

CENTRE FOR LAND WARFARE STUDIES
NATIONAL SEMINAR
**SECURITY TO PROSPERITY: SMART POWER FOR SUSTAINED NATIONAL
GROWTH**

Tuesday, 19 May 2026

Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi

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The Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), a premier autonomous think tank affiliated with the Indian Army, organised the National Seminar on "Security to Prosperity: Smart Power for Sustained National Growth" on 19 May 2026 at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The seminar served as a national platform bringing together senior military leaders, policymakers, diplomats, economists, technologists, industry representatives, academia, and strategic practitioners to deliberate on the growing interdependence between national security, economic resilience, technological innovation, diplomacy, and industrial capacity in an increasingly contested global strategic environment. The deliberations examined how India can strengthen its Comprehensive National Power through an integrated Smart Power framework in pursuit of the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The seminar commenced with the Inaugural Session, "National Security: Foundation for Prosperity," featuring the Welcome Address by Lt Gen Dushyant Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd.), Director General, CLAWS, followed by the Chief Guest's Address by General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS). The inaugural session also witnessed the release of the book Maratha Sainya Vyavastha (Shivaji to the Third Battle of Panipat), highlighting the enduring relevance of India's strategic heritage alongside contemporary military transformation.

The technical programme comprised two Special Addresses and two high-level panel discussions. Special Address I, delivered by Dr Prateek Kishore, DS & DG (ACE), DRDO, examined the role of niche technologies in military capability development, while Special Address II by Mr Georg Enzweiler, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, analysed contemporary geopolitical developments and their implications for the

evolving world order. Panel Discussion I, moderated by Lt Gen Rakesh Kapoor, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.), explored "Shifting Geopolitics: Global Turbulence and India's Strategic Choices" through discussions on the West Asian crisis, supply chain disruptions, energy security, and strategic autonomy. Panel Discussion II, moderated by Ms Uma Sudhindra, focused on "Evolving Warfare: Ongoing Conflicts and India's Security Challenges in Harnessing Niche Technology," bringing together senior military leaders, cybersecurity experts, and industry representatives to deliberate on defence innovation, emerging technologies, procurement reform, cyber resilience, artificial intelligence, and the changing character of warfare. The event concluded with the Concluding Remarks by the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy), followed by the Vote of Thanks by the Additional Director General, CLAWS.

Collectively, the deliberations underscored that security and prosperity are no longer separate domains but mutually reinforcing pillars of national power. Military preparedness, technological leadership, resilient supply chains, industrial competitiveness, strategic diplomacy, and innovation ecosystems must function in concert to strengthen India's strategic autonomy and long-term national resilience. The seminar concluded that India's ability to build indigenous technological capability, deepen defence-industrial partnerships, institutionalise a whole-of-nation approach, and translate strategic vision into operational capability will determine its capacity to safeguard national interests and secure its place in the emerging international order.

SUPPORTIVE PARTNERS

The seminar was organised with the support of the Strategic Research and Growth Foundation (SRGF), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Data Security Council of India (DSCI), Met State Technologies GAS, and G-Troos IT Services, whose partnership strengthened the seminar's multidisciplinary engagement across the domains of national security, technology, cyber resilience, industry, strategic policy, and defence innovation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The national seminar "Security to Prosperity: Smart Power for Sustained National Growth" examined how India's security and economic growth have become inseparable in an era defined by geopolitical competition, technological disruption, multidomain warfare, and fragile global supply chains. The deliberations emphasised that military capability, technological innovation, industrial resilience, economic strength, diplomacy, and human capital must function as an

integrated system of Smart Power to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Future strategic competition will increasingly be determined by technological leadership, resilient supply chains, defence industrial capacity, and the ability to rapidly translate innovation into military capability. The seminar concluded that India must adopt a whole-of-nation approach that strengthens indigenous innovation, accelerates defence modernisation, deepens trusted international partnerships, and enhances institutional agility to convert national security into sustained prosperity.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- The international system is undergoing structural transformation driven by great-power rivalry, prolonged regional conflicts, economic coercion, technological competition, and multidomain warfare, eroding traditional assumptions separating security from economic development.
- Global supply chains for energy, food, critical minerals, semiconductors, and advanced technologies have emerged as strategic vulnerabilities, while geopolitical fragmentation continues to increase economic uncertainty.
- Artificial Intelligence, cyber capabilities, autonomous systems, quantum technologies, space, and information warfare are redefining military power, reducing technological advantage cycles and demanding continuous innovation.
- Hybrid threats, including cyber-attacks, disinformation, economic coercion, critical infrastructure disruption, and technological dependence, have expanded competition below the threshold of conventional conflict.
- Rapid technological change, combined with increasingly restrictive technology regimes, is reshaping global strategic influence and creating new dependencies for countries lacking indigenous innovation ecosystems.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

- India's long-term prosperity depends upon credible national security supported by resilient industrial capacity, technological self-reliance, secure supply chains, and integrated national institutions.
- Strategic autonomy increasingly depends upon indigenous capability in frontier technologies, resilient defence manufacturing, diversified energy sources, critical mineral security, and trusted international partnerships rather than diplomatic balancing alone.

