**Embassy of India**

**Muscat**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**DEFENCE EXPOSITION (DEFEXPO) 2018 –INDIA: THE EMERGING DEFENCE MANUFACTURING HUB**

The Government of India is organizing an international land, naval and internal homeland security systems exhibition (DefExpo) in Chennai, called “The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub” from 11 to 14 April 2018. The DefExpo will focus on highlighting India’s defence production capabilities. While showcasing the strength of India’s public sector enterprise in defence sector, it will also uncover India’s growing private defence industry and expanding Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) base for defence components and sub-systems. Over 671 exhibitors will be participating in DefExpo, which includes 517 Indian exhibitors and 154 international exhibitors from 42 countries. Another special attraction of DefExpo is that there will be a live demonstration of Naval, Aero and Land systems at the venue.

 DefExpo 2018 will display Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd’s (HAL’s) various flying platforms, including domestically designed and manufactured fourth-generation Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) - Tejas; Advanced Light Helicopter – Dhruv, which have both civil as well as combat variants; Light Combat Helicopter; and Dornier civilian aircraft. Apart from HAL’s platforms, the Expo will also promote domestic private industry and aero-components industry.

As regards land systems, India will unveil in DefExpo its 155mm Advanced Towed Artillery Gun (ATAG) which has been designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in partnership with Kalyani Group, Tata Power and Ordanance Factories Board (OFBs). India also proposes to showcase its tank making capabilities, including MBT Arjun, T90 and T-72, Bridge Laying Tanks (BLTs), with a span of over 70 feet, among others. DefExpo will also showcase India’s plans for putting India on the global map of small arms manufacturing. It will also showcase its Missile and Rocket manufacturing capabilities, including BrahMos missiles, including surface-to-air, air- to-air and sea-to-air versions.

As the DefExpo is being held in Chenai on sea-shore, along the East Coast road enroute Chennai to Mahabalipuram, Indian Shipbuilders will brandish their domestic design and manufacturing capabilities. Indian Navy Ships will be available for onboard viewing at Chennai harbor. India is one of the few countries of the world which has capabilities to design a naval vessel from scratch to finish. The DefExpo will also unveil India’s capabilities in manufacturing Scorpene class submarine. Naval shipyards in public sector, including Mazagon Docks, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Goa Shipyards, Hindustan Shipyard and private shipyards, will display their capabilities in manufacturing and servicing ships. Kattupalli shipyard of L&T is only 40 km from Chennai and visitors to DefExpo are encouraged to visit the same. There is a growing demand for Indian built vessels from many countries in South Asia, ASEAN and Africa and DefExpo will be a perfect opportunity to become acquainted with India’s shipbuilding capabilities.

There has been extensive cooperation between Defence Forces of India and Oman within the framework of the growing defence cooperation between the two countries under their strategic partnership. During the visit of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to Oman on 11-12 February 2018, the two countries agreed to expand their defence cooperation, including in defence manufacturing and research and development. The forthcoming Defence Expo provides and opportunity for various stakeholders in defence sector in Oman to become acquainted with India’s growing defence manufacturing and defence R&D capabilities.

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**Muscat, 08 April 2018**