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**Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar
Open University**

(Established by Government of Gujarat)

CERTIFICATE IN INDIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY



**Defence Organization &
Military Modernization**

CINS-04

Message for Students

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University established in 1994, is the only State Open University of Gujarat. It is a mighty contributor in the State's higher education with cumulative enrolment of 8,00,000+ students. The University impacts the lives of citizens of Gujarat with easy access to higher education without any barriers of age, time and space; for it offers more than 80 programmes of Regular and Vocational-Professional courses comprising of Ph.D., Post-Graduate, Graduate, PG Diploma, Diploma, and Certificate; with 250+ Study Centres and 06 Regional Centres across Gujarat.



In past two years, university has pro-actively implemented innovative student-friendly practices as per the *National Education Policy-2020*, established *Gargi* – Centre for the Holistic Development of Women, *Atri* – Special Learner Support Centre, *Gurukul* – Model Learner Support Centre, *Dronacharya* – Centre for Innovation, Startup and Entrepreneurship, *Eklavya* - Student Support Portal, *Suresh Joshi Gyanpith (Chair)*; and introduced *Tej-Trusha Talent Hunt* – a first-of-its-kind initiative across Indian Open Universities. BAOU has also undertaken noble social initiatives such as providing *free-of-cost education* to Covid-orphaned persons and to war-widows and children of Army martyrs.

Further, university aims to achieve newer milestones in academic, societal, and administrative fields. Plans are ripe for establishing ‘Skill Centre’ at every Regional Centre, certifying local artists, craftsmen, and skilled persons through ‘Recognition of Prior Learning’; we also look forward to offer courses in foreign languages and Indian classical languages. The university intends to collaborate with the best of Open Universities across India and at global level to provide world class knowledge and experience to the students of Gujarat.

This eponymous university strives to fulfill the vision of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkarji who believed: *"Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence"*.

Today, the Republic of India is the largest democracy in the world. I believe, we as citizens of India are privileged to enjoy our freedom because of the innumerable sacrifices of our great leaders, freedom-fighters, martyrs, and robust Indian Army and Defence Services that are protecting and preserving our security. In the contemporary world, there have emerged a set of non-traditional issues challenging our security along with the traditional ones; and hence ‘National Security’ becomes very vital for the well-being of every nation as well as human-kind at large. Therefore, we have indigenously prepared the present course on ‘India’s National Security’ with the purpose of sensitizing and orienting the citizens this very crucial and significant concept. As per NEP-2020, we have prepared and launched more than a dozen need-based, indigenous programmes encompassing humanities, social sciences, technology, commerce, management fields.

With all these cumulative efforts, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University is marching ahead to fulfill the motto of ‘Education for All’. We invite you to contribute in this *Yajna* of Knowledge and Education.

Best Wishes!



Prof. (Dr.) Ami Upadhyay
Vice-Chancellor,
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University,
Ahmedabad.

Certificate in India's National Security
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Defence Organization & Military Modernization

Editor

Prof. (Dr.) Ami Upadhyay
Vice-Chancellor,
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad

Programme Advisory Committee

Prof. (Dr.) Ami Upadhyay
Vice-Chancellor,
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad

Prof. Manish,
Professor, Centre for International Politics,
Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.

Dr. Rajiv Gupte,
Associate Professor – Strategic Management,
Institute of Management, Mumbai Educational Trust, Mumbai.

Shri Jay Joshi,
National Secretary,
Forum for Integrated National Security, Mumbai.

Content Writer

Shri Jay Joshi, National Secretary,
Forum for Integrated National Security, Mumbai.

Subject Reviewer

Dr. Rajiv Gupte, Associate Professor – Strategic Management,
Institute of Management, Mumbai Educational Trust, Mumbai.

Language Reviewer

Dr. Pratima Shah, Assistant Professor – English,
Vanita Vishram Women's University, Surat.

Programme Coordinator

Dr. Jainee Shah, Assistant Professor , English,
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University

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CINS-04

Defence Organization and Military Modernization

Block

4

Unit 1 Defence Organizations	01
Unit 2 Higher Defence Decision- Making Structures	14
Unit 3 India's Defence Preparedness	27
Unit 4 Defence Modernization	42
Unit 5 Role of Armed Forces & Para-Military Organization	56

UNIT:1

DEFENCE ORGANIZATIONS

:: STRUCTURE ::

- 1.0 Objectives
- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 The Standing Armed forces
- 1.3 The Intelligence Departments
- 1.4 Paramilitary Units
- 1.5 Let Us Sum Up
- 1.6 Keywords
- 1.7 Suggested Books
- Answers

1.0 OBJECTIVES

After studying this unit students shall:

- Attain a basic understanding of the division of the Defence organisations in India.
- Understand the intelligence agencies of India.
- Understand the Paramilitary Units of India

On completing this unit, you should be able to:

- Understand the role of the armed forces
- Understand the role of the intelligence agencies
- Understand the Paramilitary organisations

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Armed forces, the intelligence departments and the defence related research organisations are the three standing pillars for the defence of India. The defence of India is of paramount importance considering the safety and security of the state as well as guarding its sovereignty. Since the concept of defending the state is quite exhaustive in nature, different organisations have been set up in order to cater to the requirements. In addition to that, there are different challenges to the security of India such as conventional threats which come from foreign states, internal security issues which comes from insurgent groups and internal issues related to political stability as well as other forms of non-conventional threats which come from chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. An important things that needs to be taken care of is the continuous upgradation of defence equipments, revision of battle and war strategies and an eagle's eye to watch over the enemy by analyzing the situation at the frontlines

and also on the internal dynamics in India. This perfect coordination of all the wings of the units enables a state to have a proper defence strategy.

1.2 THE STANDING ARMED FORCES

The mainstay of any state with regards to its defence is the standing armed forces which are ever battle ready and can be mobilized and deployed readily under any circumstances. Any state with the exception of a few (states that do not have an armed force) have a proper armed force which is again divided into different wings and the tasks are cut out for them, which again depends on the roles that they are supposed to fulfil in the event of an issue or when the state is under threat. For instance if we are to go back and survey the organisation of armies then one may very well see that even on the ancient battlefields, the armies were organised according to their capacities and requirements. The archers would for instance occupy the rear position targeting oncoming infantry, cavalry was entrusted with the responsibility to charge towards the enemy while the infantry would engage in hand to hand combat. The modern military right from the signals to the artillery and from the infantry to the armoured corps has the tasks cut out for everyone.

When it comes to the organisation of the Standing Armed Forces then one has to see that the Indian military is sharply divided into the three primary sections of the Army, Air Force and the Navy while the subsidiary groups such as the Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force), Coast Guard, India Reserve Battalion (IRB) and the CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) are entrusted with varying responsibilities. This has been done for the purpose of smooth functioning of the armed forces and to ensure that there is no clash or conflict of interests. Also it has to be noted that the procedure of recruitment, training and the dispensation of duties also vary according to the organisations mentioned.

Primarily as discussed before the Army, Air Force and the Navy are the three wings of the armed forces which are responsible for the external defence of the state. The Indian army has a glorious history and an impeccable track record. In 1776 the British Indian army was established after the creation of a military department. Soldiers and junior officers were recruited from the native population and right from its inception it saw action for instance in the Anglo-Burmese war, the Boxer war and also saw action in the First and Second World War where it received quite a lot of accolades. Although during that time a section of the British Indian army fought against the British Empire under the command of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in what was known as the Azad Hind Fauj and that impacted the independence movement in India. During the time of the partition, the British Indian army was divided between India and Pakistan and gradually over a period of time the

commanding officers were also replaced by natives, thus the Indian army was born.

No sooner did the partition take place, the army saw action in the First Kashmir war against Pakistan where it performed tremendously and actually managed to not only stall the Pakistani advance but also pushed them back. Subsequently even in the 1962 though the army sustained heavy casualties it fought bravely against the Chinese and even earned a victory in the battle of Rezang La. In 1965 the army again saw action against Pakistan. Furthermore in 1971 in the Bangladesh Liberation war, the Indian army showcased its splendour and might and even in the 1999 Kargil war it again exhibited its resilience in defeating the enemy. In all these conventional wars, the army performed tremendously well and not only managed to protect the territorial integrity of India but also went beyond the call of duty many a times.

Apart from that the Indian army also had to take action in the annexation of Hyderabad, Liberation of Goa and also in Operation Meghdoot which was the skilful capture of the Siachen Glacier that offers India a huge strategic advantage when it comes to containing Pakistan. In terms of non-conventional conflicts the army also takes part in counter terror operations especially in the Kashmir Valley as well as in the Northeast and has performed tremendously well in these sectors. Apart from that it has also taken part in various military exercises such as operation Brasstacks and Yudh Abhyas. The army is divided into various commands and has institutions such as the armoured, parachute, signals, artillery, mountain as well as the Special Forces division. Therefore the army is ordained in such a way that it may be able to fight in all theatres of war.

The Indian Airforce is also an important aspect of the defence, formed in 1932 it saw action in the Second World War especially against the Japanese and after the independence the units of the Airforce were also divided and it saw immediate action in the First Kashmir war. In the 1965 war the Indian Airforce planes earned the nickname Sabre Slayers for destroying a major portion of the Pakistani Airforce planes. In the 1971 war the Indian Airforce for the first time experimented with the idea of close air support for ground units and thus gained considerable success against the Pakistani units. Even during the Kargil War the Airforce showed considerable success against Pakistani ground units. Post 1999 the Indian Airforce has taken up a relatively peacetime role of sorties and reconnaissance as well as was involved in the 2019 Balakot strike that destroyed terror training camps in POK. In an ensuing dogfight it also proved its superiority by destroying a Pakistani aircraft and ensuring that the Pakistani air force had no chance to retaliate.

The Indian Navy is the final arm of the main defence force. Its history can be traced back to 1600s when the East Indian Company maintained a naval base in Bombay to defend its interests. The Indian

navy under the British unlike its army counterparts was not that Indianised and there were concerns that after the independence it would be difficult to indianise and train the naval forces. By mid-1950s however the navy was fully indianized, and it saw its first action against the Portuguese in Goa in 1961. The engagements in 1965 and 1971 showcased the might of the navy and despite some losses it successfully thwarted the attacks by the Pakistani navy, successfully blockading it and also ensured troop movement. It was in 1971 that Pakistan's famed submarine PNS Gazi was sunk by INS Rajput. Also during this war the INS Vikrant held off a show of strength by the US navy in support of Pakistan (till the Soviet navy arrived to support India). Apart from conventional theatres the navy also supported friendly governments in Maldives (Operation Cactus) and in Seychelles (Operation Flowers are Blooming). This was done to ensure that a suspected coup was averted. The Indian navy is one of the world's few Blue water navies that has the potential to carry out very long range operations. Since India's interests are quite obvious when it comes to maritime security, the role of the navy is even more accentuated by the means of engaging in anti-piracy operations and also in terms of intelligence gathering and securing the sea routes.

Check your Progress - I

Answer the following:

(a) What was Operation Meghdoot all about?

(b) Why were the Indian aircrafts in the 1965 war known as Sabre Slayers?

(c) Mention any other role of the Indian Navy apart from combat roles.

- (d) Mention one anti-terrorist operation that saw considerable success in the Kashmir Valley?

- (e) On which day is Vijay Diwas or the victory in the Kargil war celebrated?

1.3 THE INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENTS

No state can be safe till it knows the motives and the attitudes of the enemy. Indeed time and again history has exhibited that intelligence gathering, analysis and execution not only saves time and resources but also lives and can turn the tide of the battle in a moment towards one's favour. For instance in the 1971 war it is alleged that the Indian Air Force had information that the Pakistani Air Force would launch a pre-emptive strike on Indian Airfields and as a result of which they were well prepared in advance. Even though the attacks did take place, the damage caused was negligible.

