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Metcalfe House, Delhi-110054

New doctrine to ensure 3 military wings can tackle entire spectrum of conflicts

By Rajat Pandit

'For Greater Punch from Limited Budget'

The armed forces have formulated a new “joint doctrine” to ensure the Army, Navy and IAF plan and work together to effectively tackle the entire spectrum of conflict, ranging from fullblown conventional wars to irregular and hybrid warfare, in the years ahead.

Defence ministry sources say the around 80-page doctrine, which will formally be released next week, underlines the need for “application of military power” in an integrated manner to enhance operational

efficiency as well as optimise utilisation of resources for a greater military punch from limited budgetary funds.

Not only does the doctrine chart out a broad framework of principles for joint planning and the need to build an integrated land-air-sea-cyberspace war-fighting machinery, but also “signals” the intent of the Indian armed forces to the world at large, say the sources. But the doctrine comes at a time when India is still dragging its feet to create unified military structures from a desperately-needed tri-Service chief or chief of defence staff (CDS), which has been hanging fire

Big Bang Defence Reforms: SLOW MARCH

TRI-SERVICE CHIEF	THEATRE COMMANDS	OTHERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post of chief of defence staff (CDS) pending since 1999 Kargil conflict Required for single-point military advice to govt, synergy among 3 services, prioritising procurements & policies Over 70 countries have CDS-like post to integrate military planning & operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has 17 single-service commands (Army 7, IAF 7 & Navy 3) Only two unified commands (Andaman & Nicobar Command & Strategic Forces Command) Theatre commands cost-effective, save resources & prepare forces for integrated land-air-sea operations Urgent need for unified commands to handle space, cyber-space & special operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overhaul working of DRDO (50 labs), 4 defence shipyards, 5 defence PSUs & 41 ordnance factories Bolster defence-industrial base by getting private sector in defence production in a big way Re-examine policies for offsets, FDI, transfer of technology, etc Integrate service HQs with defence ministry, post military officers as directors/joint secretaries Slash cumbersome procurement procedures to fast-track acquisitions

since the 1999 Kargil conflict, to integrated theatre commands in the long-term. All this, incidentally, was discussed at the combined commanders' conference held at Dehradun in January, attended by PM Narendra Modi, as was first reported by TOI.

Similarly, the long-awaited tri-Service organisations to handle the critical areas of space, cyberspace and special operations are still stuck due to politico-bureaucratic apathy. This despite the fact that the original proposal for full-fledged commands was whittled down to creation of just a Cyber Defence Agency, Defence Space Agency and Special Operations Directorate.

In sharp contrast, China has an expansive military space programme and specialised cyber-warfare units, while last year it also re-organised its 2.3-million People's Liberation Army into five theatre commands for better command-and-control and greater offensive capabilities. The “Joint Doctrine of the Indian Armed Forces 2017” is nevertheless a positive step to address the lack of military synergy in the country, with the Army, Navy and IAF often pulling in different directions on doctrinal, training, planning, procurement and operational matters.

The integrated defence staff has prepared the doctrine, pitched at the “military strategic level”, after extensive consultations with the three Service headquarters.

Apart from the national security perspective and the use of military as an instrument of national power, the doctrine also dwells upon “external and internal threats”, “traditional and non-traditional threats”, “state and non-state actors”, said the sources.

“The first joint doctrine was released in 2006. Since then, a lot has changed in terms of geopolitics, threat perceptions, new dimensions in conflict, technology, policies and the like. This second doctrine looks at all that,” said a source.

A military doctrine is basically a set of ideas and , beliefs, which sets a country's approach to national security challenges and how it plans to fight a war. The new joint doctrine will achieve its purpose if India rapidly moves towards integrated military structures “ and undertakes long-term strategic planning to systematically build military capabilities in tune with its geopolitical aspirations.



Sun, 23 Apr, 2017

Govt. plea against military pay upgrade sparks unease

Setting off widespread discontent among military personnel, the Centre on Friday moved the Supreme Court against the judgment of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), which grants Non-Functional Upgrade (NFU) to the armed forces.

The Special Leave Petition (SLP), filed by the Centre, came even as the military personnel are yet to receive their new salaries recommended by the Seventh Pay Commission.

According to a Ministry of Defence official, the decision to challenge the ruling of the AFT to grant NFU was prompted by its legal stand that the tribunal has no authority to take such a sweeping decision. The source, in fact, argued that the government was not against NFU for services.