- Defence capability development must evolve beyond traditional platform-centric approaches towards adaptive doctrines integrating cyber, AI, autonomous systems, quantum technologies, space, and information warfare.
- Current procurement timelines, fragmented innovation ecosystems, and dependence on foreign technologies risk creating capability gaps against rapidly evolving threats.
- India must strengthen civil-military-industrial collaboration and develop a whole-of-nation innovation ecosystem capable of translating research into operational capability at wartime speed.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS BY SPEAKERS

- Adopt a Whole-of-Nation Smart Power Framework integrating defence preparedness, technological innovation, industrial development, economic resilience, diplomacy, and human capital into a coherent national strategy.
- Accelerate indigenous development in AI, cyber, quantum technologies, semiconductors, autonomous systems, advanced materials, and dual-use technologies through closer collaboration among the Armed Forces, DRDO, academia, startups, MSMEs, and industry.
- Reform defence acquisition by introducing rapid prototyping, spiral development, innovation-responsive procurement, and accelerated capability induction under DAP reforms.
- Build resilient supply chains for energy, critical minerals, advanced manufacturing, and strategic technologies through diversification, domestic processing, trusted partnerships, and stronger industrial ecosystems.
- Expand defence diplomacy and technology partnerships while preserving India's strategic autonomy through multi-alignment, maritime security, and diversified international engagement.
- Invest in specialised human capital, defence technology education, research ecosystems, and institutional reforms to sustain long-term technological competitiveness.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

- Transition from platform-centric military modernisation to technology-driven capability development centred on AI, autonomous systems, cyber resilience, quantum technologies, and multidomain operations.

- Institutionalise continuous innovation through stronger integration of the Armed Forces, industry, academia, startups, research institutions, and government to reduce the gap between technological development and operational deployment.
- Build resilient national ecosystems capable of sustaining prolonged strategic competition by strengthening indigenous manufacturing, critical infrastructure, strategic reserves, and digital resilience.
- Enhance India's comprehensive national power by integrating defence capability, economic resilience, technological leadership, diplomacy, and industrial capacity into a unified Smart Power framework supporting Viksit Bharat 2047.
- Develop agile institutions capable of translating strategic intent into timely policy implementation, procurement reform, capability development, and operational readiness.

The Strategic Way Forward for India, as emerging from the seminar deliberations and recommended by the speakers, is presented at Appendix I.

APPENDIX 1

S. No	Recommended Action	Government of India / Ministry of Defence	Indian Armed Forces	Industry & Startups	Academia & Research Institutions
1	Develop a National Smart Power Strategy	Integrate defence, diplomacy, economic security, technology, energy and industrial policy into a unified national strategy.	Align capability development with whole-of-government planning and national objectives.	Align investments with national strategic priorities.	Develop interdisciplinary research on Smart Power and Comprehensive National Power.
2	Accelerate Indigenous Deep Technology Development	Expand funding for AI, quantum, semiconductors, cyber, advanced materials and autonomous systems through national missions.	Define future operational requirements and rapidly induct indigenous technologies.	Increase private R&D investment and commercialise frontier technologies.	Establish Centres of Excellence in strategic technologies and defence innovation.
3	Strengthen Critical Mineral and Energy Security	Diversify overseas mineral partnerships, expand Strategic Petroleum Reserves and incentivise domestic processing industries.	Identify strategic material dependencies affecting military readiness.	Invest in refining, processing and resilient supply chains.	Research alternative materials, recycling technologies and resource security models.
4	Build Resilient National Supply Chains	Develop a National Supply Chain Resilience Framework for critical sectors.	Map vulnerabilities affecting operational preparedness and logistics.	Diversify sourcing, reduce dependence on single-country suppliers and strengthen domestic manufacturing.	Conduct strategic supply-chain risk assessments and resilience studies.
5	Strengthen Defence Innovation Ecosystem	Expand iDEX, Technology Development Fund (TDF) and innovation-linked procurement reforms under DAP.	Provide operational problem statements, conduct rapid user trials and field validation.	Develop operationally relevant dual-use technologies and defence products.	Strengthen defence-focused research programmes and industry-academia collaboration.
6	Reform Defence Procurement for Emerging Technologies	Institutionalise fast-track procurement pathways for rapidly evolving technologies.	Adopt spiral development, rapid prototyping and iterative capability induction.	Deliver modular, upgradeable and interoperable defence solutions.	Support independent testing, evaluation and technology validation frameworks.
7	Enhance Maritime and Energy Security	Strengthen maritime diplomacy, strategic logistics agreements and alternative trade corridors such as IMEC.	Enhance Maritime Domain Awareness and protect Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs).	Invest in resilient ports, logistics infrastructure and maritime technologies.	Conduct research on maritime security, logistics resilience and Indo-Pacific geopolitics.
8	Promote Technology Sovereignty and Cyber Resilience	Develop sovereign digital infrastructure, AI governance frameworks and post-quantum security strategies.	Integrate cyber resilience, AI and information warfare into operational planning.	Develop indigenous cybersecurity platforms, encryption technologies and AI security solutions.	Advance research in AI safety, quantum cryptography and cyber resilience.