Post-Independence India witnessed a lot of political and diplomatic issues, and it was highly recommended that India should invest in gathering intelligence and information to avert any mishap.

The primary organisation that plays an important role in gathering foreign intelligence, counter-terror operations is the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW). Prior to the formation of the R&AW the Intelligence Bureau (IB) was granted access to gather foreign intelligence but the debacle faced by India during the 1962 war exhibited the futility of depending on the IB and as a result of which it was decided that the R&AW would be formed that would be solely dedicated to the task of gathering and analysing intelligence from abroad. Formed during the tenure of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, it saw many ups and downs. The purpose of the agency is to ensure monitoring the events that occur in states and such events which may have a direct bearing on India, to mould international opinion in the favour of India, organising covert operations and to organise counter-terror operations. Thus the R&AW has the prime task of gathering foreign intelligence by using any means available at their disposal. The next in line is the Intelligence Bureau or the IB, the genesis of which lies in the Indian Political Intelligence in

1921. Post-independence, the control of the agency was handed over to the government of India. The purpose of the agency is to observe internal situations within the country and to make a proper analysis of it. It is involved in ensuring the political and social stability of the state as well as observe the movement of home-grown terror outfits. Thus it is more concerned with the internal security of the state.

Apart from these two prime agencies which are involved in gathering intelligence some other agencies that have a task cut out for them are the Narcotics Control Bureau, Defence Intelligence Agency, The Directorate of Air Intelligence, Directorate of Military Intelligence and the Directorate of Naval Intelligence. The Narcotics Control Bureau or the NCB was formed in the year 1986 and the main purpose of this organisation is to ensure control of contraband (illegal / smuggled) substance that enters the country. It works in close coordination with other nodal agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Customs and Central Excise, State Police forces and even with the Central Economic intelligence Bureau. Moving on the other intelligence agency is the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), created in 2002 after the Kargil war where the quality of intel reports were seriously questioned and this organisation is answerable to the Ministry of Defence. The purpose of this agency as it suggests is to coordinate the Intel reports that pertains to the military. This organisation was created to ensure that the purpose of intelligence gathering is not given to other agencies which may already be overburdened. Under this agency there are three other agencies which directly report to it which are the Directorate of Air Intelligence, Directorate of Military Intelligence and the Directorate of Naval Intelligence. The purpose of these three agencies is to observe the situations related to the military and to act accordingly and to report to the Ministry of Defence.

From here a clear distinction can be made, primarily the task of gathering intelligence is one of the most important things ever when it comes to the defence of the national security, however this task is quite difficult and the process is fraught with dangers and as a result of which decentralisation is preferred to avoid any grave mistakes. Some other intelligence agencies which are important are the National Technical Research Organization (NTRO) which was formed in the year 2004, and though it remains under the control of the R&AW it remains autonomous to some extent.

The Joint Cipher Bureau or the (JCB) falls under the DIA and the purpose of this organisation is to engage in cryptology and decipher coded messages and also engage in decoding messages and engages in cyber defence or cyber-attacks. It was formed in the year 2002 and it is important to note that the transition in technology has brought a change in the tactics of the enemy due to inclusion of cyber warfare.

Check your Progress - II
Answer the following:

(a) What is the need for a strong intelligence network?

(b) Which event caused the formation of the R&AW?

(c) What was the purpose of the creation of the DIA in 2002?

(d) Previously before the R&AW was created which body was entrusted with the task of gathering intelligence?

(e) Apart from the R&AW and the IB mention any other intelligence organisation.

1.4 PARAMILITARY UNITS

The paramilitary units are another set of military formations that are entrusted with the task of defending India from mostly internal security threats as well as from external threats as they may arise. Every armed force requires a first line of defence which is quite important considering the fact that most of these units are tasked to defend the

borders of India as well as oversee internal security in India. For instance the first line of defence against the enemy in the frontlines is the Border Security Force and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). On the other hand in order to deal with the Naxalite violence, the CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) is given that task.

The main paramilitary units operating in India are as follows.

- Border Security Force (BSF).
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- National Security Guard (NSG).
- Sashashtra Seema Bal (SSB).

The first that is the BSF was formed in 1965, after the Second Indo-Pak war which saw massive infiltration from Pakistan. The war actually made the Indian leaders think about not only the intelligence failure but also that the Indian army was overwhelmed to handle such crises in the initial stages. Whereas mobilising the army would take time, the establishment of a BSF would ensure that they act as frontline troops and can stall initial invasive attempts by an enemy state. It reports to the Ministry of Home Affairs. It has grown from a few battalions to around 186 battalions of late. The BSF was also instrumental in training the Mukti Bahini during the 1971 war and this proved to be effective as the Mukti Bahini carried out strikes deep within Pakistani held territory.

So far, the BSF has a very hard task cut out for it, for instance it has taken part in a lot of operations such as the 1971 war, Operation Blue Star, Operation Black Thunder and also in various skirmishes along the border with Pakistan. On the other side, the BSF also has to take care of the eastern flank where there are multiple incidents of illegal infiltration from Bangladesh, not only does that pose a demographic challenge to India but also brings the risk of Islamists. Therefore the main objectives of the BSF is to guard the borders and act as the first line of defence in India, to prevent trans-border crimes and other illegal activities such as smuggling and drug trafficking. It also has to ensure that infiltration from the other territories is well checked, and to ensure round the clock awareness in the region. Apart from that the BSF on deputation can also be entrusted with the purpose of policing duties if the need so arise.

The other unit which needs to be discussed is the CRPF which again reports to the Ministry of Home Affairs, it assists the state government in maintaining law and order in the respective regions and also in counter insurgency operations. It was created in 1939 and was named as the CRPF in 1949 right after independence. The main objective of the CRPF is to protect law and order and to ensure that areas which are disturbed remain calm and as a result of which they also function as an assisting force in the state. The CRPF has seen a lot of action right from

the First Kashmir war to overseas missions in Sri Lanka, Haiti and Liberia. Notably the CRPF is well known for its counter Naxalite operations in which it has decimated them in their own territories.

In 1969 the CISF was launched which again reports to the Ministry of Home Affairs, it became an armed force in 1983. The main purpose of the CISF is to provide security to around 300 industrial units, government projects and establishments all over India. The idea behind creating this force was to defend these critical installations which are vital for the functioning of the nation. They cover all these places in a way to ensure that these important places are not harmed in the event of a war or by the means of an attack by undesirable insurgents. On the recommendations of the Home Ministry the CISF also raised another sub unit known as the Special Security Group (SSG) the purpose of which is to provide security to certain people on recommendation.

The ITBP was raised in the year 1962 and was created in the wake of the war with China and this also comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The idea behind the force was to provide security to the large border with the PRC. As of now it has around 60 battalions, and this unit is also trained in disaster management as well as in a theatre of a non-conventional warfare. The purpose of the ITBP is to ensure protection and vigil on the frontier with the PRC to detect and arrest violation of the border and to also ensure that the local people feel secure. To check illegal immigration and also smuggling along the border, to provide security to important places and sectors at the border and to also preserve law and order in the areas. The activities of the ITBP is exclusive to the norther border with the PRC and it is just like the BSF acting as a front line of defence against any external aggression in the region.

The National Security Guard or the NSG is an elite commando unit that was founded in 1986 and falls under the Home Ministry. The purpose of this organisation is to neutralise internal security threats such as terror attacks and is more or less like a contingency force. They can be deployed anywhere considering the situation at hand and are effective especially in close quarter combat. They specialise in counter terrorism, anti-hijacking operations and hostage rescue. Notably the Operation Tornado is associated with them as they managed to flush out and neutralise terrorists in the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai Attacks. Therefore the NSG is an elite counter insurgency force that is always on the move and can react to situations that requires immediate attention.

Finally, the SSB was created in 1963 and the main purpose of this force is to guard the borders with Nepal and Bhutan. The force was originally named as the Special Services Bureau and the job was to guard these areas from enemy influences. The main purpose initially was to provide military support to the IB and later on to carry out reconnaissance moves, counter attacks and to generally guard the borders. It also has to motivate and mobilise the border population of India and to ensure that in

the event of an enemy attack they can even resort to guerrilla tactics to overpower the enemy.

Check your Progress – III

Answer the following:

(a) Mention the role of the BSF

(b) When was the CISF created?

(c) Apart from combat roles what other roles do paramilitary units play?

(d) The responsibility of guarding the Sino-Indian border falls on which organisation?

(e) Which forces specialise in hostage rescue operations?

1.5 LET US SUM UP

When one observes the various organisations pertaining to the defence of the state, one has to see the amount of perfect coordination, the roles assigned to each and every organisation and also the command structure to which they belong. For every organisation the task is clearly cut out so as to avoid overlapping duties and confusion. For instance, the Indian army has the major job of resisting an invasion or to engage the enemy on their soil, the BSF and the ITBP are those paramilitary units which are the actual frontline in terms of defence. Also one has to credit the intelligence agencies which are again divided in terms of their duties and command structure to ensure that they can offer prime and early warnings about events that may impact the national security of the state. Finally if one sees the paramilitary units it becomes clear that even these units have a task cut out for them and the main purpose is to again serve the nation in their own capacities.

1.6 KEYWORDS

▪ Entrusted	Given to, awarded.
▪ Impeccable	excellent.
▪ Inception	starting
▪ Accolades	Appreciation.
▪ Resilience	Courage
▪ Thwarted	Discouraged
▪ Averted	avoided.
▪ Mould	Influence.

1.7 SUGGESTED BOOKS

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Answers

Check your Progress - I

- (a) Operation Meghdoot was the codename given to the military operation to capture the Siachen Glacier before the Pakistanis could do it in 1984. Since the Glacier is of a great strategic importance and Indian intelligence had reports of Pakistanis attempting to capture it, the Indian military took a pre-emptive action prior to that.
- (b) The Indian Aircrafts were small, light and more manoeuvrable as compared to the American made Sabre fighter planes which were the mainstay of the PAF and as a result in an air to air combat the Indian aircrafts outshone their Pakistani counterparts and hence destroyed a large number of them, thus earning the name ‘sabre slayers’.
- (c) Apart from combat roles the Indian navy is also involved in anti-piracy operations right from the Horn of Africa to the Malacca straits, it also takes up various relief and rescue operations in an around the region.
- (d) Operation SarpVinash
- (e) 26th July

Check your Progress - II

- (a) The need for a strong intelligence network arises from the fact that prior information regarding the position and the strength of the enemy can not only plan a successful battle strategy and save lives and resources but such critical information can also enable the defending forces to prevent large scale conflicts in the first place.
- (b) The debacle faced by the Indian administration in the 1962 war made it realise that the IB was overburdened with work and hence there was a need to create a dedicated external intelligence agency and hence the R&AW was formed.
- (c) The fact that even though the 1999 Kargil war was won, still that did not solve the issue of not being able to get prior intelligence reports of enemy activity and hence in order to streamline the process of intelligence gathering the DIA was formed.
- (d) Intelligence Bureau (IB)

- (e) Directorate of Military Intelligence

Check your Progress – III

- (a) The main role of the BSF is to guard the India-Pakistan and the India-Bangladesh borders, in addition to that it also has to maintain vigil, defend the territory from smuggling, illegal infiltration and other anti-state activities.
- (b) The CISF was created in the year 1969.
- (c) Paramilitary units at times do aid the state in internal administration, controlling riot like situations and also take part in aiding civilians during times of crises.
- (d) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- (e) National Security Guards (NSG)

UNIT: 2

HIGHER DEFENCE-DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES

:: STRUCTURE ::-

- 2.0 Objectives
- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 An overview of the structures
- 2.3 Issues related to decision making
- 2.4 Possible space for improvement
- 2.5 Let Us Sum Up
- 2.6 Keywords
- 2.7 Suggested Books
- Answers

2.0 OBJECTIVES

In this unit we shall:

- Attain a basic understanding of the decision making structures related to defence in India.
- Understand the role played by them.
- Understand the space for possible improvement

On completing this unit, you should be able to:

- Understand the defence decision making structures
- Understand the role played by these structures
- Understand the areas where possible improvements can be made.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

When it comes to the defence of the nation, various structures and organisations have to work in tandem with one another in order to take the correct decisions pertaining to the situation at hand. Accordingly even the organisations are divided on the basis of their work and their capacities, thus situations, the type of organisations and the role given to them to act out are very important whenever it comes to taking important decisions. If one observes it can be easily seen that the British administration had taken up the task of organising the defence of its territory quite seriously and as a result of which they left behind a strong legacy in terms of decision and organisation making structures which India inherited. With some gradual improvements today these structures

stand to serve the nation. Hence it will be worthy to observe them and evaluate them.