Core anomaly

NFU has been one of the core anomalies raised by the services in the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations, which are yet to be implemented for military personnel. There have been some reports, quoting Army chief General Bipin Rawat, saying that the issues would be sorted out by the end of April. The NFU entitles all officers of a batch, including those not promoted, to draw the salary and grade pay that the senior-most officer of their batch would get after a certain period. For instance, batch mates of a Secretary to the Government of India, who have not been promoted, will be entitled to the same pay after a certain period of time.

The Sixth Pay Commission had granted NFU to most Group ‘A’ officers but not the military and paramilitary officers. Since then, the armed forces had been demanding a one-time notional NFU to ensure parity.



Sun, 23 Apr, 2017

Sajjan at Naval Command HQ

Canadian Minister for National Defence Harjit Singh Sajjan visited the Western Naval Command headquarters here today. Sajjan interacted with Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command, a Defence spokesperson said. “The minister highlighted areas of congruence between India and Canada and the need to further enhance cooperation between both nations. The discussions looked at continuing the current level of military interactions and the possibilities of increased cooperation,” he said.

The current regional and global security environment and the opportunities it afforded both India and Canada to work together formed part of the talks, the spokesperson said.

The enhancement of maritime and naval cooperation and the visit of Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Winnipeg were also discussed.

HMCS Winnipeg will visit India in mid-May and will carry out professional interaction and Passage Exercise with Indian ships, the spokesperson said.

"The minister also visited the Navy's indigenous guided missile destroyer, INS Kochi. He was taken on a conducted tour of the ship. He appreciated strides being made by India in their indigenisation efforts," he said.

"India and Canada are poised to enhance defence cooperation in fields of counter terrorism, cold climate warfare, peace keeping and naval cooperation," the spokesperson said. — PTI



Sun, 23 Apr, 2017

India to help global defence firms to set up units: Jaitley

'Some more policy changes being planned'

India is formulating policy to help major global defence companies set up manufacturing units in the country in collaboration with Indian firms, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said.

"Under our changed policy, we are in the future going to concentrate not merely in buying from the rest of the world, but encouraging global defence majors in collaboration with Indian companies to set up manufacturing units in India," Mr. Jaitley said at a reception hosted by India's Ambassador to the U.S. Navtej Sarna.

Mr. Jaitley, who holds the additional charge of the Defence Ministry, said the Union Government has made the initial policy changes while some more are being planned.

'Good response' - "Hopefully in the years to come, the impact of this change as far as defence manufacturing policy is concerned would be visible in India. It is receiving a good response from major manufacturers," Mr. Jaitley said without giving any details.

Mr. Jaitley was given the additional charge of the Defence Ministry apart from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs after his predecessor Manohar Parrikar was made the Chief Minister of Goa.

Using cricket lingo, he described himself as the "night watchman" for these two ministries.

"One of my principal responsibilities is to look after the finances of the government. There are some additional responsibilities that keep coming," he said.

Night watchman - "In the U.S. you do not have much of cricket. In India it is our favourite game. In the game of cricket, we call it night watchman," the Defence Minister said, referring to his dual role.



Sun, 23 Apr, 2017

Japan issues advice on how to prepare for a missile strike

By Isabel Reynolds

Japan has early-warning system designed to issue alerts across the nation from loudspeakers, mobile phones

Get indoors, keep away from windows and switch on the TV. That's the latest advice from Japan's government on how to prepare for a ballistic missile strike. Japan has an early-warning system designed to issue alerts across the country from loudspeakers and mobile phones if a missile is thought to be heading its

way. The J-Alert system has come under renewed focus since North Korea test-fired a volley of four ballistic missiles last month, three of which landed in Japan's exclusive economic zone.

A ballistic missile would probably take about 10 minutes to fly the 1,600 kilometres from its launch pad in North Korea to Japan's southern island of Okinawa, the government said in a document published Friday on its civil protection website. Japan has a two-phase missile-defence system, but it's not considered to be foolproof.

While Japan has long lived with the threat of attack by North Korea, fears have grown in recent weeks. Ballistic missile tests from Kim Jong Un have prompted the Trump administration to warn it has the option to use military force against his regime.

If there are no robust buildings nearby, residents should get to the ground and cover their heads, according to the pamphlet. If driving a car, they should stop as soon as safely possible and get away from the vehicle. And if a missile has actually landed nearby, it's best to cover your nose and mouth with a handkerchief and quickly get away.

The documents are the latest additions to a website offering advice in Japanese and English about how to prepare for a number of potential emergencies, such as invasion by ship or an attack by warplanes.