

****Remarks for the Bharat Seychelles Seminar on Indian Defence
Equipment****

**Major General Michael Rosette, Chief of Defence Staff of Seychelles,
Brigadier General, Jean Attala,
(Retd) Brig Ashis Bhattacharyya, Principal Advisor, Society of
Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM),
Senior Officers of the SDF,
DA,
Representatives of Indian Companies,
The team from the High Commission,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Bonjour / Namaskar,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all, for the Bharat Seychelles Seminar on Indian Defence Equipment 2025, being organized by the High Commission of India. At the outset, I thank the Chief Guest, Major General Micheal Rosette for gracing this occasion. CDF and his team's support has always been forthcoming, in our common endeavor to enhance our defence cooperation.

I also welcome the virtual participation of representatives from Indian defence industry.

Distinguished guests,

Relations between India and Seychelles are unique and special, founded on a deep sense of mutual trust and confidence, and marked by a spirit of respect and equality. This is reflected in our defence engagement, which is one of the strongest pillars of our bilateral ties.

In the larger context, the Indian Ocean is home for us all and ensuring peace, stability and prosperity of the entire region is imperative. This is the guiding principle behind the policy of S.A.G.A.R put forth by Prime

Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in 2015 and MAHASAGAR vision as enunciated in March 2025.

India is proud to have contributed to the safety and security of Seychelles through provision of assets and capacity building. While India and Seychelles enjoy robust defence ties, the growing uncertainty in the global geopolitical landscape has meant that friendly countries need to cooperate even more closely, for their own national security and to secure the Indian Ocean Region and the indo-pacific

Distinguished guests,

It is in this context it is relevant for us to look at the defence sector in India today. India's journey towards self-reliance in defence needs has been one of innovation, dedication and an unwavering commitment to the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', or 'Self-Reliant India', proclaimed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

On the one hand, the Indian defence industry has invested in modern R&D practices, on the other the Indian Government has implemented enabling policies, defence industrial corridors, and collaboration between public and private sectors.

In the last 10 years, the evolution of the defence industry has been such that the Indian defence industry rolls out state-of-the-art systems, advanced technologies and world class equipment, which range from aircraft to naval vessels, from electronic warfare systems to cyber-security solutions, and from small arms to large caliber precision long range artillery systems, just to name a few.

Indian defence exports in 2023-24 stood at nearly USD 2.54 billion – a 31% increase from the previous year. Their clientele extended to more than 85 countries. Our defence industry is fully cognizant of the demanding standards of the trade, and hence the produced entities are sturdy, effective and reliable under combat conditions.

Distinguished guests,

While 10 years ago, we may have had some difficulty in preparing a line up for today's event, such is the growth in the Indian defense sector that assembling today's panel took no time. We are happy to have representatives of established and upcoming companies ranging from UAVs, and anti-drone technology to small arms and armoured vehicles.

This event today, is for fostering collaboration and cooperation between our two friendly nations. It will provide a platform for the Indian indigenous defence industry to showcase its growing capacities and state of the art systems and equipment, on the other, it also provides an opportunity for the Seychelles Defence Forces to explore feasible, affordable and modern solutions, ultimately contributing to the net security of the IOR.

The Indian defence industry also remains enthusiastic about the prospect of collaboration with Government of Seychelles, actively exploring avenues for technology exchange, and co-production ventures.

The initiatives undertaken by both governments to fortify our partnership will play a pivotal role in enhancing our synergy in defence cooperation. I assure you of wholehearted support in all your endeavors.

To conclude, I would like to once again thank the Chief of Defence Forces, Major General, Michael Rosette being part of this event. I would also like to thank all the distinguished guests for their presence here. I wish the participants the most fruitful discussions.

Jai Hind.

Long Live India-Seychelles Partnership,

Thank you