2.2 AN OVERVIEW OF THE STRUCTURES

To start with, the defence of the nation solely rests in the hands of the elected government and its allied agencies which are awarded with considerable power to carry out their duties as enshrined within the Constitution. For this purpose a careful division of the existing organisations are made so that none of them may have overlapping duties and responsibilities, and also to ensure that there is a single chain of command which is hierarchical in nature and that intelligence is equally shared to achieve perfect coordination. Often it has been exhibited that during wars or other important events there is a complete breakdown of such structures which may lead to one or another setback.

To begin with the Ministry of Defence is entrusted with the task of organising the defence of the nation. It is a full-fledged ministry that is capable enough to command and oversee the functioning of various organisations that fall underneath it. During the British period the responsibility mainly fell upon the Governor General and the Secretary of State for India, it also had a military council. After independence seeing the grim situation that India had to face in the first war with Pakistan in 1948, there were sweeping changes that were made such as the setting up of the Department of Defence Production in 1962 and the Department of Defence Supplies in 1965. These two were again merged later on to form the Department of Production and Supplies. Later on in 1980 the Department of Defence Research and Development Organisation was created.

The responsibility of national defence rests with the Cabinet and the duty discharged is with the Ministry of Defence. It provides a framework and functionality and coordinates between the governments, the decision making units and also gives directions.

The Ministry has various departments under it which are the Department of Defence (DOD), Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Department of Defence Production (DDP), Department of Defence Research and Development (DRDO) and the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW). In addition to that the Defence Secretary of India acts as the Head of the Department of Defence. The functioning of the DMA will be to ensure the ever ready preparedness of the troops and also to promote unification of planning mode when it comes to execution of operations.

The Department of Defence is headed by the Defence Secretary and this department deals with the basic defence of India. The tasks which are meant for this department are, preparation for defence acts which are meant for war preparations, overseeing the army, navy and the air force as

well as keeping a watch over the activities of the Border Roads Organization as well as ensuring that all purposes of production are carried out smoothly. The department also has the task of watching over the financial condition related to defence and also acts in coordination with other friendly states in terms of cooperation in the area of defence.

The Department of Military Affairs oversees the affairs pertaining to the management of the armed forces which are the navy air force and the army. It is headed by the Chief of Defence Staff. This department was set up in 2019 in order to streamline the process and it is also responsible for acquisition of material related to defence except capital acquisitions.

The Department of Defence Production is headed by the Defence Production Secretary and this was set up in the year 1962. Units that are related to production of materials which can be categorised as core war materials or subsidiary materials come under this department. The purpose of this department is to ensure smooth function and production of material. Other small organisations such as the Ordnance Factories Board, the HAL, BEML, and THE GRSE come under this department.

Next comes the Department of Defence Research and Development is headed by the Department Secretary. It was formed in 1958 in order to engage the Technical Development Establishment of the Army, the Defence Science Organisation and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production. This was done in order to ensure research and production of efficient and indigenous military related products. Finally the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare is looked after by the Secretary and pertains to the organisation, and was set up in 2004 in order to ensure that retired servicemen are looked after for their services rendered during their time.

In addition to that the creation of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) which was created after the recommendation of the Kargil Review Committee is an important milestone in terms of defence in India. This position is entrusted with the task of being the principal military adviser to the Defence Minister and also coordinates among all the branches related to the defence. The purpose behind this post is to ensure the full integration of all the armed forces into one unit in order to ensure optimal use of resources and to enable them to take quick decisions.

In terms of dispensation of duties, a lot of changes have been made due to various wars and insurgencies that have often plagued India. The fact that to defend a large nation from multiple enemies by keeping in mind the dangers posed by conventional, non-conventional or asymmetric threats is not only difficult but also painstaking. As a result of which decentralisation of the units has been done and the hierarchy has been strengthened in order to ensure quicker decision making and responses as well as to avoid overlapping decisions and confusion.

Check your Progress – I
Answer the following:

(a) When was the Department of Defence Production set up?

(b) Mention two divisions under the Ministry of Defence?

(c) Which position was created after the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee was accepted?

(d) After which war were some sweeping changes made in the organisation of the Defence Forces?

(e) The task of overseeing the production of ordinance is given to which organisation?

2.3 ISSUES RELATED TO DECISION MAKING

National security is the biggest agenda for every state and as a result of which a proper functioning military and decision making system is highly recommended. While developed states in the West have done it with the aid of trial and error and even experience managed to improve

their structures a lot needs to be done in India to attain the same positive results. Although the British did leave behind a legacy, debacles such as in 1962 and the failure of interception in 1965 and not to mention the numerous insurgent attacks and threats of asymmetric and non-conventional warfare have plagued the defence of the state. Although the Ministry of Defence and its allied agencies such as the National Security Council (NSC), THE Strategic Policy Group (SPG) and the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) work in near perfect coordination the looming threats do not minimise automatically. Critics have suggested that a sluggish bureaucracy, inefficiency and lack of coordination especially in managing the defence of such a huge state are some of the key issues that plague the policy makers of India. Indeed when it comes to modernization and even upgradation or purchase of defence related equipment often there are delays due to multiple stakeholders and unnecessary intervention from unwanted agencies.

Some of the issues that plague the defence of the state are, the difficulty in coordinating between the various arms of the military, the paramilitary, and the intelligence corps. The difficulty in locating substantive threat points from where enemy states may launch attacks and to fortify them. Since India is a huge state and with two arch nemesis (the PRC and Pakistan) and also taking into account the porous land borders and sea routes this no wonder becomes a very difficult task. In addition to that the threat of illegal migrants and other forms of cross-border activities which threaten the national security agenda is ever present. India also has a huge coastline which although offers it access to the High Seas and also enables it to have a strategic view of the region which adds to its responsibility. Such sea routes need to be well defended from enemy attacks by conventional forces or by rogue states. Furthermore issues related to defence acquisitions and budget is another headache that many of the policy makers have to face in addition to issues related to intelligence gathering and sharing.

Apart from these issues some of the other issues that ail the defence system are, the laggard bureaucratic system. Due to the over emphasis on the civilian command and its superiority over the military many senior and experienced military officials are not included in the decision making structures, as a result of which the task of making decisions or policies is left to the civilian administration. Although it is done to nullify the over bearing nature of the military if it may so arise, in the long run it misses out on the key point that the military has to bear the brunt of any wrong decision taken and as a result of which at times it leads to frustration within the ranks. For instance during heavy cross border firing from the Pakistani side, there were issues that the civilian administration had restrained the military from retaliation which became a problem in tackling Pakistan.

Additionally the fact that civilian leaders and especially elected representatives also have political stakes to look after and consider often there are issues because when it comes to the military, interests are only confined to the functioning and execution of duties to perfection and pertaining to the agenda of national security. As a result of which often many political representatives have either made scathing comments or entertained promises which may harm the agenda for national security, thus leading to dissatisfaction within the military. This also highlights the fact that even though the military is no doubt (and should be under) a proper civilian command, certain irresponsible actors with vested interests often drive wedges between the decision makers and thus may end up harming the entire defence structure.

India followed the western model of completely entrusting the facets of national security and defence to the civilian authorities. Although this model has been in use for years to ensure the near impossibility of renegade movements or the military usurping power, like any other model this too has its flaws. One of the biggest flaws is the fact that the military has been mostly kept out of the decision making system and has been awarded with the task of executing decisions only. For instance, various inputs which may be valuable in the long run from the military are at times suppressed citing codes and other rules. As a result of which the military which is highly professional and disciplined cannot at times question the civilian leadership even if they feel that a mistake is on the cards. In India for instance, the command and control of nuclear weapons is completely in the hands of the civilian administration with the military only acting as a bystander. There have been arguments that a clear lack of trust exists between the civilian and the military officials and with the military being a major stakeholder in the defences related issues of the state their lack of involvement can only lead to a further dangerous situation in the future.

Scholars are however of the opinion that with gradual decentralisation and with the gradual inclusion of the top brass of the military (which is certainly recommended) some noticeable changes may be visible, but the military should never be given virtual control over nuclear weapons, its acquisition, production or even delivery systems and it should be restrained as a professional fighting force. Various Indian strategists have also observed the issues in the Pakistani or the Chinese military for instance and have concluded that it is however best to restrain the military with obvious autonomy, respecting their professional excellence and knowledge in order to maintain democratic traditions and ethos.

Another area where a problem persists is the upgradation of defence related equipment and materials. The demands are made by the military units and then conveyed to the civilian leadership and there are often criticisms that the civilian administration does not either pay heed to

the demands of the military (considering their expertise on the subject) or are too rigid to admit their fault. The net result is that often purchase of such equipment is delayed and the military has to suffer due to the slow decision making process. On the other hand, some argue that such purchases for the purpose of upgradation cannot be done instantly as there are issues related to the quality of the goods, the durability, and efficacy in the theatres of wars and also compromising on the integrity of the purchases made.

If one observes there are lot of issues when it comes to making decisions and especially in the realm of national security and defence of the state such issues no doubt persist, but streamlining them may go in a long way to sort out these issues in the longer run.

Check your Progress – II

Answer the following:

(a) What are some issues faced in terms of decision making?

(b) Describe the civil-military divide in terms of decision making?

(c) Can decentralisation aid in better decision making?

(d) Name two strategic bodies in India.

(e) Do political stakes at times undermine national security?

2.4 POSSIBLE SPACE FOR IMPROVEMENT

Observing these issues, it is important to properly reorganise the structure of decision making while considering the fact that it may affect the politics and the stability of the region as well. Primarily the issues at hand are military modernization, causing a clear cut division of powers which also leads to decentralisation, a sense of belonging and functioning has to be drawn up between the civilian and the military units to ensure smooth coordination and also the intelligence sharing mechanism has to be strengthened. Other important issues are to draw up and advocate for proper security doctrines which are surgical in nature as well as offer a holistic view of the security issues and the supposed solution. It is indeed important to balance all these factors for a smooth functioning.

Notably, the changing circumstances in the subcontinent and emerging new threats such as non-conventional warfare, the persistent nature of Pakistan when it comes to asymmetric warfare, the fact that the PRC has still not relinquished its illegal claims on Indian territories and also other factors are more than enough to provoke the leadership of the nation to take serious note of the circumstances and make efforts to address the same. However the debate that surfaces has more to do with the credibility and the effect on the political composition of the nation rather than the military structure. Primarily the military structure is well ensured to be hierarchical in nature following a chain of command. The three main services of the armed forces which is the Army, the Navy and the Air Force have their own command structure and these three then fall under the command of one unit. Interestingly though, the office of the National Security Advisor, and the various other intelligence units do carry out the daily task of intelligence gathering, assessment and monitoring smoothly to the point that even if there are lapses there are quite few. Notably the 26/11 attacks however exposed the issue within the realm of intelligence gathering and prior to that the fact that in 1999 Pakistani infiltrators had occupied Indian bunkers and managed to hold them out for a long period of time before being dislodged also raised questions on the efficiency of the information wing.

