

DRDO seeks tie-up with IIT Bhubaneswar for defence research

DRDO chairman G Satheesh Reddy made the announcement at IIT Bhubaneswar's 13th foundation day

By [Our Correspondent](#) Published on 13.02.2021



G Satheesh Reddy urged IIT Bhubaneswar to come up with innovative plans to develop a long-term partnership with DRDO. Image Source: Unsplash

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) wants to tie up with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar for various kinds of research in the field of defence and turn the institution into a centre of excellence.

DRDO chairman and scientific advisor to Union defence minister Dr G Satheesh Reddy made the announcement while addressing IIT Bhubaneswar's 13th foundation day held virtually on February 12.

Urging IIT Bhubaneswar to come up with innovative plans to develop a long-term partnership with DRDO, Reddy said, "The DRDO wants to actively make partnership with this IIT in many specific research areas. We want to develop it as a centre of excellence in the field of defence research like other prominent organisations like IIT Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai. It would support their innovation by giving funds to make it a reality."

Reddy mentioned about the various opportunities of collaboration with IIT Bhubaneswar in terms of research, long-term projects, applied research, providing

incubation and mentoring for start-up centres along with establishing IIT Bhubaneswar's Center of Excellence. "We need to promote research, put up start-ups and have a synchronisation with the industries to make the country prosperous."

He spoke about the various synergies that could be exchanged between IIT Bhubaneswar and DRDO. Praising IIT Bhubaneswar director Prof RV Raja Kumar for the work done so far with DRDO, Reddy said that IIT Bhubaneswar could contribute significantly with their expertise, research, technological contributions for strengthening the manufacturing sector in the country. He appreciated the endeavours by the institute's students and faculty members and urged them to focus their energies on next generation technologies ranging from artificial intelligence, advanced missile technologies and cyber security.

"DRDO is releasing funds under Technological Development Funds up to Rs 10 crore to promote start-ups. Besides we have a plan to give Rs 1 crore to the passing out students to set up start-ups if they come up with a plan that is feasible. We are ready to promote such start-ups in large numbers. Lots of youngsters are entering the defence research field," said Reddy.

Reddy then emphasised that the real Atmanirbhar Bharat is when the design, development and production of state-of-the-art systems required by the defence are done within the country. He spoke about indigenous developments in the form of battle tank Arjun and fighter planes, which were conceptualised, developed and made in India. He also shared the vision of achieving excellence in manufacturing by bringing out products at affordable prices with good quality.

"With the collaboration of the Ministry of Higher Education, the DRDO plans to involve more and more students from the reputed institutes in various fields of research. We need to decentralize. We are generally technology followers. Now we have to change the trend and have to be the frontrunners in the field of technology. If the country has to prosper, we have to be technologically advanced. Lots of research and innovation work is to be done. The academic institution should do the fundamental research and then only specialised institutions will take it further," he said.

DRDO is working with around 295 academic institutions on different research projects and more than Rs 10,000 crore of investment is involved in these projects, Reddy mentioned in his address.

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