industry Outcomes
The significance of Land Forces as a platform for industrial cooperation is demonstrated by outcomes from the 2024 edition.

Lockheed Martin Australia and Thales Australia announced a Teaming Agreement for the development and production of solid rocket motors and components for the GMLRS programme. QuantX Labs secured two Australian Department of Defence contracts worth A\$2.7 million for quantum optical atomic-clock technology, while Innovaero signed an Australian Government contract to accelerate development of the OWL-B precision loitering munition.

These examples demonstrate how participation at Land Forces can extend beyond exhibition displays to technology development, partnerships and defence supply-chain opportunities.

Three Days of Defence Innovation

As Land Forces 2026 opens its doors today, the exhibition brings together the established global defence industry and a growing ecosystem of Australian and international technology companies.

From armoured platforms and artillery to precision weapons, night vision, secure communications, electronic warfare, autonomous systems and counter-drone technologies, the opening day offers visitors a broad picture of the capabilities being developed for tomorrow's battlefield.

For defence companies seeking to expand in Australia, military organisations examining new technologies, and international suppliers looking for industrial partnerships in the Indo-Pacific, Land Forces 2026 begins today as a major forum for technology, business and defence cooperation.

Building India's Future Defence Capabilities



India's defence modernisation is advancing through indigenous platforms, integrated battlefield networks and closer collaboration with industry. In this interview with Aeromag Asia, Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary, Government of India; Secretary, DDR&D, and Chairman, DRDO outlines DRDO's priorities for strengthening land combat capabilities and preparing the Armed Forces for emerging threats. From Zorawar, ATAGS and Pinaka to autonomous systems, advanced sensors, artificial intelligence and secure communications, he discusses technologies shaping future operations. He also highlights industry partnerships, export opportunities and prospects for deeper defence research cooperation with Australia. DRDO's participation at Land Forces 2026 provides the backdrop for a wider discussion on self-reliance, innovation and international engagement in defence technology.

Rajesh Kumar Singh

Defence Secretary, Government of India
Secretary, DDR&D, and Chairman, DRDO

DRDO is participating in the Land Forces 2026 exhibition in Perth. What are the key technologies and capabilities that DRDO will showcase, and what opportunities does the exhibition present for engagement with the Australian Defence Force, international armed forces, industry and technology partners?

DRDO is participating in the Land Forces International Land Defence Exposition 2026 to showcase its indigenous defence systems and advanced technology models. Its exhibits highlight core competencies aligned with modern land warfare. Key technologies to be displayed include the Vertical Launch Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM), seeker technologies, Wire-Guided Heavyweight Torpedo (WGHWT), Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS), technology development for high-altitude platforms, the light tank and technologies for active protection systems.

The exhibition provides several distinct avenues for strategic engagement, capability development and collaboration. It offers opportunities for direct engagement with the Australian Defence

Force, international armed forces, industry and technology partners. It also includes high-level business meetings with defence and industry representatives to convert discussions into actionable contracts. This gives DRDO an opportunity to identify Australian partners for long-term research in various emerging technologies.

India is developing a new generation of land combat systems, including the Zorawar light tank, ATAGS, Pinaka and advanced armoured platforms. What are the key technological breakthroughs behind these programmes, and how are they enhancing the operational capabilities of the Indian Army?

India is currently undertaking a major modernisation of its land combat forces, shifting towards indigenously designed, network-centric and high-technology systems. These programmes address specific tactical challenges, such as high-altitude warfare and long-range precision artillery strikes. Key developments include the Zorawar light tank, Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), Guided Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket System (MBRL)

and advanced armoured platforms.

Zorawar has been designed as a 25-tonne-class armoured fighting vehicle to meet the Armed Forces' requirements for high-altitude applications. The tank has advanced surveillance, communications and fire-control systems, along with a high power-to-weight ratio that supports mobility in thin air and across steep, difficult terrain. It has achieved a major milestone by firing a number of rounds at different ranges at an altitude of more than 4,200 metres, with consistently accurate results.

ATAGS is configured with an all-electric drive to ensure maintenance-free and reliable operation over a longer period. It has a firing range of over 40 kilometres, with advanced features including high mobility, quick deployability, an auxiliary power mode, an advanced communication system, and an automatic command-and-control system with night-firing capability in direct-fire mode.

Pinaka is evolving from a primarily area-saturation weapon into a more flexible deep-precision fires system, capable of engaging higher-value targets farther



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Modern warfare is increasingly being shaped by drones, autonomous systems, electronic warfare, precision weapons and network-centric operations. How is DRDO developing integrated capabilities to ensure that India's land forces remain prepared for increasingly complex and contested battlefields?