The other side of the debate is offering precedence to the military and its allied units in terms of decision making which may lead to compromising of the political leadership and its efficiency. This in addition may also (as there have been cases in other states) jeopardize the democratic setup of the state. as some would argue, that often the military

cites security threats and convinces the civilian leadership to delegate more and more decision making power to it and after which the military assumes de-facto control over the state. On a secondary note however, the crucial thing will be to strike a balance between both the viewpoints and to award greater autonomy to the military without compromising on the political structure of the state.

In the Post-Kargil scenario the government woke up and realised that it needs to integrate the three armed wings into one unit in terms of a strategic defence related outlook and thus the Chief of Defence Staff was born. The purpose of which was to ensure better coordination between the three wings and also to ensure that no sort of rivalry exists between them. The 1999 war exposed the faultiness that an asymmetric war could happen under a nuclear umbrella which will draw international attention and thus cause political and diplomatic issues. The idea would be to end such a war as quickly as possible for which coordination between the three services needs to take place on a serious note. On the other hand, it also exposed the fact that when it comes to surveillance and observation of the enemy there were serious lapses in that area. This raised concerns in New Delhi and deliberations were done in integrating the branches of the intelligence into a centrally structured unit which would then directly report to the PMO as well as the MoD. The idea would be to gather all the information at hand and then disseminate them as required and pass on to the relevant agencies which would be responsible for executing corrective steps.

The creation of the Defence Planning Committee (DPC) was a step in the right direction, as it substantiated the role of the already present National Security Council (NSC) that was created in 1990s. Of course one has to distinguish between external and internal threats, but at times the line between the two is so thin that it is indeed hard to distinguish. Some argue that this is but old wine in new bottle as the roots of this arrangement lies in 1977 Committee on Defence Planning and the NSC in 1998. Back in those days it was a comprehensive plan that entwined the three chiefs of the three armed forces, the Cabinet Secretary, Secretaries dealing with Foreign, Finance, Home and External Affairs and the Heads of the Intelligence agencies.

In contrast the DPC will deliberate on matters related to national security, strategy, defence and also acquisition and sale of defence related equipment. The recommendations will then be submitted to the Ministry of Defence and after seeking recommendations and adjustments from the Cabinet Committee on Security will be able to authorise any action on them.

There will also be four sub-committees which will engage four important areas which are defence manufacturing units, diplomacy related to defence, plans and capability development and also formulation of a national plan and strategy. It will also work on the formulation of

strategies related to the projection of Indian military power and its assessment.

Critics are however quick to point out the flaws in the system that such dealings often bring more confrontation between the armed wings and the civilian dispensation and as a result of which there is no mutual trust among them. Already the debacle in 1962 exposed the faultiness within the civilian administration which ignored warnings and did not pursue the advices rendered by the military establishment. On the other hand, advocates of this move suggest that in a highly democratic society such as India, such methods could bring a lot of understanding between the armed forces and the civilian administration in terms of coordination and achieving mutual trust and respect. Ultimately national security has its own dynamics and therefore it would be foolish to not upgrade one's decision making units and render the best strategies available for the defence of the nation.

Check Your Progress – III

Answer the following:

(a) In what way did the 26/11 shake the decision making apparatuses?

(b) What were the issues plaguing the model of intelligence sharing?

(c) What are some arguments offered by those who claim that the defence personnel should have a greater say in the matters related to decision making?

(d) Prior to the 26/11 attacks mention one terror strike that compelled the administration to think about some changes.

(e) In which year was the NSC created?

2.5 LET US SUM UP

When it comes to formulation of a national plan of action related to strategy and defence of the state it no doubt becomes a difficult task to say the least. Additionally the fact that in India the military is restrained by the civilian administration has its benefits as well as issues. On one hand it maintains the democratic ethos of the state and does not allow the military to usurp the civilian elected government but on the other the process of taking decisions and defining strategic goals and issues becomes a hard process with the military becoming increasingly irritated at such issues. However if one observes, then it is important to keep the military restrained but on the other hand modernisation of the decision making apparatus and creating a perfect coordination in terms of integrating the military, the civilian administration as well as the intelligence units can go in a long way to sort out many of these persisting problems. It is also important to note that as time progresses newer threats will emerge and in fact have emerged and hence it is important to upgrade the decision making apparatus to secure the national interests of the state.

2.6 KEYWORDS

- **Enshrined** located
- **Looming** Persisting
- **Sluggish** Slow
- **Ail** affect
- **Laggard** lazy
- **Nullify** cancel out, neutralise
- **Scathing** harsh
- **Renegade** rebel
- **Holistic** General
- **Relinquish** Give up

2.7 SUGGESTED BOOKS

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Answers

Check your Progress - I

- (a) The Department of Defence Production was set up in the year 1962.
- (b) Two subdivisions that fall under the Ministry of Defence are the DMA and the DRDO.
- (c) The CDS or the Chief of Defence Staff is a position that combines the decision making power of all the three wings of the armed forces.
- (d) 1948 war
- (e) The Ordnance Factories Board

Check your Progress – II

- (a) Some issues faced in terms of decision making is the laggard bureaucratic hassles and problems which delay initiatives and thus cost the administration's valuable time.
- (b) The civilian and military leadership are at times at loggerheads regarding decision making due to the fact that at times there exists mutual distrust between the two, whereas the civilian administration does not accept the military's role due to the democratic nature of

our administration, the military feels that they are not appreciated despite their experience regarding such matters.

- (c) To some extent decentralisation can enable better decision making as each unit will have their tasks and specific roles cut out for them so as to enable smoother functioning.
- (d) NSC and the SPG
- (e) Yes

Check your Progress - III

- (a) The 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai exposed the fragile intelligence interception and sharing mechanisms of the administration and the delay in executing orders despite knowing that there was a major terror strike.
- (b) Overlapping agencies, no clear cut boundaries of action and the fact that intelligence sharing is a cumbersome process; are some of the issues that plague the intelligence agencies.
- (c) Some critics argue that the civilian administration should offer a greater role to the military in terms of decision making because of their on- field experience pertaining to such matters and the fact that they have a lot of experience regarding wars, battles as well as asymmetric conflicts which may be useful in the longer run.
- (d) 2005 July Bomb Blasts
- (e) 1990

UNIT:3

INDIA'S DEFENCE PREPAREDNESS

:: STRUCTURE ::

3.0 Objectives

3.1 Introduction

3.2 History of Defence Preparedness in India

3.3 Preparation related to Conventional warfare

3.4 Preparation related to Non-Conventional warfare

3.5 Let Us Sum Up

3.6 Keywords

3.7 Suggested Books

Answers

3.0 OBJECTIVES

In this unit we shall:

- Attain a basic understanding of the history of defence preparedness in India.
- Understand the steps taken in accordance to conventional warfare.
- Understand the steps taken in accordance to non-conventional warfare.

On completing this unit, you should be able to:

- Understand the issues that have affected India's Defence preparedness.
- Understand the area of conventional defence.
- Understand the area of non-conventional defence.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

When it comes to fighting wars and defending the state, defence preparedness is a prime concern. History has shown that often larger and even well-equipped armies have faltered on the battlefields due to mistakes that could have been easily avoided in the first place. notably, the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the attack on the USSR by Germany in 1941, the initial setback that India faced in 1965 and the massive invasion by China in 1962 against India are some prime examples as to how an utter intelligence failure, the inability to cope up with the situation and the inaccurate responses given to such invasions have caused not only massive losses of lives and materials but also of morale and prestige.

Defence preparedness deals with the concept of an all-round maintenance of military mobility, adequate resources in and off the field, well-structured supply lines, proper intelligence and its analysis, quick response and the most important stalling an invasion or quickly countering an enemy in any given situation. For years, Indian strategists have given utmost importance to the aspect of defence preparedness. A lot of lessons have been learnt from its initial debacles but more needs to be done especially in the changing circumstances.

3.2 HISTORY OF DEFENCE PREPAREDNESS IN INDIA

In 1948 there were reports of Pakistani intrusion in the formerly independent state of Jammu and Kashmir and while India grappled with the process of reunification of the state, this alarming piece of news did not go down well in New Delhi. The erstwhile Maharaja of the state had resisted attempts from both India and Pakistan to join their territories, but the sudden and well-planned aggression by Pakistan was certainly not only a wakeup call for the Maharaja, but also for the Indian administration. On one hand India had to not only deal with the internal dynamics of the newly independent state but also had to secure its borders. The Indian administration was well aware of the fact that the Pakistani establishment would be a thorn on its side for a long way to come, despite that a section of the leadership were willing to work out an understanding with the enemy state.

India's quick response and the ability to lure the Maharaja to signing the Instrument of Accession and thus making the territory a full-fledged part of the Indian Union was a strategic move that angered the Pakistanis, but the quick response by India ensured that the Pakistani army and its allies failed in taking their initial objective and the counter attacks ensured that they were pushed back. While this may seem like a textbook warfare methodology the lack of defence preparedness can be questioned. In 1965 too, during the Second Indo-Pak war there were adequate field intelligence reports of supposed Pakistani intrusion in the Kashmir sector, the government was slow to react and waited and watch for months before war broke out. During that war, though India reacted superbly but it failed to capitalise on the initiative and thus the war even though it turned out to be in India's favour the Tashkent Agreement did not award India with any gains, instead it actually allowed Pakistan to escape unscathed. Once again the defence preparedness and the political will of the leadership was in question.

The 1962 war was obviously the biggest eye opener in terms of India's military history. Critics have pointed out that India's defence preparedness was abysmally low and inadequate to address the situation at hand. Flawed policies, trusting the Chinese in a unilateral fashion and harping on the Non-Aligned movement and also the fact that the Indian military was not at all modernised were some of the key issues that

hampered with the defence preparedness. The war resulted in an utter disaster for India and led to years of peculiarity within the defence and the political leadership. In contrast the 1971 war which could be seen as India's biggest success as it not only managed to decimate Pakistan but also carved out an independent Bangladesh on the eastern flank exhibited India's foresight and military preparedness along with an able leadership. Indira Gandhi was able to not only seek timely Soviet assistance and intervention in order to not only bolster the defences of India, but to also keep out the United States which was battling for Pakistan but the leadership also gave full scale autonomy to the military commanders to take actions as they deemed fit. In this scenario India had come a long way to actually establish itself as a regional power in the region. Additionally 11 years later when India managed to scale the Siachen Glacier and occupy it, the leadership acted excellently along with the military in not only scaling and capturing the Siachen Glacier but also managed to oust Pakistan from the region. As a result of which it can be seen that preparedness in terms of military and civilian leadership in close cooperation can decide the outcome of an event quite efficiently.

However the 1999 Kargil war again exhibited India's lack of fortitude. It was only when several patrols of the Indian army did not report back that India managed to understand the gravity of the situation and launched a counter attack in order to oust the Pakistani army. However credit has to be given to the then establishment which not only managed to oust Pakistan but also turned the international favour towards India. Despite the achievements, one has to realise that the lack of foresight and preparedness especially in terms of analysing Intel reports regarding Pakistani intrusion costed us a lot. Other conflicts such as the conflicts with the PRC in Sikkim in 1967 and skirmishes along the LOC also exhibited India's tenacity and courage to not back down, despite betraying the fact that India has always played defensively without ever going on the offensive except in 1965 when it actually launched attacks along the Punjab sector deep within Pakistan to give it a taste of its own medicine.

