

Anil Agarwal calls for greater private participation to unlock defence production potential

The Vedanta Chairman called for modernising 41 ordnance factories and unlocking capacity to drive domestic production, exports and employment.



Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal on Friday called for greater private sector participation in India's defence manufacturing sector, citing the need to strengthen domestic production capabilities amid evolving global conditions.

In a LinkedIn post, he said self-sufficiency in defence equipment has gained renewed focus and noted that domestic manufacturing has historically underpinned national strength.

"In today's geopolitics, there is a renewed focus on the need for self-sufficiency in defence equipment," Agarwal said. "If we look at India's history, the most important thing for our Kings and rulers was their defence equipment... This was the foundation of their strength."

Focus on existing infrastructure

Agarwal highlighted India's network of defence production facilities, including 41 ordnance factories producing arms and ammunition. He said these facilities should be leveraged through modernisation.

"I have visited two, in Jabalpur and Bhusawal... I was simply amazed at their scale and their adoption of technology," he said.

"It is almost impossible to build such infrastructure quickly, so these existing factories hold the key to achieving self-reliance in defence equipment."

He added that modernisation and innovation could significantly increase production. "What we need to do is modernise them... so that they can innovate and increase production by 10 times. Private sector participation can unleash this capacity."

Exports and economic contribution

Agarwal said domestic production could support exports and contribute to economic growth and employment.

"India needs the best equipment made domestically for land, air and water for its own security. We can even develop exports and make this sector a massive contributor to GDP and jobs," he said.

He also called for a structured approach to private participation. "Their privatisation should be like Air India - smooth, as time is of the essence."