DRDO is preparing the Indian Army for multi-domain warfare by shifting from standalone weapon systems to fully integrated sensor-to-shooter networks. It is pursuing an increasingly integrated, networked and multi-domain approach rather than treating drones, electronic warfare, precision weapons and autonomous systems as separate technologies.

DRDO is developing UAVs, loitering and precision systems, unmanned ground vehicles, and technologies for autonomous navigation, surveillance and target acquisition. Systems incorporating radar-based detection, electro-optical sensing, electronic disruption and hard-kill interception are being developed to counter unmanned aerial systems.

DRDO's electronic warfare work aims to provide forces with the ability to detect, identify, locate, exploit and disrupt hostile electromagnetic activity while protecting their own communications and sensors. DRDO is working towards connecting sensors, command-and-control nodes, communications and weapon systems so that information collected by one platform can rapidly become actionable targeting information for another.

Advanced sensors and mission systems are becoming critical to battlefield

awareness and decision-making. How are technologies such as AESA radars, sensor fusion, artificial intelligence, secure communications and advanced mission architectures being integrated into India's next-generation defence platforms?

India's transformation towards network-centric warfare relies on integrating sensor technology, cognitive processing, secure tactical networks and open mission architectures. This effort is driven by indigenous research through DRDO, PSUs and private defence industry partners.

The indigenous Uttam AESA radar developed by DRDO is capable of tracking multiple air, sea and ground targets simultaneously, with high resistance to jamming. It is integrated into the LCA Tejas Mk-1A and planned for other fighter aircraft currently under development. Platforms such as the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) integrate sensor data to automatically verify targets and track low-RCS (stealth) signatures.

DRDO has formally released the Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) Standard 1.0 to enable interoperability in military communications. IRSA is a comprehensive software specification for Software Defined Radios (SDRs), defining standardised interfaces, APIs, execution environments and waveform portability mechanisms.

The launch of IRSA represents a defining step in India's journey towards self-reliance in defence communication technologies. It embodies the vision of building indigenous, interoperable and future-ready SDR solutions designed in India, for India, and ready for the world. The specification is designed to evolve with operational requirements and lays the foundation for integrating future technologies.

Recognising how AI is revolutionising modern warfare, DRDO has developed the Evaluating Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (ETAI) Framework and Guidelines for the Armed Forces. The framework and guidelines play a pivotal role in the country's approach to integrating trustworthy AI into critical defence operations.

DRDO has significantly expanded its engagement with Indian industry, start-ups, academia and technology partners through initiatives such as the Technology Development Fund and the Development-cum-Production Partner framework. How is this ecosystem accelerating innovation and enabling faster development and induction of indigenous defence technologies?

Initiatives such as the Technology Development Fund (TDF) and DRDO-industry-academia partnerships have created a vibrant defence innovation ecosystem. Combined with key defence acquisition and procurement reforms, these efforts are building a technologically advanced, future-ready and globally competitive defence sector.

Implemented by DRDO, the TDF scheme funds Indian industries, particularly MSMEs and start-ups, to design and develop advanced defence technologies, components and weapon systems. DRDO has shifted from being purely an in-house manufacturer to a technology enabler. It facilitates technology transfers through its Transfer of Technology (ToT) policies, allows domestic firms free access to DRDO patents and opens its test facilities to private-sector partners.

DRDO has introduced a policy for selecting Development-cum-Production Partners (DcPPs) for DRDO-developed systems. This ensures industry involvement from the beginning of the development cycle and reduces the time required for development and induction.

These measures enhance the capabilities and competitiveness of Indian industries in the global market. They also provide a further boost to India's defence manufacturing sector in achieving greater self-reliance.

India is increasingly emerging as a defence exporter, with systems such as Akash and BrahMos demonstrating the global potential of Indian technology. What role does DRDO play in supporting industry in developing export-ready



systems, technology transfer and internationalisation, and which emerging technologies could become the next major Indian defence exports?

DRDO acts as a catalyst for India's expanding military-industrial ecosystem, steering the country's transition towards becoming a prominent global defence exporter. DRDO uses policies such as the Development-cum-Production Partner (DcPP) model and licensing agreements to transfer mature, battle-tested technologies, including missile systems, radar networks and electronic warfare suites, to defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) and private Indian firms, rapidly scaling up production capacity.

