

# UPEIDA CEO for focussed attention on defence sector

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Lucknow: Making a case for start-ups in defence sector that it should be given focused attention by both the state and central governments, UPEIDA CEO Awanish Awasthi on Monday said the upcoming defence corridor in UP is a greenfield project and substantial land is available in Jhansi and Chitrakoot for investments.

Speaking during the two-day annual review of advanced manufacturing, real estate, sustainability, entrepreneurship, export and defence & aerospace organised by the northern region of the Confederation of Indian Industries, Awasthi said that to promote start-ups in the sector, UP government was looking at the possibility of setting up a common facility centre near Lucknow airport.

Industries minister Satish Mahana said defence and aerospace were important sectors which would help India achieve the dream of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

"The government is making efforts to help the country become a net exporter of defence products from its present status as a net importer. India is among the top 25 defence exporters in the world and we need MSMEs to contribute in the growth of the sector," he said.

Chairperson of CII (northern region) Nikhil Sawhney suggested that the government should focus on developing India as a global defence original equipment manufacturer.

Chairperson of CII Northern Region Defence Committee, Manoj Gupta, said under the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign, no global tender would be floated for procurement of more than Rs 200 crore which would be a huge boost to domestic players.