9	Strengthen Public–Private–Academic Collaboration	Create long-term collaborative funding mechanisms linking government, industry and academia.	Increase engagement with startups, universities and technology incubators.	Participate in collaborative defence R&D and technology transfer initiatives.	Align research priorities with national capability development requirements.
10	Develop Human Capital for Strategic Technologies	Introduce national skill development programmes focused on defence technologies and advanced manufacturing.	Incorporate AI, cyber, EW and emerging technology modules into professional military education.	Support specialised internships, fellowships and industrial training programmes.	Launch specialised academic programmes in defence technology, AI, cyber security and strategic studies.
11	Strengthen Strategic Autonomy through Multi-Alignment	Expand trusted technology partnerships while preserving independent strategic decision-making.	Deepen defence cooperation, interoperability and military diplomacy with trusted partners.	Pursue joint ventures, co-development and technology transfer with strategic partners.	Support policy research on strategic autonomy, economic security and emerging geopolitical trends.
12	Institutionalise a Whole-of-Nation National Security Framework	Establish permanent mechanisms for coordination across ministries, armed forces, industry and research institutions during strategic crises.	Integrate military planning with national industrial mobilisation and technological preparedness.	Build resilient industrial ecosystems capable of supporting national emergencies.	Produce evidence-based policy research supporting national resilience, crisis management and strategic planning.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

CLAWS NATIONAL SEMINAR

SECURITY TO PROSPERITY: SMART POWER FOR SUSTAINED NATIONAL GROWTH

Time (H)	Event	Speakers
0930-0955	Tea & Registration	
0955-1000	Opening Remarks	MC
1000	Arrival of Chief of Army Staff (COAS)	
Inaugural Session: National Security: Foundation for Prosperity		
1001-1003	Movie Screening: The Journey of CLAWS	
1003-1008	Welcome Address	DG CLAWS
1008-1010	Screening Movie: Security To Prosperity: Smart Power for Sustained National Growth	
1010-1025	Address by the Chief Guest	Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)
1025-1030	Book Launch Ceremony "Maratha Sainya Vyavastha (Shivaji to the Third Battle of Panipat)"	
1030-1115	Group Photograph, High Tea & Visit to Exhibition (Upper Portico)	
1115-1130	Special Address I: Role of Niche Technology in Military Capability Development to Meet the Challenges of Warfare	Dr Prateek Kishore DS & DG (ACE), DRDO
1130-1145	Special Address II: Global Geopolitical Developments - Relevance for World Order	Mr Georg Enzweiler Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
1145-1245	Panel Discussion I (Fireside Chat Format) Shifting Geopolitics: Global Turbulence and India's Strategic Choices	
	Moderator	Lt Gen Rakesh Kapoor PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), Former DCOAS (IS&T)
	West Asian crisis and Impact on Regional Geopolitics	Mr Ram Madhav President, India Foundation
	Supply Chain Disruptions: Impact on Energy, Food & Critical Elements	Mr Ajit Ranade Senior Fellow and Trustee with the Pune International Centre.
	India's Strategic Autonomy	Amb Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha Former CIC and High Commissioner to the UK
1245-1400	Panel Discussion II Evolving Warfare: Ongoing Conflicts and India's Security Challenges in Harnessing Niche Technology	
	Moderator	Ms Uma Sudhindra Member, Advisory Board, SRFG
	Expediting Defence Procurement for Next Generation Army	Lt Gen Vineet Gaur, PVSM, AVSM, DG CD
	Expectation from the Industry in Niche Technology Development	Maj Gen CS Mann, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADG, ADB
	Primacy of Technology in Warfare: Harnessing Niche Technologies	Mr. Nilesh Dhande Co-founder and CEO - Fortytwo Labs
		Mr Vinayak Godse CEO, Data Security Council of India
		Cdr Naveen Kundra (Retd), MD Medjay Technologies Pvt Ltd
		Maj Vineet Kumar (Retd) Founder CyberPeace Foundation
1400-1405	Concluding Remarks	DCOAS (Strat)
1405-1410	Vote of Thanks	ADG, CLAWS
1410 Onwards	Lunch & Dispersal	

GALLERY



ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST GENERAL UPENDRA DWIVEDI, PVSM, AVSM, CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF (COAS)



BOOK LAUNCH CEREMONY "MARATHA SAINYA VYAVASTHA (SHIVAJI TO THE THIRD BATTLE OF PANIPAT)"



PANEL DISCUSSION II: EVOLVING WARFARE: ONGOING CONFLICTS AND INDIA'S SECURITY CHALLENGES IN HARNESSING NICHE TECHNOLOGY



CONCLUDING REMARKS BY LT GEN RAJIV GHAI, SYSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM*, DEPUTY CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF (STRATEGY)