DRDO works closely with domestic industries to develop specialised export variants of indigenous systems. It has opened its state-of-the-art testing facilities, proving grounds and specialised laboratories to private industries and MSMEs on a paid basis, lowering the capital barrier to validating export-grade components.

Emerging technologies with the potential to become major defence exports include electronic warfare systems, quantum communication and secure networking. Next-generation variants of BrahMos and Akash missiles, long-range land-attack cruise missiles (LR-LACM), advanced anti-tank guided missiles such as Nag and HELINA, and quick-reaction surface-to-

air weapon systems also hold immense export appeal for friendly foreign nations seeking high-value, cost-competitive deterrents.

India and Australia are strengthening their strategic and defence relationship across the Indo-Pacific. From DRDO's perspective, what opportunities exist for greater cooperation in defence R&D, emerging technologies, joint development and industrial partnerships between the two countries?

The expanding strategic alignment between India and Australia, anchored by the updated Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation and the Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS), provides a clear framework for DRDO.

In sensor technologies and advanced electronics, opportunities include joint R&D in cutting-edge sensor systems, radar technologies and electronic warfare suites, as well as cooperation to enhance maritime and undersea domain awareness.

Maritime surveillance and undersea domain awareness offer opportunities to develop advanced sonar systems and autonomous underwater surveillance capabilities. These efforts could combine DRDO's naval systems expertise with operational maritime priorities to secure critical sea lines of communication.

There are also opportunities to align

research in AI for defence applications, quantum communication and secure cyber-physical networks, and to connect DRDO's Industry Academia Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoEs) with Australian research institutions through bilateral innovation frameworks. Further potential exists for joint start-up engagement and the transition of laboratory research into market-ready technologies.

Looking towards the next decade, which emerging technologies do you believe will have the greatest impact on land warfare and the broader defence sector? What are the key priorities that will shape DRDO's roadmap for developing future-ready capabilities for India's Armed Forces?

Over the next ten years, land warfare will fundamentally transform as massive troop deployments and heavy tanks give way to highly networked and robotically driven operations.

Key priorities that will shape DRDO's roadmap for developing future-ready capabilities for the Armed Forces, with a significant impact on land warfare and the broader defence sector, include autonomous swarm systems and loitering munitions; artificial intelligence and automated decision-making; directed-energy weapons and counter-UAS technologies; quantum technologies, including sensing, cryptography and computing; stealth-detection capabilities; hypersonics; and advanced materials. ■



From Indigenous Engineering to Global Mobility:

BEML's Expanding Defence Proposition

At Land Forces 2026, India's BEML is presenting a portfolio that reflects the evolution of its defence business—from platform manufacturing towards integrated mobility, recovery, engineering and global partnerships.

At a time when armed forces are reassessing mobility, survivability and sustainment across increasingly complex operating environments, the ability to move, recover, repair and redeploy equipment can be as important as the platform itself.

This is the proposition BEML Limited is bringing to Land Forces 2026 in Australia. The Indian engineering major is showcasing a portfolio of indigenously developed defence platforms, including its 8x8 High Mobility Vehicle (HMV) and Armoured Recovery & Repair Vehicle (ARRV), alongside specialised mobility and engineering solutions. Together, they illustrate a broader capability spanning vehicle design, systems integration, manufacturing and lifecycle support.

For BEML, however, the significance of the exhibition extends beyond product displays. Land Forces provides an opportunity to engage with one of the world's most sophisticated defence ecosystems and explore how Indian-

developed platforms can contribute to the evolving requirements of Australia and the wider Indo-Pacific.

Mobility as a Mission Capability

Modern land forces increasingly require platforms that can operate beyond established infrastructure, traverse difficult terrain and support dispersed operations over considerable distances.

BEML's 8x8 High Mobility Vehicle has been developed around these requirements. Designed for high cross-country mobility and adaptability, the platform can support a range of specialised defence applications. Its underlying architecture accommodates different configurations, allowing the vehicle to be adapted to mission-specific roles rather than being limited to a single operational function.

That flexibility is particularly relevant in the Indo-Pacific, where operating environments can vary dramatically—from remote and rugged terrain to

infrastructure-constrained areas and long-distance logistics corridors. Mobility, in this context, is not simply about speed. It is about the ability to deploy, manoeuvre, sustain operations and return under demanding conditions.

The same principle informs BEML's Armoured Recovery & Repair Vehicle. Recovery and repair assets rarely receive the same attention as frontline platforms, yet they are fundamental to maintaining operational tempo. An armoured vehicle that cannot be recovered or repaired quickly can become a significant constraint on a formation's mobility.