Regarding non-conventional and asymmetric warfare there are glaring and obvious loopholes and the sooner these are addressed the better. India of late has realised that Pakistan and the PRC are under no circumstances friendly nations and they have evil designs which cannot be undermined and as the age old dictum goes that if one knows the enemy well then half the battle is already won. Pakistan's continuous support for non-state actors (terrorists) and the PRC's encirclement of India by the means of a chequebook diplomacy and interfering in our neighbours needs more than just military preparations and should go hand in hand with the political classes' willingness to counter effectively. India's gradual dethroning of the Pakistani clout in the international arena, its engagement with the ASEAN and other neighbouring states of the PRC such as with Mongolia, Japan and South Korea and even

reaching out to Australia, the New Zealand and its ever expanding relations with the EU and other major powers such as the United States while simultaneously keeping the Russian Federation in good books has given the PRC sleepless nights. Additionally, India's diplomatic salvo against Pakistan has discredited it in the international arena and its strikes deep inside enemy territory in 2016 and 2019 exhibited the willingness of the current leadership to walk the extra mile to be on the offensive.

When we discuss defence preparedness, a few things must be considered, which are the ability of the political leadership to rise up to the occasion and challenge, the quickness of reaction, the ability to change tactics and strategies as the situations may also change, proper defence modernisation and to keep a step ahead of the enemy and to also ensure that the enemy should be always on the run instead of allowing it to gain an upper hand in the initial stages. In this context it would be important to mention Israel and its armed forces which has always maintained not only a military and logistic superiority despite being surrounded by hostile states, but due to its diplomatic acumen it has also seized the initiative in the early stages. Be it the 1967 war or the Yom-Kippur war, the Israelis have not hesitated in trying out any strategy that would enable to organise a proper defence. Preparedness is of course there but in addition the political leadership is united in its aims and goals.

Therefore, when we discuss defence preparedness it should not only entail modernisation of the armed forces, but also modernisation of the political and the military leadership. The military class looks up to the civilian leadership for guidance and sanctions to execute orders without hesitation. For instance the fact that India retaliates ferociously against Pakistani transgressions across the LOC demonstrates the willingness of the military to take up the challenge and also that of the civilian leadership to back its armed forces in any such events. Diplomatic moves cannot be discounted as well and in any case all these factors should go hand in hand in perfect coordination to ensure that preparedness is all time high.

Check your Progress – I

Answer the following:

- (a) In what way can intelligence failure be considered to be an important aspect of failure in defence preparedness?

(b) How did intelligence reports and analysis enable a quick victory over Pakistan in 1971?

(c) How can the civilian leadership enable proper defence preparedness?

(d) Which latest addition has been made to detect intrusions across the LOC?

(e) Diplomacy and military preparedness go hand in hand in averting major incidents. Agree or disagree?

3.3 PREPARATION RELATED TO CONVENTIONAL WARFARE

Conventional wars are of utmost importance and in this regard it will be worthy to examine India's defence preparation accordingly. Of course the concept of defence modernization also comes in this aspect but one also has to take into account the increasing amount of threats and changing circumstances that may contribute to newer thoughts being inculcated into the policy of preparedness. Obviously, when it comes to defence preparation it has been discussed that the political leadership should go hand in hand with the military leadership for best results. Also one has to take into account the fact that India on two sides faces two arch enemies which do not have good intentions. Ever since independence Pakistan has turned out to be a threat for India in terms of conventional warfare, also the PRC since 1962 and even before that as some experts would claim never had good intentions on India. The events of 1962

clearly exhibited the disdain that it had for India. Accordingly India also has to take into account the fact that newer forms of conventional threats may engage which may be a two pronged war of either a long or a short duration from the PRC and Pakistan and also a single front war which may drag on thus exhausting our resources. Unlike Pakistan, India aims higher and would thus be disastrous if India were to actually get engaged in a long term conflict with no end in sight.

In the Indian context, it's the army that dominates the military strategy with very less in the initial states being dominated by the Air Force or the Navy. Even though, history exhibits that since the First World War the Navy and the Air Force have dominated the show. India's 5 wars with its neighbours, its unsettled border issues with the PRC and its unsettled territorial issue with Pakistan and the ongoing Chinese incursions in the norther region of Ladakh and its claims along the Arunachal Pradesh sector are something to be concerned about. On the other hand the debacle in 1962 showed that had India engaged in an air war with the Chinese then things could have turned out to be far more different than the final outcome. Furthermore the 1971 war also showed that India's air superiority prevailed over Pakistan when the latter tried to bomb Indian airbases. India's defences were again tested in the 1999 war when the Indian Airforce took punitive strikes against Pakistani emplacements which again gave it an advantage. However in these cases the main issue was the grappling intelligence problem which did not allow the Indian forces to early pre-emptive strikes. The main problem that the Indian forces face is the lack of a political guidance (which of late has changed a bit) and the fact that the Indian leadership seeks validation from other world powers to justify its actions often at the cost of the lives of its own troops.

Critics are quick to point out these flaws and also urge the command and the political leaderships to take not only punitive but also preventive actions against the conventional enemies who would otherwise resort to the same thing. India fights defensively against its foes, and India must not only calibrate its responses with a view on the military, the political and diplomatic moves in order to avoid fighting defensively. With the PRC the main concern is to ensure that such incidents of border transgressions and sudden attacks do not take place. It is highly suggested that India should not pay much heed to the talks for resolving the border dispute as the PRC would not entertain anything less other than buying time, but India should also upgrade its border infrastructure to compel the Chinese in rethinking their actions. Since 1962 India's thought process vis-à-vis the Chinese has been defensive in nature and as a result of which instead of resorting to kneejerk reactions, it should not only reply in a tit for tat way but should also create a proper level of deterrence and punishment for Chinese actions which will push them off.

With the Make in India initiative strongly under way and the fact that now 49% of FDI is allowed in the defence sector there is a strong private-public partnership which will go in a long way in sorting out key issues that plague the defence industry. Military upgradation is a must if India must deal with two of its enemies. The inclusion of 22 attack Apache helicopters and 15 Chinook choppers, also the inclusion with the Russian Kamov 226 choppers and the fact that under the Make in India initiative around 200 helicopters will be manufactured will go in a long way to boost the Air Force. The inclusion of the Rafael Multi-Role Fighter aircrafts from France will not only boost the depleted squadrons of the Air Force, but technically speaking these also score a mark over the Chinese and the Pakistani aircrafts.

In 2019 the BRO constructed around 60,000 kms of road, 19 fully functional airfields and also quick landing strips for helicopters in the border regions. This came also with the construction of many forward bases that have quick strike teams to take down enemy intrusions and to ensure that the enemy does not get a chance to overrun the post (in order to avoid the events of the 1962 war). Additionally the fact that for a long period main battle tanks such as the Arjun and other armoured vehicles are made in India has not only boosted our production but has also ensured that the defence budget is not constrained. In addition to that, the coast guard has been beefed up and the inclusion of anti-submarine missiles will enable India to counter a Chinese submarine threat. Also it is important to note that India has procured the Dhanush artillery which will deter the enemy in the long run.

Although, in terms of infrastructure India is doing remarkably well (despite the fiscal considerations), the fact that India is a nuclear power does give it an amount of required deterrence against its conventional foes. Also for a long period of time, the Indian leadership was more focused on Pakistan and believed that the Chinese threat was limited to border transgressions and aiding Pakistan but the incident in 2020 at Galwan has changed this to some extent and as of now the leadership believes that the Chinese can also be a direct threat. This is an area where the lapse has been noticeable. Although it is easy to criticise the establishment but unlike Pakistan, India being a proper democratic nation not only has to worry about the other sectors it also has to worry about a neighbour that would go to any extent to cause harm, although Pakistan's GDP is smaller it actually spends more on defence to its GDP than India. The Chinese on the other hand spend way more than India and as a result of which it has a huge advantage when it comes to military hardware. India therefore has the option of forming alliances against the PRC with an aim to keep it in check. Reports of Chinese activity near the Andaman islands is not good news but with increasing relationships with the Southeast Asian states and with Korea Republic, Japan, Australia and the U.S. India does have the option of giving the Chinese a taste of their own medicine.

Therefore when it comes to defence preparedness, it should not solely focus on arming the state, but it goes hand in hand with skilful diplomacy, checking the enemy, down casting and discarding its credibility and also setting up a higher level of deterrence like a nuclear and a conventional deterrence. Certainly it would be foolish for any administration to trust these two states, but it would be smart to be prepared in case of any unfortunate events.

Check your Progress – II

Answer the following:

- (a) In what way did our conventional defence preparedness falter before the PRC in 1962?

- (b) How far is infrastructure related to conventional defence preparation?

- (c) How far can financial constraints affect conventional defence preparation?

- (d) After which incident were the Surgical Strikes carried out?

- (e) After which incident were the Balakot bombings carried out?

3.4 PREPARATION RELATED TO NON-CONVENTIONAL WARFARE

Non-conventional threats to India have assumed a far greater proportion of late than conventional threats, that does not however mean that India should not be prepared for the latter, but there is a sharp distinction when it comes to the two. In terms of conventional threats the enemy is well known, its activities can be traced far easily and the response can also be dealt in a far greater manner. In terms of non-conventional threats the enemies are hidden and unknown. It can range anything from terrorists, insurgents, psychological warfare, cyber warfare to even chemical and biological warfare. The recent pandemic brought about by the Wuhan virus has exhibited how a biological pathogen disguised as a weapon can wreak havoc all over the world. Therefore when it comes to non-conventional warfare India needs to be more prepared and realise that the threat is ever increasing and is also assuming far greater proportions.

Primarily, the main threat faced by India is the threat of terrorism emanating from Pakistani sponsored terrorism, and home-grown insurgents in the Northeast as well as from the Naxalite influence. Of late the 26/11 attacks have also shown the willingness of terrorists to traverse the sea route to launch vicious attacks. While most terrorists are restrained in fighting in Kashmir and in other areas as mentioned quite a lot of them are home-grown. The threat of the Indian Mujahidin, the SIMI and the increasing radicalisation in the country is ever persistent. In addition to that, it is also important that India is vulnerable to repeated terror strikes that rocked the nation in the previous decade tremendously. While most of these terrorists would go in a long way to destabilise the state, they focus on the vulnerable sectors to cause maximum damage. India's preparation against terrorism stems from the fact that it relies a lot on intelligence gathering and analysis and arresting the threat right before they become even more evident. For instance in 2003 the Operation SarpVinash was launched in Kashmir that led to the utter decimation of many terrorists and complete liquidation of their outfits. However that was a defensive operation and did not engage the enemy forces across the LOC. The 2016 and the 2019 attacks in Pathankot and Pulwama again exhibited the willingness of these terror outfits to continue the fight. As a result of which for the first time the forces displayed extreme tenacity and crossed the LOC to destroy their camps and also ordered air strikes deep within enemy territory to send a message. In this case the Pakistani establishment cried hoarse but no one would buy its projections.

Here it is important to note that after years of suffering at the hands of terrorism, India finally woke up to the challenge and actually took the war to the heart of the enemy. For the Pakistani establishment terrorism was a simple and cost-effective way to keep India engaged but the fact that it responded in a far more harsh manner actually shook Islamabad and also demoralised these elements. The same however cannot be said in terms of the Naxalite violence although a lot of success has been achieved, India still struggles to find an end to the Naxalite influence not only on the battlefields but also in the academia. Citing human rights and other democratic norms the Naxalites have run a riot. Their tactics are not just restrained to hit and run and other means of guerrilla warfare but they also receive a lot of support from mainstay civilians against which the need of the hour is to act tough to deny them the right of artful presentation. When it came to terrorism from Pakistan India is more occupied, but sadly neglects the Naxalite violence which actually affects the heartland of the nation. Regarding terrorism in the Northeast India again has successfully decimated a lot of these groups leaving only some fringe elements to survive. Working on close deals with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar India has secured its borders in a much appreciated fashion which also ensures that these terrorists do not get refuge in these states. Furthermore the artful diplomatic talks with many of these groups have stalled their advance in many places. In the northeast India has been particularly successful in not only weaning away the local population from supporting these divisive elements but has also ensured that splits have occurred which has destroyed the resolve of these groups to keep fighting.

