

Ms. Suma Varughese

Distinguished Scientist & Director General, MED, COS & CS (MCC)

Ms Suma Varughese assumed the charge as Director General MED, COS & CS (MCC) at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on January 1, 2022. She holds a Master's degree in Computer Science from Mysore University (1988) and an MS (Engg.) in Electronics and Communication Engineering from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (2000), specializing in Radar Antenna Measurement Systems.

She began her career at DRDO in 1989 as Scientist 'B' at the Electronics & Radar Development Establishment (LRDE). In 2004, she transitioned to the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) to contribute to the Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) Programme. As Programme Director from 2017, she oversaw the successful delivery of two AEW&C systems to the Indian Air Force assets of strategic significance.

She has played a key role in advancing radar technologies like phased arrays and Airborne Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radars. She also led flight testing for the AEW&C System and directed the development of the Multisensor Data Fusion System to support Network-Centric Warfare capabilities.

Currently, as a Director General, she leads the Labs of cutting-edge initiatives in Artificial Intelligence, Semiconductors, Quantum Technologies, and Cyber Security. Her contributions include establishing production lines for infrared sensors, releasing GaN-based Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit (MMIC) products, and spearheading the development of India's first Quantum Communication System over 100 km in collaboration with academia and industry.

Ms. Suma Varughese has been honoured with prestigious accolades such as:

- NRDC National Award
- JC Bose Memorial Award
- E. MN Saha Award (IETE)
- DRDO's Pathbreaking Research & Outstanding Technology Development Award
- DRDO Agni Award for Excellence in Self Reliance
- DRDO Performance Excellence Award

She has published extensively in scientific journals and conferences and is a Senior Member of IEEE.