The ARRV is designed to provide battlefield recovery and repair capabilities, supporting the recovery, maintenance and redeployment of armoured assets in demanding operational environments. It represents an important part of the wider military mobility ecosystem: the ability to restore combat and support assets to operational readiness under the most challenging conditions.

BEML HMV 8x8 for AKASH



An Engineering Portfolio Beyond Defence

BEML's defence proposition is reinforced by a distinctive feature of its business: the

company operates across several highly demanding engineering sectors.

Its portfolio spans Defence & Aerospace, Mining & Construction, and Rail & Metro, creating an engineering base that extends

well beyond military vehicles. At Land Forces, this breadth is represented by two very different platforms.

The BRS-21 Electric Rope Shovel demonstrates BEML's capability in large-scale mining equipment and material handling, while the Vande Bharat Sleeper Trainset showcases its expertise in advanced rail mobility and complex transportation systems.

At first glance, a mining shovel, a sleeper train and an 8x8 military vehicle may appear to have little in common. From an engineering perspective, however, they share a demanding foundation: large-scale systems integration, power management, structural engineering, reliability, manufacturing precision and the ability to operate safely and consistently in environments where equipment failure carries a high cost.

This cross-sector capability is increasingly valuable as defence platforms become more technologically complex and mechanical engineering, electronics, digital systems and advanced manufacturing become more closely integrated.

From "Made in India" to Global Engineering

BEML's international strategy is also evolving. The company has supplied equipment across Asia, the Middle East, Africa and other international markets, with its export portfolio extending across defence, mining and construction.

Its international order momentum



SARVATRA Bridge System

has accelerated, with BEML reporting strong export bookings during FY2025–26 and an international order book of approximately US\$112 million by June 2026. The company has also secured significant business from West Asia, including a US\$36.4 million export order in 2026.

These figures are significant not simply as indicators of export growth, but because they point towards a broader transition in BEML's international business—from individual product exports towards longer-term market engagement. The company has exported products to more than 73 countries, giving it an established base from which to expand its global presence. For BEML, the next stage is about deepening that presence as well as extending it.

Why Australia and the Indo-Pacific Matter

Australia represents an important market in that evolution. The country's geography, strategic environment and emphasis on mobility and sustainment create demand for platforms capable of operating across large distances and challenging terrain. Similar requirements exist across parts of the wider Indo-Pacific.

BEML sees potential in areas including high-mobility vehicles, armoured recovery, protected mobility, specialised bridging, transport and engineering support

systems. The company's Mine Protected Breach Vehicle (MBPV) Mk-II, specialised mobility platforms and bridging solutions add further dimensions to this portfolio.

The opportunity, however, is not necessarily limited to conventional exports. Across global defence markets, customers are increasingly looking for industrial relationships that extend beyond the delivery of a platform. Local maintenance, supply-chain participation, technology collaboration, training, localisation and lifecycle support can be as important as the initial acquisition.

BEML's proposition is therefore centred on adaptability and partnership.

Building Platforms Around the Customer

One of the key elements of BEML's international approach is platform customisation. Defence requirements are rarely identical from one country to another. Operational doctrine, terrain, climate, logistics architecture and existing vehicle fleets can all influence a platform's configuration and support requirements.

BEML's approach is to combine its indigenous engineering and manufacturing capabilities with customer-specific adaptation. This creates potential for several models, including direct exports, local engagement, technology partnerships, licensed manufacturing, technology transfer and co-development.

Such an approach can also help establish a longer-term industrial relationship around a platform, rather than treating the transaction as a one-time equipment sale. For customers, that can mean greater flexibility and local support. For BEML, it creates opportunities to become part of the broader defence-industrial ecosystem in partner countries.

Partnerships as the Next Engine of Growth

BEML is simultaneously pursuing partnerships with global technology providers to strengthen its capabilities in advanced defence technologies.

The focus includes opportunities across next-generation mobility platforms, specialised vehicles, power systems and associated technologies, with potential cooperation models spanning technology transfer, co-development, licensed manufacturing and lifecycle support.

The strategic logic is straightforward. BEML brings decades of experience in platform engineering, manufacturing, systems integration and large-scale industrial production. Global technology partners can bring specialised technologies, systems and domain expertise.

Combining these strengths can accelerate the development of sophisticated platforms while progressively increasing indigenous content



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DRDO at Land Forces 2026

Showcasing India's Indigenous Defence Technologies in Australia

The character of modern warfare is changing rapidly. Across land, sea, air, space and cyberspace, military operations are increasingly shaped by precision, speed, surveillance, connectivity and the ability to respond effectively to emerging threats.

