

B. Tech in Defence Technology Launched at SSPU

SPOTLIGHT

Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU) has launched a pioneering B. Tech in Defence Technology, with a curriculum crafted by top defence industry experts to equip students with cutting-edge technical skills

Pune, June 7, 2025: Symbiosis Skills and Professional University, Pune, has officially launched a new four-year engineering programme – **B.Tech in Defence Technology** – starting from the upcoming academic year (2025–26). The curriculum has been developed by industry champions from leading Indian defence sector companies. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between academia and the defence industry.

To support this programme, a **Smart Centre of Excellence Manufacturing Lab** has been established at the university's Darvali campus. This facility will offer students hands-on experience in real-world defence technology environments.

On this occasion, the university's **Pro-Chancellor, Dr. Swati Mujumdar**, signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with **Vasundhara Geo Technologies** (represented by **Advait Kulkarni**) and **DSA Electro and Design** (represented by **Ashok Subhedar**) to collaborate on various academic and industrial initiatives.

Dr. Swati Mujumdar said, "India is progressing rapidly on the path of **Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India)** and **Make in India**. The recent Operation **Sindhur** highlighted the importance of national security and the growing need for advancement in the defence sector. This newly launched programme in the current academic year will give a new direction to students' careers. Through this Skill University, for the past eight years, we have been providing skill-based training aligned with the specific needs of industries. We currently have partnerships with over 250 companies. To build a secure, strong, and self-reliant India, Symbiosis Skill University has introduced the **B.Tech in Defence Technology** programme. Several key Indian companies are playing a significant role in military technology and are creating thousands of job opportunities for the country's youth. This course is well-suited for both boys and girls and integrates cutting-edge technologies like **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **Cybersecurity**, and **Autonomous Systems**. It offers students an opportunity to contribute to shaping India's future defence capabilities. This is an innovative



Dr. Swati Mujumdar welcoming Manish Bharadwaj at the inauguration of the 'B.Tech in Defence Technology' course

programme in the emerging field of defence technology and manufacturing."

The event was presided over by Dr. Swati Mujumdar, Pro-Chancellor of Symbiosis Skills and Professional University. Distinguished guests included Mr. Sushil Kumar, Global Head and Vice President at Tata Technologies; Mr. S.M. Vaidya, former Business Head and Vice President of Godrej Aerospace; Mr. Shirish Deshmukh, Director of DEMA (DIMA Manufacturing Association); Mr. Varun Khandare, MD of SRGF and member of the Defence Committee, MCCIA; and Mr. Harsh Gune, also from the MCCIA Defence Committee.

Major General Vinay Handa, speaking on the newly launched programme and India's rising defence profile, stated:

"Both private and public sector companies are actively contributing to this field. Defence will soon become a key sector, with growing focus on research, exports, artificial intelligence, and aerospace technology. Tied directly to national security, the sector is currently experiencing 25% growth. Globally, the defence industry is valued at \$2.5 trillion and supports over a million jobs. In India, 65% of defence equipment is manufactured domestically, supported by 430 defence companies and nearly

16,000 MSMEs. In FY 2024–25 alone, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) have registered 42.85% growth. As the domain expands rapidly, the demand for skilled manpower is rising. The B.Tech in Defence Technology at Symbiosis Skills and Professional University will be instrumental in fulfilling this need."

Manish Bharadwaj, Technical Advisor to the Chairman of DRDO and the event's chief guest, shared his perspective:

"Defence technology is vital to the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India)**. Just as **Make in India** drives nation-building, the recent **Sindhur** operation underscored the critical role of the armed forces and technology. The nation has witnessed the success of DRDO-developed systems like **Akash** and **BrahMos** missiles, radar systems, and drones. Students must go beyond personal success and aspire to contribute meaningfully to the nation. While the **Sindhur** operation highlighted DRDO's importance, there remains a pressing need for skilled professionals in this sector. For true nation-building, we must invest in research. Industry, academia, and researchers must collaborate to drive this transformation."

Subsequently, Mr. Vaidya, Mr. Deshmukh, Mr. Khandare, Mr. Kumar, and Mr. Gune spoke about the vast potential for nation-building through research, innovation, and startups in the defence sector. They emphasised the sector's employment opportunities and highlighted that while system engineering is not taught at most universities, Symbiosis Skills University has incorporated it as a specialised course. For critical systems, they stressed the importance of developing indigenous solutions instead of relying on foreign technologies, urging students and professionals to take initiative and explore new opportunities.

On this occasion, **Lieutenant General V.G. Khandare** and **Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale** conveyed their best wishes and spoke about the future importance of this sector through an online medium. The event was moderated by **Dr. Smita Shukla**, and **Major General Vinay Handa** proposed the vote of thanks.