**Domestic Design Led Solutions, Semiconductors and the shadow wars India must prepare for**

We all must compliment the Hon’ble Prime Minister on success of Operation Sindoor where with advancement of technology, there was no need to cross border and yet hit the precise targets as planned.

Now is the time to have a fresh look on the security and defence preparedness of the country. Following paragraphs are relevant in this regard.

A terrified-world is forcing economies to rethink strategies, allies, arsenal, next moves, and new deals. Simultaneously, geopolitical contest and technological disruption are changing the nature of warfare. Are wars limited to boots on the ground or missiles in the air? Far from it. The bigger threat is the grey zone that typically lies between peace and full-scale war—a murky space where adversaries use coercive actions that are aggressive and destabilising, but fall short of open warfare. Grey-zone operations include cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, economic pressure, political manipulation, and proxy conflicts. These actions are often deniable, non-attributable, and below the normal thresholds that would trigger a traditional military response.

The next wars will be silent—fought through semiconductors, software, and invisible lines of code. Quantum computing and cyber warfare will become central to national security. The next set of wars will be fought with semiconductors. The warning is real. The global battlefield is shifting from terrain to terabytes, and the world including India must prepare for the same now.

Information warfare, AI, and automation will define conflicts ahead and we must recalibrate our information capabilities. As the world becomes progressively digitised, cyber operations will play an increasing role in warfare. Control of the cyber domain will become central to domestic stability. With cloud infrastructure holding vast amounts of sensitive data, cyber domains are now the first lines of attack and in coming years cyber sabotage could be as damaging as a missile strike.

India, with over 1.3 billion citizens online and a growing stack of digital public infrastructure, is both a tech powerhouse and a high-value target. Our reliance on imported semiconductors—many from adversarial regions—is a strategic weakness. Imports of electronic and telecom goods from China accounts for nearly 40% of that total. Even our most advanced software often runs on foreign-built, potentially vulnerable hardware.

**At times of war, Chinese telecom, power equipment, drones, SIM cards with their chips and OS can play havoc. We need to be prepared based on our security considerations. There are no permanent friends also and self-reliance when we have the capability of domestic design solutions should be fully explored.**