For land forces in particular, the battlefield is no longer defined only by armoured platforms, artillery and manpower. Networked sensors, precision weapons, autonomous systems, electronic warfare, advanced protection technologies and integrated command-and-control systems are becoming increasingly important to battlefield effectiveness. The ability to detect threats, process information and respond across multiple domains is shaping the development of next-generation military capabilities.

In this evolving environment, international defence exhibitions provide an important platform for governments, armed forces, research organisations and industry to exchange knowledge, understand emerging capability requirements and explore opportunities for cooperation.

The Land Forces International Land Defence Exposition 2026, scheduled from 6 to 8 October 2026 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre in Perth, Western Australia, is Australia's largest land defence industry exhibition. Organised by AMDA Foundation with support from the Australian Army and

the Western Australian Government, the event combines an international industry exhibition with conferences, specialist programmes, networking and engagement opportunities.

The 2026 edition provides a platform for the defence community to examine emerging priorities, strengthen partnerships and connect organisations shaping the future of land capability. Within this setting, the participation of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) provides an opportunity to present a portfolio of Indian-developed technologies spanning air defence, missile systems, seeker technologies, underwater warfare, surveillance, soldier systems and armoured platforms.

India and Australia: A Partnership Anchored in Defence and Technology

India and Australia have progressively expanded their defence and security cooperation under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in 2020. The two countries have developed institutional mechanisms for defence dialogue, military exercises, information sharing, maritime security and defence-industry engagement.

The relationship has also acquired a stronger technology and industrial dimension. In 2026, the two countries reaffirmed the importance of defence and security cooperation, while highlighting

defence industry, research, emerging technologies and stronger connections between their respective defence ecosystems. The India-Australia Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation also calls for deeper collaboration between defence innovation ecosystems and advanced defence science and technology cooperation.

The two countries have also been expanding cooperation in the maritime domain and across the broader Indo-Pacific. The 2026 India-Australia Annual Summit highlighted capability development, information sharing, capacity building, operational coordination and stronger connections between Indian and Australian defence industries.

Against this backdrop, Land Forces 2026 provides a platform for India's indigenous defence technologies to be presented to Australian and international stakeholders across the land defence ecosystem.

Australia: A Strategic Gateway for Land Defence Engagement

Australia occupies an important position in the Indo-Pacific security architecture, while Western Australia provides a significant location for engagement with defence, industry and technology stakeholders from Australia and the wider region.

Land Forces 2026 is designed as a dedicated platform for the land defence sector. According to the official event



information, the exposition brings together defence, government and industry stakeholders and provides access to organisations involved in protected vehicle programmes, long-range fires, soldier systems, robotics and autonomous technologies, and battlefield communications.

For India, participation therefore provides an avenue to place indigenous defence technologies within a wider international discussion on future land and multi-domain capabilities.

Indigenous Technologies for a Changing Security Environment

At Land Forces 2026, DRDO's portfolio includes technologies representing different dimensions of India's defence research and development capability.

VL-SRSAM: The Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) is an indigenously designed and developed system intended for the Indian Navy. The missile is designed to counter aerial threats at close ranges, including low-altitude and sea-skimming targets. During a 2024 flight test, DRDO and the Indian Navy validated updated elements of the weapon system, including its proximity fuse and seeker. Earlier trials from an Indian Naval Ship demonstrated its vertical launch

capability against a high-speed unmanned aerial target.

Seeker Technologies: Seeker technologies are critical components of precision-guided weapon systems, enabling target detection and tracking. DRDO's technology portfolio includes EO/IR seekers, dual-colour LWIR/MWIR seekers, multi-mode IIR/RF, IIR/MMW and IIR/LASER seekers, RF seekers, AESA seekers for Ka-, Ku- and X-band applications, dual-mode hybrid seeker antennas, RF imaging technologies and AI/ML-enabled RF seekers. These technologies demonstrate the breadth of indigenous work in advanced guidance and sensing systems.

EHWT: The Electrical Heavy Weight Torpedo (EHWT) is being developed for deployment on India's P-75 submarine platforms. According to the Department of Defence Production's Annual Report 2024-25, the combat configuration was realised in 2024 and successfully demonstrated controllability and stability during dynamic trials. The firing of its thermal battery and recovery of the combat-version torpedo were also demonstrated.

