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Maharashtra State Specific News

Maharashtra MSME Defence Expo 2024

Context:

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** took a major step towards **strengthening India's self-reliance in defense** equipment during the **Maharashtra MSME Defence Expo 2024**.
- They transferred crucial technology to domestic industries by signing **23 Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LATOT)** with 22 companies.

About:

- These agreements span various fields crucial for defense, including **electronics, lasers, armaments, life sciences, materials science, combat vehicles, naval systems, and aeronautics**.
- This initiative aims to **empower Indian companies, particularly micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), to contribute to the nation's defense needs**.

Key Points:

This **collaboration between DRDO and the private sector is expected to:**

1. **Reduce dependence on foreign imports:** By enabling domestic production of defense equipment, India can lessen its reliance on overseas suppliers.
2. **Boost domestic defense industry:** The technology transfer empowers Indian companies to participate in defense manufacturing, creating jobs and fostering innovation.
3. **Support "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" (Self-reliant India) initiative:** This initiative aligns with the government's vision of achieving self-sufficiency in critical sectors, including defense.



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Maharashtra to roll out policy for boosting defense manufacturing

Context:

- Deputy CM said that a **new aerospace and defense policy** will be formulated to **provide a boost to defense manufacturing in Maharashtra**
- **This policy aims to:**
 1. Enhance the success of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the sector.
 2. Establish a robust supply chain for defense manufacturing.

Key points:

- This initiative builds upon Maharashtra's existing efforts in defence manufacturing, including being the **first state to introduce such a policy in 2017**.
- The new policy will be collaboratively developed with industry stakeholders.
- The government plans to **create four dedicated clusters to strengthen the supply chain**.
- This renewed focus on defence manufacturing is seen as a crucial step towards achieving self-reliance in the sector.

Four defence clusters to come up in the State

Context:

- The Maharashtra government has announced **plans to establish four new defence manufacturing clusters across the state**.
- These clusters are aimed at consolidating Maharashtra's position as a leading destination for defence production.
- **Locations: Nagpur, Shirdi, Pune, and Ratnagiri will house the new clusters.**

Objectives:

- Foster innovation and collaboration in the defence sector.
- Stimulate economic growth.
- Leverage the existing strength of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state.

Significance for Pune:

- Pune, already a hub for various industries, will further strengthen its position in the defence sector with the establishment of this cluster.
- This **initiative aligns with the Government of India's "Atma Nirbhar Bharat"** (Self-reliant India) program.
- The creation of these clusters is expected to generate employment opportunities, attract investments, and contribute to the overall growth of the state's economy.



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Pune gets state's second 30-bed AYUSH hospital

Context:

- PM Modi virtually inaugurated the state's second 30-bed AYUSH hospital in Pune.
- Developed under the National AYUSH Abhiyan, this hospital promotes traditional Indian medicine systems like Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy.

AYUSH:

- **AYUSH is an acronym in India standing for Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy.**
- These represent a **group of traditional and non-conventional systems** of medicine practiced widely in the country.
- **Ancient Origins:** Ayurveda, the oldest system, boasts a documented history **exceeding 5,000 years.**
- **Holistic Approach:** AYUSH systems **emphasize a holistic approach to health**, focusing on prevention, promoting well-being, and treating diseases.
- **Governmental Support:** Recognizing their significance, the Indian **government established a dedicated Ministry of AYUSH in 2014** to promote research, education, and development in these fields.

PM Modi to inaugurate ₹1,800 crore rail works of South Central Railway

Context:

- **PM Modi will be inaugurating railway projects worth ₹1,800 crore of the South Central Railway (SCR) on Today(February 26).**
- **About 06 stations are in Maharashtra**
- **34 stations are in Andhra Pradesh, 15 stations in Telangana and two stations in Karnataka**
- **The combined cost of nearly ₹925 crore and 156 road over bridges (RoBs) and road under bridges (RuBs) at a combined cost of nearly ₹927.31 crore comprise the projects.**

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