Of late rather than fighting a solely defensive war, the Indian administration has realised that primarily it has to ensure that Pakistan which is the main sponsor of terrorist activities gets internationally discredited and for which a lot has been done. As Pakistan loses its international credibility and is reduced to a mouthpiece for these organisations it has not only enabled the boldness of India's security forces but has also ensured that punitive actions taken by India garner sympathy and not criticisms. Furthermore India has also ensured that home support for terrorists wanes over a period of time as it will not only lead to a destruction of the morale of the terrorists but will go in a long way to boost confidence among the local population.

Another aspect that is often ignored is the psychological aspect of non-conventional threats that can cause massive damage to the morale of the citizens if not to infrastructure and this is also linked to other forms of warfare such as cyber, biological and chemical warfare. While terrorism does fall under non-conventional threats, they have a distinct identity and external support which makes people realise their motives and actions in the other cases it can be a simple canister of chemical weapons, a sudden cyber-attack that brings down power installations or even a biological pathogen such as the Wuhan virus which cannot be easily identified. The

purpose of such an attack is to make the people feel more vulnerable and critical of their inability of the government to deal with it. For instance when India suffered in the Pulwama attacks there were enough chatter in the media as well as over the internet that the Indian government must deal with it and it ended up in discrediting the government. However when the government did react efficiently the same groups quickly called it as war mongering. The same repetition of events happened in the wake of the Chinese assault in 2020. In a similar fashion the Chinese have employed cartographic aggression by which it keeps claiming Indian Territory and while India protests the Chinese do not heed. The Indian response so far has been lukewarm. It is indeed difficult to find Chinese nationals who would be critical of Beijing and the inability to penetrate the psychological machinery of Pakistan makes us suffer a lot. Although diplomatically India has done a lot but still a lot needs to be done to counter such threats. Being a democratic country India cannot engage in arrests of individuals just for questioning the government as these agents are very well versed in the legal mechanisms to slip out, but the state may work their way in the academia, the media as well as in terms of public broadcasting in order to counter such dangerous narratives. It may also seek to discredit the enemy states internationally and nationally to build up a public consensus to deal with it.

The other two modes of non-conventional warfare which are the chemical and biological warfare have actually exhibited the weakness in the Indian defence. Such dangerous elements if unleashed upon the entire population can not only bring down the state, but it can pave way for a larger escalation. Again history has exhibited the use of chemical warfare in the First World War which is the reason why a state like India needs to be extra cautious about it. The Indian defence has of late recognised the need to a better upgradation of containment facilities and options to counter in the face of not only a chemical and biological warfare but also a cyber-warfare which can not only bring down assets and cripple the nation but as explained can also ensure that that the enemy has an easy access to the softer targets. India's defence against such elements date back to 1998 and in 2002 it also considered the preparation of various evacuation and underground bunkers to keep citizens safe. However, the fact that India does not have such programmes of its own often makes the issue of deterrence slower. The DRDO has of course done a tremendous programme on bio and chemical weapons defence research and is on the way to understand the mechanism of many of these elements and to draw up appropriate responses. India needs to work properly in these areas as it not only has a huge and vulnerable population but the recent Wuhan virus attack has also shown that when it comes to preparation it is quite below the safety standards.

Check your Progress – III

Answer the following:

(a) Mention some non-conventional threats faced by India?

(b) What was the Operation Sarp Vinash launched in 2003 all about?

(c) How can India improve its chemical and biological warfare defence preparedness?

(d) Psychological aspect of war has often been neglected in India. Agree or Disagree?

(e) Of late threats of a cyber-warfare has become more prominent in India. Agree or Disagree?

3.5 LET US SUM UP

Thus as one may witness, India has gone a long way from being a nation that was subjected to continuous delays in terms of modernisation and strategisation to actually rethink its approaches in terms of strategies

and executing them skilfully. Notably, India though it has a history of a rich strategic culture since the ancient times has often faltered due to bureaucratic excesses and the lack of fortitude by the civilian leadership. The looming threats from two of its neighbours in addition to the ever persistent threats of non-conventional warfare should awaken the Indian leadership in adopting far reaching approaches that will not only defend the state from any sort of an aggression but will also ensure a massive amount of deterrence that should go a long way in creating a proper strategic culture in the nation.

3.6 KEYWORDS

▪ Faltered	failed
▪ Grappled	dealt with, handled
▪ Lure	attract
▪ Unscathed	safe
▪ Acumen	skill
▪ Decimate	destroy
▪ Tenacity	strength
▪ Salvo	attack
▪ Wanes	reduces

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Answers

Check your Progress - I

- (a) Intelligence failure can go in a long way to cause massive destruction and failure of defence preparedness, as proper intelligence gathering and analysis are the first steps to get information about the whereabouts of the enemy and to ensure that adequate preparations are made.
- (b) In 1971 the Indian Intelligence agencies had prior information regarding Pakistani air strikes and in addition to that their entire troop movement, logistics and other armaments and deployment of soldiers and as a result of which India could plan accordingly.
- (c) The civilian leadership can engage on a better sense of cooperation with the military administration, while taking up the role of an active leadership guiding the war effort and hence it can enable in proper preparation of defence.
- (d) Thermal Imagers and Motion Sensors
- (e) Agree

Check your Progress – II

- (a) In 1962 the Indian military was not modernised and in addition to that the Indian administration was lulled into an easy state of affairs with visible Chinese reassurance that there would be no aggressive move on their part. Also the leadership was slow to react to the initial attack by the PRC.
- (b) Infrastructure is in fact one of the most important aspect of defence preparation as not only it enables the quick deployment of troops and other armaments but also ensures that the enemy is deterred in the early stages of a war.
- (c) Financial constraints are one of the key factors that hamper defence preparation, due to which purchases related to defence, modernisation, constructing infrastructures can be delayed and thus hamper the process of defence preparation.

- (d) Uri attacks
- (e) Attack in Pulwama

Check your Progress - III

- (a) Some non-conventional threats faced by India are terrorism, home-grown insurgency, naxalism and other forms of non-conventional warfare like CBN (Chemical-Biological-Nuclear) warfare.
- (b) The Operation SarpVinash launched in 2003 was a dedicated operation meant to wipe out terrorist bases in Kashmir and it was considered to be a success.
- (c) India first of all needs to understand that such threats are quite real and can quickly destroy the very basis of the state, it should have proper intelligence gathering regarding enemy activities pertaining to such threats and in addition to that it should dedicate a proper study for their preparations which will further lead to the creation of rapid reaction teams, possible methods of containment and also sanitizing the affected areas.
- (d) Agree
- (e) Agree

UNIT:4

DEFENCE MODERNIZATION

:: STRUCTURE ::-

- 4.0 Objectives
- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Modernization of the Indian Army
- 4.3 Modernization of the Indian Air Force
- 4.4 Modernization of the Indian Navy
- 4.5 Let Us Sum Up
- 4.6 Keywords
- 4.7 Suggested Books
- Answers

4.0 OBJECTIVES

In this unit we shall:

- Attain a basic understanding of military modernisation pertaining to the army
- Understand military modernisation regarding the Air Force
- Understand the military modernisation regarding the Indian Navy

On completing this unit, you should be able to:

- Understand the Army modernisation
- Understand the Modernisation of the air force
- Understand the modernization of the navy

4.1 INTRODUCTION

A well thought out strategy, proper channelized intelligence and analysis and military modernisation are some of the most important aspects for a proper defence against enemy states and also against non-conventional threats. Indeed, the history of the militaries have taught that those states or empires that did not modernise their armed forces suffered inglorious defeats at the hands of their enemy. During the Second World War, the Germans had an initial advantage due to the fact that compared to the allies their armaments were far better and updated. Of course there are debates about the efficacy of sole military modernisations without a strategic thought. For instance, the PAF (Pakistani Air Force) had a technical advantage over the IAF (Indian Air Force) in the 1971 war, but since the Indian intelligence had prior warnings about an impending air

raid the technical advantage did not work out in the favour of the PAF. Similarly the fact that India had an advantage when it came to UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) during the 1999 Kargil war gave us a serious advantage in detecting and directing artillery fire on the Pakistani positions. In this accord it is important to note that there is a significant attempt to modernise the armed forces by indigenous means to reduce dependency on external sources. Here it has to be said that over dependence on external sources may hamper our efforts in the case of a war as it was already experienced during the wars with Pakistan especially in 1965. The reforms range from initiatives that encourage the implementation of indigenous equipment which may be related to hardware and software in addition to that other reforms are to allow around 74% of FDI instead of the earlier agreed 49% , increasing capital for indigenous manufacture, procurement and also to enable other private players to emerge as stakeholders in the entire system.

From these two examples one may understand that military modernisation is indeed importance and when combined with a proper strategy the results can be devastating for the enemy.

4.2 MODERNIZATION OF THE INDIAN ARMY

As the mainstay of the armed forces, the Indian Army is no doubt the most important facet of the defence forces. It has not only borne the brunt of invasions but has also successfully managed to thwart enemy attempts at disrupting our peace and tranquillity. The Indian army has a glorious tradition right from its inceptions during the British rule, since then it has developed into a professional fighting force that is dedicated to its duty. Right from the start, the army was equipped with WW2 era equipment which saw action in the 1948, 1962 and 1965 wars. Of course the Shermans, Centurion and the Matilda tanks which were WW2 era suited the purpose in those days, but the debacle in the 1962 conflict greatly showed a few gaps in our military.

The first was the lack of a strategic planning and foresight due to the short-sighted nature of our political leadership and the second was the failure to modernise the armed forces. While the Chinese were mostly equipped with SMGs (Sub Machine Guns), the Indian soldiers mostly carry the age old bolt action rifle. The problem with the Bolt action rifle was that it had a limited rate of fire and the Chinese strategy was to amass large amount of troops and charge towards the Indian lines (it was foolish of course to some extent as initially the Indian troops managed to cut them down), but they soon would overwhelm the Indian positions and as a result of which we had to retreat from one position to the other.

The period of post-1962 saw very less political turmoil in the country, but the death of Prime Minster Nehru had created a political vacuum that was filled by leaders who realised that the Nehruvian dream of an anti-military posturing had died in 1962. As a result of which the

new leadership appointed a committee under the able leadership of Lt. Gen K.V. Krishna Rao who made the recommendations that the army had to gradually move from solely infantry based mass formations to mechanised and artillery units which were critical to not only fight at great heights, but to quickly decimate the enemy which form large groups such units were necessary. The process of modernisations did not only mean the blind purchase of weapons and armaments, but to course out a strategy and accordingly to ensure such plans. During the same period more Ordnance factories were created in order to ensure that the production of defence equipment would speed up. Later on in the Kargil war of 1999 the Indian defence forces realised that the Pakistanis had now resorted to a complete sense of an asymmetric warfare by the means of which they wanted to gain a tactical advantage. The idea was to use Stabo bombs to destroy their positions as well as use the 155 mm Howitzers and Self-Propelled artillery to decimate them. In addition to that the UAVs were frequently used to mark their positions in order to minimise the loss of lives.

From 2004 till 2009, there were severe shortcomings in terms of military modernisation. This era has severely degraded the war fighting capabilities of the Indian Army. The army's obsolescence of its current equipment include night fighting aids, 155mm artillery howitzers, light utility helicopters, attack helicopters, air defence assets, various categories of ammunition, anti-tank and AD missile systems, close quarter battle carbines, assault rifles, machine guns, sniper rifles, anti-material rifles, and other urgently needed weapons and equipment by the Special Forces.