Submarine Induced Wave Assessment using Satellite Sensors: Developed as a technology for the non-acoustic detection of submerged targets, this system uses satellite sensors to assess submarine-induced surface effects. DRDO's official technology portfolio lists "Submarine Induced Waves Assessment using Satellite Sensors – Non-acoustic detection of Submerged targets" under the underwater target technologies of the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL).

Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS): Developed by DRDO's Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), the Military Combat Parachute





System provides a complete solution for military free-fall applications. The system enables paratroopers to exit aircraft, deploy their parachutes at predetermined altitudes, navigate and land as a tactical unit.

Its components include a nine-cell ram-air parachute, oxygen system and programmable para-computer. The system has a maximum free-fall deployment altitude of 30,000 feet and a maximum payload of 200 kg.

The MCPS was also successfully subjected to a combat free-fall jump from 32,000 feet in 2025, demonstrating its use at high altitude.

Light Tank: The Indian Light Tank, Zorawar, has been developed by DRDO's Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE) in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro. Designed for operations including high-altitude environments, the platform underwent developmental field firing trials in desert terrain in 2024, successfully demonstrating its firing performance and accuracy against designated targets.

The platform subsequently achieved firing trials at an altitude of more than 4,200 metres, adding to its developmental evaluation in demanding terrain.

From Self-Reliance to Global Defence Partnerships

DRDO's participation at Land Forces 2026 reflects the wider evolution of India's defence research and industrial ecosystem.

Indigenous development across missiles, seekers, underwater systems, aerial delivery systems and armoured platforms demonstrates the breadth of technologies being developed within the country.

This approach is closely aligned with India's emphasis on self-reliance in defence and the objective of strengthening domestic design, development and manufacturing capabilities. At the same time, India's international defence engagement increasingly includes opportunities for industry partnerships, technology collaboration, research cooperation and capability development.

For Australia and India, this has relevance beyond equipment. The two countries have identified defence industry, research and materiel cooperation as areas for deeper engagement, while the 2026 Joint Declaration also highlights collaboration between defence innovation ecosystems and advanced defence science and technology.

Land Forces therefore provides a setting for Indian technologies to be viewed alongside the requirements and priorities of Australia's land defence ecosystem and the wider Indo-Pacific region.

Building Bridges Through Defence Innovation

Land Forces 2026 brings together the evolving requirements of modern land warfare with the technologies being developed to address them. From air defence missiles and advanced seekers

to underwater warfare technologies, satellite-enabled surveillance, high-altitude parachute systems and light armoured platforms, DRDO's portfolio represents multiple dimensions of India's defence technology capability.

The exhibition also provides a platform for dialogue between defence organisations, industry, research institutions and technology developers. With Australia placing increasing emphasis on sovereign capability, innovation and collaboration with international partners, India's participation creates an opportunity to strengthen engagement between the two defence ecosystems.

For India, the presence at Land Forces 2026 is therefore part of a broader engagement with the global defence technology community. It places indigenous systems in an international forum while creating avenues for discussions around research, industry, technology and future capability development.

As defence requirements continue to evolve across domains, such platforms can contribute to a greater understanding of emerging technologies and create opportunities for cooperation. Through Land Forces 2026, India's indigenous defence technology journey meets Australia's land defence ecosystem, reinforcing the role of innovation, collaboration and technology development in shaping the future of defence.

India's Defence Exports Expand Global Footprint

India's defence industry is gaining greater traction in international markets, supported by record defence exports, rising domestic production and a widening industrial base. The growth reflects the expanding capabilities of Indian manufacturers and increasing participation from both public- and private-sector companies across the defence ecosystem.

India's defence exports reached a record Rs 38,424 crore in FY 2025–26, registering a 62.66 per cent increase over Rs 23,622 crore in the previous financial year. The increase of Rs 14,802 crore marks another significant rise in the country's defence exports and strengthens India's position as an emerging supplier in the global defence market.

Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) accounted for 54.84 per cent, or Rs 21,071 crore, of total exports, while the private sector contributed Rs 17,353 crore, representing 45.16 per cent. DPSU exports increased by 151 per cent, while private-sector exports grew by 14 per cent during the year.

The expansion in exports has been accompanied by a sharp increase in domestic defence production. Production reached Rs 1.78 lakh crore in FY 2025–26, compared with Rs 1.54 lakh crore in



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

FY 2024–25, representing a 15.6 percent increase. It was also more than double the Rs 84,643 crore recorded in FY 2020–21 and nearly four times the Rs 43,746 crore recorded in FY 2013–14.

