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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

### **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Hosts Seminar on 'Self-Reliant Defence Sector: Role of Academia'**

The Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad today organized a seminar titled “**Self-Reliant Defence Sector: Role of Academia**”, emphasizing the critical contribution of academic institutions to India’s indigenous defence capabilities.

The seminar, held at the Smart Classroom on the ground floor of the i2h building, was organized by the Office of Dean, Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (IIE). The event was graced by **Dr. B.K. Das**, Director General (Electronics & Communication Systems), DRDO, who attended as the **Chief Guest** and delivered the **keynote address**.

In his address, Dr. Das reflected on the historical significance of May 22, marking the successful launch of India’s first Agni Ballistic Missile in 1989. Highlighting India’s progress in defence technology, he stressed the importance of self-reliance and the development of indigenous systems, particularly in missile and aircraft programs such as the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** and the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)**.

Dr. Das credited the remarkable technological advancements to the increased defence budget, which has grown by nearly 300%. He underlined the evolving nature of warfare, pointing to the importance of cost-effective strategies and high-efficiency technologies to neutralize threats. Citing **Operation Sindoor**, he illustrated the growing role of drone swarms in modern combat and spoke about India’s ongoing efforts to develop **laser-based counter-drone systems**.

He also emphasized the need for India to position itself as an **exporter of defence technology**, recognizing the potential for global partnerships and economic growth.

As part of the seminar, scientists from the **Directorate of Futuristic Technology Management (DFTM)** delivered insightful lectures on DRDO project funding mechanisms and collaborative opportunities available for academic institutions.

Earlier, in his **welcome address**, **Prof. Sukumar Mishra**, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, stated that academia has a pivotal role in **nation building** and called for deeper integration between scientific research and defence development.

Dr. Das lauded the **infrastructure, research activities, and innovation ecosystem** at IIT (ISM), expressing optimism about the institute’s growing role in shaping India’s future defence landscape.

The event marked a significant step toward fostering **industry-academia collaboration** to achieve self-reliance in defence and strategic technologies.

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