Adding to the existing shortages is the new raising of the mountain strike corps for our Eastern theatre. Even though there are attempts to reduce the gap in terms of technology and manpower it cannot be done suddenly. Battle Management System being developed indigenously, which seemed promising, is recommended to be annulled for inexplicable reasons. At this rate the army modernisation will remain in a poor state for the foreseeable future, in an era when the nation faces a two front conventional war threat in addition to the challenges of counter terrorism in the Western and in the North-eastern regions of India. So far, while many new schemes have been announced and sanctions given in respect of artillery, air defence and small arms, no noticeable changes have occurred on the ground. However, here it has to be mentioned that in the previous times the specific command chains pertaining to the three branches of the armed forces have now given way to the organisation of the Integrated Defence Staff or to the Integrated Theatre Commands, the creation of the new Chief of Defence Staff in 2020 goes in a long way to achieve this in totality. Also the addition of a Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and the unit for Special Operations Division are critical for proper modernisation. Furthermore, keeping in view the recommendations of the Shekhar Committee report the idea will be to

create a proper Air Defence Command, Logistics Command and the Training Command in addition to defence readiness seeing the situation on ground.

Indian Army is likely to face four types of threats and challenges in the future including traditional threats from China and Pakistan; contemporary threats in the form of terrorism; internal challenges; and out of area contingency threats. This implies that India faces a two front threat as far as conventional conflicts are concerned and these may be large scale conflicts or even border wars under the nuclear shadow. The other challenges are in the form of international terrorism, and home grown insurgencies aided and abetted by some of its neighbours, and out of area challenges whose contours are hazy at present. Hence the element of strategic uncertainty is introduced in to the entire operational planning which has a direct impact on overall force levels and capability build up. One fact which is undeniable is that should there be another war it will be of 'Hybrid' nature and it may involve fighting the enemy simultaneously on two fronts, in varying terrain, at the borders, while simultaneously countering terrorism and insurgency in the hinterland. There are a large number of studies that have been done in the Army in this context and these can be updated and fruitfully utilized to get an insight into the operational preparedness and budgetary support required.

The Government has notified the strategic partnership policy focusing on selecting an Indian strategic partner for all major defence procurements by the Government in key segments like helicopters, submarines, armoured fighting vehicles etc. This policy is an integral step towards indigenisation and capability development. It would not be an exaggeration to say that, if properly implemented, the policy may result in revolutionary changes in domestic defence production and the creation of an ecosystem for defence manufacturing. However the progress on the ground is excruciatingly slow.

The process of modernizing the largest standing army in the world is an arduous task. The modernization of armed forces remains in the public domain because of the continuous tussle of the army with hostile neighbours. The process of restructuring the Indian army is taking place after necessary approval. The concept of IBG (Integrated battle group) introduced in the formation, they are light brigade-level organic group capable of taking swift action. The aim of the reform is to cut the overall strength of about 1, 50,000 personnel in 5-7 year. This aims to make army leaner and finer. Cutting the personnel size will save adequate fund for equipping existing soldiers. A lot of programmes have been made to acquire a modern rifle, machine gun and protective gears. The army has already begun the process to acquire around 7, 00,000 rifles, 44,000 LMGs 44,600 carbine in a contract signed between the ministry of defence and the US firm Sig Sauer for procurement of 72,400 assault rifles. The army would receive 66,400 of those and rest will be given to

navy and air force. The first batch of SIG 716 has already arrived in December 2019.

Apart from this, a joint collaboration between ordinance factory board and Russia will make AK 203 Kalashnikov rifle in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, which will be the mainstay weapon of Indian army. Another key development is in the bulletproof jacket developed by Major Anoop Mishra, which has been found successful and will be manufactured by the private sector. Apart from this, India is reorganizing its mechanized force to achieve strategic mobility for a quick thrust into enemy territory. Further, to add teeth to its firepower India has successfully ordered and inducted M777 155 mm howitzer from the USA and inducted new variant of DRDO developed Pinaka Multiple rocket launcher, which can fire a salvo of 12 HE rockets in just 44 seconds and has a range up to 90 km. The system mounted on TATRA truck adds a feather to its mobility. However, with all these inductions and many others in the pipeline, the major issue that the Indian army still faces is the availability of funds for future procurement. Since modernization is the continuous process and cannot be halted once new procurement is made.

Check your Progress – I

Answer the following:

(a) What is an Integrated Battle Group?

(b) What is the advantage of the Pinaka Multiple Rocket Launcher

(c) Which Tank is the mainstay of the Indian Army as the MBT?

(d) As a major boost to the artillery which indigenous artillery gun is being inducted in the Indian Army?

- (e) Which armoured vehicle of Russian origin is the mainstay of the Indian Army?

4.3 MODERNIZATION OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE

Until recently, India’s traditional strategic sphere lay between the Gulf of Aden and the Strait of Malacca; but with India’s global footprint expanding, the Indian Air Force should be ready to serve wherever the country’s future strategic interests lie. The air force is gearing up to provide the strategic outreach that India needs as a growing regional power and to project power where necessary in order to defend vital national interests., the modernization plans of the air force are aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- Air dominance and control of the air
- Deterrence, by both denial and punishment
- Long-range offensive reach—penetration, precision, persistence, and parallelism—in simultaneous operations at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels
- Strategic air-lift capability for power projection through both hard and soft power, such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations and diaspora evacuation
- Build-up of capability for coercion
- Acquisition of force enablers and multipliers and related combat-support systems, including networking for tri-service command and control
- Capability of conducting cyberspace and information operations
- Indigenization of future capabilities for design and development

From a sanctioned strength of 39 squadrons, the Indian Air Force is down to 34 squadrons at present, due to decades of neglect, but hopes to enhance its strength to 42 squadrons by 2022. Yet plans to acquire 126 multi-mission, medium-range combat aircraft—in order to maintain an edge over the regional air forces—are stuck in the procurement quagmire. Tejas, the indigenously designed light combat aircraft, which is expected to replace the archaic Mig-21, is still a few years away from becoming fully operational. India is also developing a fifth-generation fighter jointly with Russia. New fighter bombers include a fleet of 272 Sukhoi-30 MKIs, half of which have already been built. AEW aircraft are being acquired from Israel as well as being developed indigenously. India has also acquired 6 C-130J Super Hercules aircraft for its special forces and will likely order 6 more from the United States. C-17 Globemaster heavy-lift

aircraft are also likely to be acquired shortly, which will take India's defence cooperation with the United States to a new level. Although a contract has been signed with a Swiss firm for 75 Pilatus PC-7 basic trainer aircraft, India's fleet of jet trainers continues to be deficient. In the rotary-wing category, the indigenously manufactured Dhruv utility helicopter has entered service. The air force is also in the process of acquiring medium-lift transport helicopters and attack helicopters.

In keeping with developments in the region, India's strategic forces are also modernizing at a steady pace. The Agni-I and Agni-II missiles are now fully operational. Immediate requirements include the Agni-V intermediate-range ballistic missile, which has a 5,000-km range, and nuclear-powered submarines with suitable ballistic missiles to provide genuine second-strike capability. The armed forces do not currently have a truly integrated tri-service C4I2SR system suitable for network-centric warfare, which would allow them to optimize their individual capabilities; however, plans have been made to develop such a system in the next five to ten years. In fact, all new weapons and equipment acquisitions are now being planned on a tri-service basis to ensure interoperability.

Given its growing power and responsibilities, India has been steadily enhancing its expeditionary and military intervention capabilities, which have been amply demonstrated in recent times. During the 1991 Gulf War, India airlifted 150,000 civilian workers, who had been forced to leave Iraq, from the airfield at Amman, Jordan, over a period of 30 days. This was the largest airlift since the Berlin airlift at the end of World War II. During the 2004 tsunami, the Indian armed forces were at the forefront of rescue and relief operations. Over 70 Indian Navy ships transported rescue teams and relief material to disaster zones in less than 72 hours, even though the country's eastern seaboard had itself suffered considerable casualties and damage. Likewise, Indian Navy ships on a goodwill visit to European countries during the Lebanon war in 2006 lifted and brought back 5,000 Indian civilian refugees.

From the ongoing modernization plans described above, it is evident that India is preparing to join the world's major powers in terms of the ability to undertake out-of-area contingency operations. Further, the acquisition of SU-30 MKI long-range fighter bombers with air-to-air refuelling capability, C-130J Hercules transport aircraft, and airborne-warning-and-control-system and maritime-surveillance capabilities over the next five to ten years will give India considerable strategic outreach. New Delhi has consistently favoured military interventions only under a UN umbrella. Though that position is unlikely to change in the near term, India is likely to join future coalitions of the willing even without UN approval when vital national interests are threatened and need to be defended

Given that India faces complex strategic scenarios and is located in an increasingly unstable neighbourhood, it is in New Delhi's interest to

encourage a cooperative model of regional security and work with all friendly countries toward that end. At the same time, New Delhi finds it pragmatic to hedge just in case worst-case scenarios—such as the collapse of China or China’s use of military force for territorial gains—begin to unfold and threaten India’s economic development or territorial integrity. The increasing emphasis on maritime cooperation, particularly with the United States, is part of India’s continuing efforts to fulfil growing obligations and responsibilities as a regional power. New Delhi is now working to cooperate with all the major Asian powers in order to maintain peace and stability in the Indian Ocean and the Asia-Pacific more generally, though without aligning militarily with any one power. Toward this end, the armed forces are working together to achieve joint warfare capabilities for intervention operations in India’s area of strategic interest. In sum, a rising India will soon become a net contributor to security in the Indian Ocean region, together with strategic partners such as the United States. The induction of the Rafale fighters is a boost for the IAF as not only can it in aid in shortening the gap in terms of squadron strength, but it will also enable a better technological advantage.

Nonetheless, India’s modernization plans are moving ahead at a very slow pace. Policy paralysis in New Delhi due to the vagaries of coalition politics in a parliamentary democracy, along with the reduction in the defence budget as a share of India’s GDP due to sluggish growth in the economy, has further exacerbated the difficulties in increasing the pace of modernization. However, the process is certainly underway, and there is hope that it will receive bipartisan support across the political spectrum because of the realization that no alternative exists for addressing emerging threats and challenges but for India to quickly modernize its armed forces.

India’s military modernization, however slow it might be, will lead to a qualitative increase in defence cooperation with the United States and other strategic partners by enhancing the capabilities of the Indian armed forces for joint coalition operations, if they are in India’s national interest. Overall, India will gradually acquire the capability to act as a net provider of security in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. This positive development will allow strategic partners like the United States to reduce their military commitments to the region to a limited extent

Check your Progress – II

Answer the following:

- (a) How has the induction of the Rafale fighter planes aided our air security?

- (b) How many squadrons are required to sufficiently balance the threat from the PRC and Pakistan?

- (c) Why is aerial superiority such a concern for the IAF?

- (d) Which Indian aircraft was known to have achieved significant success against the PAF in the war of 1965?

- (e) Which aircraft is now inducted in the Air Force and has the task of transporting troops and other equipment?

4.4 MODERNIZATION OF THE INDIAN NAVY

The Indian Navy began as a modest force that had the primary task to defend the coastal regions of India and did not expand until the aftermath of the 1965 war. Although it performed tremendously in 1971 when it actually tried to hold off an advancing American fleet to assist the Pakistani forces, (till Soviet help arrived), it was only until recent times that it underwent some serious modernisation keeping in mind India's strategic interests in the maritime sector and as a response to piracy and China's evil intentions.