The public sector accounted for approximately 76 per cent of defence production, while the private sector's contribution increased to around 24 per cent from 22 per cent previously. Private-sector production stood at approximately Rs 42,000 crore, highlighting the

expanding role of non-government companies in the country's defence manufacturing ecosystem.

India's defence products are now exported to more than 80 countries, while the number of authorised defence exporters increased from 128 to 145 during FY 2025–26. The expanding exporter base reflects the growing participation of Indian companies across a wider range of defence products and systems.

Expanding Procurement Opportunities





Rajnath Singh
Minister of Defence

Domestic procurement is also creating opportunities for Indian industry as the country continues to expand indigenous defence capabilities.

In September 2026, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) cleared a capital procurement package worth approximately Rs 1.10 lakh crore, with around 98 per cent of the procurement value earmarked to be sourced from Indian industry. The approvals cover requirements across the Army, Navy and Indian Air Force.

For the Indian Army, the proposals include CBRN Recce Vehicles, High Mobility Vehicles, Self-Propelled Mechanical Mine Layers, Advanced Light Helicopters, Trawl Tanks and the Sarvatra Bridge System. The Indian Navy received approvals for Arudhra Radars, along with design and development and subsequent procurement of Marine Gas Turbines.

For the Indian Air Force, the proposals cover fighter and transport aircraft, helicopters, Ground-Based Multi-Purpose Jammers and the Defence Forces Secure Access Card System.

These approvals add to a broader pipeline of indigenous procurement. During FY 2025–26, the DAC accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 55 proposals worth Rs 6.73 lakh crore, while contracts worth Rs 2.28 lakh crore were signed for 503 proposals.

Major procurement approvals during the year included the Army Air Defence Tracked System, Armour Piercing Tank Ammunition, High-Capacity Radio Relay, Dhanush Gun System and Runway Independent Aerial Surveillance System. For the Indian Air Force, the approvals

covered Medium Transport Aircraft, S-400 systems, Remotely Piloted Strike Aircraft and Su-30 aero-engine overhaul. The Indian Coast Guard also received approval for Heavy Duty Air Cushion Vehicles.

Strengthening Indigenous Capabilities

The expansion of India's defence industry has been supported by initiatives aimed at increasing indigenous design, development and manufacturing. The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), Positive Indigenisation Lists and the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) programme have created a framework for greater domestic participation and the development of new defence technologies.

The growing contribution of private industry is particularly significant, with established manufacturers and emerging companies increasingly participating in defence production, technology development and exports. This is broadening the industrial base while creating additional capacity for meeting both domestic and international requirements.

The government has set targets of Rs 3 lakh crore in defence production and Rs 50,000 crore in defence exports, setting a longer-term direction for the sector.

From Rs 686 crore in defence exports in FY 2013–14 to Rs 38,424 crore in



Sanjay Seth
Minister of State for Defence

FY 2025–26, India's defence industry has undergone a substantial expansion in scale. With more than 80 countries now receiving Indian defence products, a larger exporter base, and continued investment in indigenous procurement and manufacturing, the industry is extending its reach across international markets.

Rising exports, higher production, and expanding domestic procurement are creating a broader platform for Indian defence companies to participate in the global defence supply chain.



The Valeth Group: Engineering Advanced Solutions for Aerospace and Defence



Peter Valeth
Chairman, Valeth Group

From its modest beginnings in 1990, The Valeth Group has grown into a prominent name in India's aerospace and defence sector. Founded by Peter P. Valeth as a small-scale enterprise focused on ablative materials, the company has evolved into a world-class organisation, now guided by a new generation of leadership committed to advancing its pioneering legacy.

What began as a niche materials venture has transformed into a diversified group with capabilities spanning defence systems, aerospace composites, and marine engineering. Under its Aerospace and Defence division, Valeth Defence manufactures critical hardware for advanced defence applications, while Valeth Materials produces high-performance, aerospace-grade composite materials. Complementing these capabilities, Valeth Boatyard builds durable and mission-ready vessels for coastal defence, border security, and law enforcement agencies. The Group has also expanded into the lifestyle segment with

Valeth Yachts, a brand focused on meeting the expectations of global customers seeking high-quality luxury yachts.

Valeth's journey has been shaped by innovation and strategic collaboration. Established in Chennai, the company initially focused on manufacturing silica fabric under licence from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). This collaboration led to the development of ISROSIL, a breakthrough product that marked an important milestone in the Group's early years. Building on this success, Valeth expanded its capabilities to manufacture a wide range of raw materials, components, and complete systems for organisations across the space, aviation, defence, and marine sectors.

