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Government of India  
Ministry of Defence**

04-April-2018 12:33 IST

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**Raksha Mantri discusses Bilateral and Multilateral Defence issues with her Russian counterpart**

Raksha Mantri Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, who is on three-day visit to Russia to attend VII Moscow Conference on International Security from 03 to 05 April 2018, met Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation Mr Denis Manturov in Moscow yesterday. Both the leaders reviewed ongoing military technical cooperation projects between the two countries, including measures to promote India-Russia joint industrial activities under the 'Make in India' programme with respect to defence production, especially for after-sales support. They also discussed participation of Russian in DefExpo India -2018 to be held in Chennai from 11 to 14 April 2018.

Later in the day, Smt Sitharaman met Russian Defence Minister General Sergey Shoygu and discussed issues of bilateral importance, especially Military-to-Military Cooperation and other regional issues in a delegation level talks. These included a review of the roadmap of military cooperation involving exercises, training, exchange of visits, and India's participation in International Army Games to be held in Russia later this year.

In the evening Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman attended a concert by Sarod Maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan to mark the closing of the year-long celebrations of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India-Russia diplomatic relations.

**SRR/NAo/DK/Rajib**