

# Kalam & Kavach 2.0 Conclave Charts Roadmap for Defence Reforms, Innovation and Self-Reliance in 2025

Category: Business

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**Kalam & Kavach 2.0**, hosted by Pentagon Press in collaboration with CENJOWS, brought together India's top defence minds—from military leadership and think tanks to private industry—to shape the next wave of military reform. Themed **“2025: The Year of Reforms,”** the conclave, held at the Manekshaw Centre, focused on speed, synergy, and self-reliance in national defence.



# Kalam & Kavach Panel discussion: Indian industry and defence start-ups hailed as co-creators of capability and self-reliance

## Key Highlights

- **Strategic Insight:** Lt Gen Vipul Shinghal, delivering the keynote on behalf of the CDS, cited a “**renaissance in strategic thought**,” revealing 8-9 new doctrines in progress.
- **Airpower & Future Warfare:** In a fireside chat with Shivam Arya, curator Kalam & Kavach, former IAF chief ACM V.R. Chaudhari emphasized jointness, AI-driven warfare, and theatre commands as future priorities.
- **Security Outlook:** Lt Gen Raj Shukla (Retd) and author Sandeep Unnithan discussed drones, grey zone threats, and the need for rapid, tech-led reform.
- **Technology as a Force Multiplier:** Experts stressed AI, quantum, cyber, and space as the defining arenas of modern warfare.
- **Industry's Role:** From “**vendor to vanguard**,” Indian industry and defence startups were hailed as co-creators of capability and self-reliance.

## Books Released

Cyber Diplomacy, Artificial Intelligence in Military Applications, and India's Arsenal captured the spirit of innovation driving the sector.

## Closing Note

**Maj Gen (Dr) Ashok Kumar** called for action-oriented follow-up, while curator Shivam Arya urged, “*The conversations we had today must now become contributions.*”

Kalam & Kavach 2.0 reaffirmed that defence transformation

begins with dialogue-and must end in decisive, indigenised action.