Over the years, the Group has contributed to the development and production of advanced technologies. Its achievements include participation in the production of rocket engine components for space and defence agencies, the development of specialised ablative materials such as silica tiles for





ISRO, and the construction of seafaring vessels for the Indian Navy. These accomplishments demonstrate Valeth's ability to address complex engineering challenges while maintaining high standards of quality, reliability, and performance.

Today, with three manufacturing facilities across India, Valeth continues to strengthen its technological capabilities through sustained investment in research and development. A key strength of the Group is its ability to take projects from concept and design through to full-scale production. This end-to-end capability enables Valeth to support customers across the complete product development cycle and has positioned the Group as a trusted partner in highly demanding and precision-driven industries.

At its core, Valeth is driven by a commitment to innovation and engineering excellence. The Group continues to leverage its expertise to develop solutions for complex challenges across multiple domains, while expanding its capabilities and global reach.

As Valeth looks towards the future, its focus remains on strengthening its presence in international markets and contributing to India's growing capabilities in aerospace, defence, and advanced manufacturing. Its participation at international defence exhibitions such as LAND FORCES provides an opportunity to engage with global industry stakeholders and explore new avenues for collaboration.

With a legacy built on collaboration, innovation, and engineering expertise, The Valeth Group continues to transform ideas into practical solutions for critical industries, supporting the technologies and capabilities that will shape the future of aerospace, defence, and maritime security. ■



ADEX 2026 Expands Global Defence Cooperation in Baku



The sixth Azerbaijan International Defence Exhibition, ADEX 2026, opened at the Baku Expo Center on 30 September, bringing together international defence manufacturers, government representatives and military delegations. The three-day event showcases Azerbaijan's growing defence-industrial capabilities alongside technologies from leading global suppliers.

Held alongside Securex Caspian, the 15th International Exhibition for Internal Security, Safety and Rescue Equipment, the exhibitions feature 280 companies and organisations from 30 countries, with overall representation spanning 53 countries. ADEX is also welcoming 59 foreign delegations from 39 countries, providing a platform for military-technical cooperation and industrial partnerships.

Organised by Caspian Event Organisers, ADEX is held on the initiative and with the organisational support of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence Industry, with support from the Ministry of Defence. Record company participation has prompted the opening of Pavilion 5, expanding the

exhibition's capacity.

Broader International Participation

A notable development is the first-time participation of major US companies, including Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, SIG SAUER, Vantor and Ondas. Germany's Rheinmetall and Rohde & Schwarz, along with the United Kingdom's BAE Systems, are also making their debuts.

Türkiye has the largest representation, with established participants including Roketsan, Aselsan, Baykar, Turkish Aerospace Industries and Havelsan. Other returning international exhibitors include Leonardo, CSG, EDGE Group and Indra. Fourteen countries are represented through national pavilions. Roketsan is the exhibition's General Sponsor, while Northrop Grumman is the Country Partner Sponsor.

Azerbaijan's Industrial Capabilities

For the first time, Pavilion 4 is dedicated to Azerbaijan's national exhibition, bringing together organisations from the defence, technology, space and engineering sectors. The format highlights

domestic production capabilities and creates opportunities for cooperation with international partners.

The Ministry of Defence Industry is participating alongside AzerSilah Defence Industry Holding, the Defence Industry Research and Innovation Centre, and MIRAS Military-Industrial Company. The Ministry of Defence also has a separate display, while outdoor exhibits showcase larger equipment and systems.

Across the exhibition, key technology areas include unmanned systems, aviation and naval platforms, armoured vehicles, weapons and ammunition, optoelectronics, electronic warfare, C4ISR, and training and simulation systems.

Among the featured vehicles, Türkiye's BMC is presenting the PAMIR 4x4 personnel and logistics vehicle, an upgraded KIRPI II 4x4 equipped with the TUNA engine, and the VURAN 4x4. Azerbaijani companies are also presenting solutions from international manufacturers, including Beretta and Iveco Defence Vehicles.



Security and Innovation

Securex Caspian complements the defence exhibition with technologies for law enforcement, border protection, emergency response, firefighting and cybersecurity. Displays cover surveillance, access control, forensic equipment,

specialised vehicles and integrated security systems.

The joint business programme includes discussions on artificial intelligence, cyber resilience, electronic warfare, secure communications and university-industry collaboration. A presentation of the National Research Support Programme

also highlights support for research and emerging technologies.

Bilateral meetings between Azerbaijani institutions, foreign delegations and participating companies form a central part of ADEX 2026, supporting new business contacts, joint projects and long-term defence cooperation.





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