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# 'India targets defence exports worth ₹25,000 cr by 2024'

**Dalip Singh**  
Bengaluru

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Sunday, said that India has set a target of ₹25,000 crore in defence exports by 2024, and Aero India 2023 will provide a renewed thrust to the government's efforts to create a vibrant and world-class domestic defence industry to achieve 'Atmanirbharta' in this sector.

Addressing the media on the eve of Aero India, Singh said that with participants from around 100 friendly countries and 800 exhibitors, the aero show will be the biggest so far.

"A strong and self-reliant defence sector will play a pivotal role in helping India emerge as one of the top three world economies in the times to come. Achievements in the defence sector provide wide

spin-off benefits to the Indian economy. The technologies developed in the field are equally useful for civilian purposes.

"In addition, a temperament towards science and technology and innovation is created in the society, which will help in the overall development of the nation," he said.

## PARTICIPANTS

Organised at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, in a total area of around 35,000 square metres, the aero show is likely to witness the participation of the Defence Ministers of 32 countries, Air Chiefs of 29 countries, and 73 CEOs of global and Indian OEMs.

The five-day event will showcase the advancement in niche technologies and the growth in aerospace and defence sector. Singh described the record international parti-



**BIG PLANS.** (from left) Karnataka Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma; Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai; Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh; and Union Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt, at the press conference ahead of Aero India, in Bengaluru, on Sunday MURALI KUMAR K

cipation as a reflection of not just India's buyer-seller ties with different countries, but

also the shared vision of global prosperity.

To a query on Tejas LCA be-

ing powered by an imported engine, Singh said: "We are in line to make it [engine] indi-

**Aero India, which begins today, is likely to witness the participation of the Defence Ministers of 32 countries, Air Chiefs of 29 nations, and 73 CEOs of global and Indian OEMs**

tunities'. Among the major events lined up for Tuesday, Singh is to host the Defence Ministers' Conclave.

The conclave of friendly defence ministers will address issues to deepen cooperation for capacity building (through investments, R&D, joint venture, co-development, co-production and provisioning of defence equipment), trainings, space, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and maritime security to grow together, said the Defence Ministry.

The major exhibitors include Airbus, Boeing, Dassault Aviation, Lockheed Martin, Israel Aerospace Industry, BrahMos Aerospace, Army Aviation, HC Robotics, SAAB, Safran, Rolls Royce, Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Forge Limited, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and BEML Limited.

generously, which will address the major concern that true self-reliance will be achieved only when the country starts manufacturing in core technologies." Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 14th edition of Asia's largest aero show on Monday that carries the theme, "The Runway to a Billion Oppor-