The Indian Navy's ambitious Maritime Capabilities Perspective Plan seeks to dominate the Indian Ocean region by acquiring blue water operational capability while effectively countering current and emerging threats closer to the coastline. There is a perceptible shift in emphasis from an increase in the number of platforms to the enhancement of

capabilities. According to a report tabled in the Indian Parliament by the Standing Committee on Defence, the navy's modernization plan seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Augment airborne maritime surveillance, strike, anti-submarine warfare [ASW] and air defence capability through induction of shore-based aircraft, integral helos, carrier based aircraft, space based [assets] and UAVs [unmanned aerial vehicles], along with suitable weapons and sensors.
- Develop ASW capability through induction of suitable platforms, weapons and sensors.
- Build adequate standoff capability for sea lift and expeditionary operations to achieve desired power projection force levels, influence events ashore and undertake military operations other than war.
- Induct assets and develop suitable infrastructure to augment forces available for low intensity maritime operations (LIMO), protection of off-shore assets and [for] coastal security.
- Induct force multipliers like satellite based global communications, reconnaissance and network enabled platforms to achieve battle-space dominance capability and perform network centric operations.
- Induct state-of-the-art equipment and specialized platforms for Special Forces to enhance niche capabilities to conduct maritime intervention operations and other envisaged roles.
- Develop support infrastructure in island territories to support the planned force levels as well as support infrastructure for ships/submarines/aircrafts at ports and airbases.

Accordingly some of the ideas that were implemented were:

- Acquiring a capability for maritime domain awareness in the area of responsibility, including space-based surveillance, maritime reconnaissance, airborne early warning and control (AEW&C), and UAVs
- Developing the capability for expeditionary and joint warfare, supported by special operations
- Acquiring reach and sustainability through long endurance, tankers, turnaround facilities in friendly foreign ports, and longer intervals between maintenance cycles
- Acquiring modern capabilities in fields of tactical aviation, ASW, anti-air or anti-missile, land-attack, mine countermeasures, and electronic warfare
- Networking ships, submarines, and airborne platforms via satellite

- Committing to self-reliance and indigenization, with the objective of harnessing national strengths in shipbuilding, engineering, electronics, and IT

The Indian Navy has two operational fleets—the Eastern Naval Command and Western Naval Command—and has proposed to centre both fleets on an aircraft carrier. Eventually the navy plans to graduate to three carrier battle groups. The INS *Chakra*, a nuclear-powered submarine leased from Russia, joined the fleet later while the INS *Arihant*, the first of three to four indigenously designed and developed nuclear-armed submarines, became functional. India has also begun to induct Russian Nerpa-class submarines, which will give the navy a much needed stimulus to the submarine fleet and considerably enhance sea-denial capabilities. Three stealth frigates have only recently been added to the fleet.

The Indian Navy’s modernization plans, though much delayed, have thus finally begun to pick up steam. Pointing out the navy’s role as a key facilitator in promoting peace and stability in the Indian Ocean region, the idea is to ensure that rival states like the PRC can also be kept at bay.

The navy plans to expand to a fleet of 150 ships in the next ten to fifteen years, with 50 warships now under construction and 100 new vessels in the acquisition pipeline. The navy is also engaged in setting up operational turnaround bases, forward-operating bases, and naval air enclaves with a view to enhancing India’s surveillance efforts in the Indian Ocean region. Plans for accretions to the naval aviation fleet are likewise progressing smoothly: Boeing 737 P-8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft have begun to be inducted, and 5 additional Kamov Ka-31 AEW helicopters will be added to the existing fleet of 11 helicopters. Further, the navy’s amphibious landing capability has been enhanced considerably by the acquisition of the INS *Jalashwa* (ex-USS Trenton) and other landing ships, and additional capabilities for amphibious warfare are being rapidly developed. As a result of these efforts, the Indian Navy is on the cusp of acquiring the capabilities necessary to join key strategic partners such as the U.S. Navy in safeguarding the sea lanes of communication in the northern Indian Ocean and ensuring unfettered freedom of the seas for trade and commerce.

Check your Progress – III

Answer the following:

- (a) What is the concept of a Blue Water Navy?

(b) Mention two submarines that India has.

(c) Mention one Aircraft carrier that India has.

(d) Apart from combat operations mention another area in which the Indian Navy is quite active.

(e) The Indian Navy also has a challenging task to keep the Sea Lanes open and free from undue interferences. Agree or Disagree?

4.5 LET US SUM UP

As India's strategic interests increase and it faces more challenges in the neighbourhood it needs to ramp up its defences which not only require a proper and sustained finance but also the political and military will to do so. There are several constraints in this process due to the fact that our indigenous defence related industries are slow to grow and also because finance is a big concern. However, on seeing the challenges it is all but evident that bold steps need to be taken in order to ensure that such lagging projects are taken care of otherwise India may have issues later on. The administration has to understand that a state like Pakistan will never give up on its dreams to harm India and a state like the PRC in its quest for global domination will tend to keep India boxed in, therefore denial and punishment are two ways to ensure that India dominates the region and gradually expands its wings in the future for which military modernisation is a must.

4.6 KEYWORDS

▪ Quest	Desire
▪ UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
▪ Ordinance	Armament
▪ Obsolete	Useless
▪ Howitzer	Artillery
▪ Quagmire	A mess
▪ Unfettered	Unrestricted

4.7 SUGGESTED BOOKS

- (a) Ganguly, R. (2015), “India’s Military: Evolution, Modernisation and Transformation”, *India Quarterly*, 71(3): 187-205.
- (b) Khan, M. (2017), “Growing India-US Strategic Cooperation: An Analysis”, *Strategic Studies*, 37(4): 97-117.
- (c) Kaura, V. (2018), “Securing India’s Economic and Security Interests in the Indo-Pacific”, *Indian Journal of Asian Affairs*, 31(1/2): 37-52.
- (d) Pant, H.V. (2018). *Defence Cooperation*. S. Rajratnam School of International Studies.
- (e) CFR. (2015). *What does India Think?* European Council on Foreign Relations.
- (f) Roy, K. (2020). *Rationales for introducing artificial intelligence into India’s military modernization programme*. International Peace Research Institute.
- (g) Singh, A. (2018). *The Indian Navy’s Act East Strategy*. S. Rajratnam School of International Studies.
- (h) Tellis, A.J. (2016). *Troubles, they come in battalions: the manifold travails of the Indian air force*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- (i) Bitzinger, R.A. (2015). *Russian Arms Transfers and Asian Military Modernization*. S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.
- (j) Tripathi, S. (2013), “India’s Concerns about China: The Escalating Military Threat”, *World Affairs*, 17(3).

Answers

Check Your Progress - I

- (a) Integrated Battle Group or IBG is a brigade level troop formation that can fight on any terrain, can be deployed quickly and uses mechanised infantry support for better results.
- (b) The Pinaka rocket launcher can fire extremely high salvos of rockets at quite a high velocity with High Explosive rounds to cause maximum damage. As a result of which it is quite efficient in any combat situation.
- (c) The Arjun Tank is the mainstay tank or the MBT of the Indian Army.

- (d) Dhanush Artillery Gun
- (e) BMP Armoured Vehicle

Check Your Progress - II

- (a) The induction of the Multi-Role Rafale fighters have given the IAF an advantage in conducting deep strikes into the enemy territory, it is hard to detect and has a higher weapon load and good manoeuvrability.
- (b) India needs about 42 squadrons to sufficiently balance both the PRC and Pakistan.
- (c) Aerial superiority in modern combat is a necessity as not only it can launch devastating attacks on enemy formations and ground forces as exhibited in the 1971 and the 1999 war but can also provide aerial reconnaissance.
- (d) GNAT fighter aircraft
- (e) Globemaster C-130

Check Your Progress – III

- (a) A Blue Water navy can conduct operations in high seas far away from its bases and can stay there for quite a long period of time.
- (b) The INS Chakra and the INS Arihant are two submarines that India has.
- (c) The INS Vikramaditya is an aircraft carrier that India has.
- (d) Anti-Piracy Operations
- (e) Agree

UNIT-5

ROLE OF ARMED FORCES AND PARAMILITARY ORGANISATIONS

:: STRUCTURE ::

- 5.0 Objectives
- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 The Armed Forces
- 5.3 The Paramilitary Organisations
- 5.4 The Special Forces
- 5.5 Let Us Sum Up
- 5.6 Keywords
- 5.7 Suggested Books
- Answers

5.0 OBJECTIVES

In this unit we shall:

- Attain a basic understanding the role played by the Armed Forces.
- Understand the role played by the Paramilitary Organisations.
- Understand the role played by the Special forces

On completing this unit, you should be able to:

- Understand the nature and role of the armed forces
- Understand the role of the paramilitary organisations
- Understand the role played by the special services

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The armed forces of any nation comprise of various units that are divided on the basis of their skills, expertise, areas of operation and even the training and equipment awarded to them are based on these factors. Indeed, it is interesting to note that since ancient times various empires and kingdoms have invested in understanding the art of warfare and the majority of the conclusions drawn focus on the division of the armed forces in such a way so as to streamline their effectiveness on the battlefields. Notably, during the First World War all the participating nations experienced a new kind of warfare that was not just conventional in nature but also had some elements of non-conventional warfare such as the use of flamethrower troops. During the Cold War special forces of all the nations saw various actions such as the SPETNAZ of the former USSR, and the MACV-SOG of the USA. Additionally the Indian armed

forces have also been divided in such a way in order to ensure that the troops are specialised in nature and can act independently of one another and their skills are specialised on the battlefield.

5.2 THE ARMED FORCES

The Indian armed forces are generally divided into the 3 well known branches of the Army, Air Force and the Navy. In addition these three are again sub-divided into other units according to their specifications and deployment capacities. It has to be understood that the armed forces may act as a singular unit and may also follow a unified single chain of command but on the field they have their own tasks divided and in accordance with that they take actions. It should be hard to say which section of the armed forces is more important than the other, but while one may say that the Army is the mainstay of the force, the other two which are the Navy and the Air Force cannot be discounted either.

If we are to take the 1971 and the Kargil war, then the role of the Indian Air Force was immense in not only bombing enemy supply lines, reconnaissance and in combat roles but also in offering close air surveillance to the ground troops. The Navy on the other hand in the 1965, 1971 and even in the 1999 Kargil war was instrumental in not only decimating the Pakistani Navy and destroying their supplies but in maintaining a naval blockade that crippled Pakistan. Therefore for an optimum military execution of strategies it is important and emphasises that all the units work together in perfect coordination to ensure victories in all combats. In this context critics are even quick to argue that the failure of the political leadership to use the IAF in combat roles in the 1962 war costed us dearly.

Apart from the defence of the nation, the military also has many other responsibilities such as assisting state and national governments during national crises such as national emergencies, natural disasters and also in terms of other philanthropic activities. Being the first line of defence, they also take actions in the border regions of India to integrate local communities with the mainstream, organising charities and schools, even encouraging many to join the armed forces and also in assisting them in day to day activities. Following India's defeat in the 1962 war, apart from the frontline activities the military was also encouraged to work on these lines in order to ensure that the local population in the border regions feel connected to the country and can also provide aid, support and intelligence during times of crisis. In this regard it will be important to say that such activities have been quite successful in the past and still continuous to be activated.

However, it is important to discuss the combat roles of the various units. The Army for instance has an infantry, artillery, armoured, mechanised infantry, signals and information, sappers and demolitions,

medical teams and others. In addition to that they are also divided into various units that specialise in certain areas of operations such as the mountain troops, desert specialists and those who can fight in high altitude. When we observe the geographical conditions of India then the army has to be maintained in such a way that they can operate in any given field. Regarding battle tactics also the army does not only depend on the infantry which is again the mainstay of the army but also deploys armoured units and mechanised infantry to aid them. When in doubt the artillery is called in to deliver devastating effects on the enemy. Especially after the 1971 war a massive improvisation of the armed forces was carried out which led to the raising of additional mountain troops for the purpose of fighting in the mountainous areas while a special artillery division was created to enable artillery support.

Additionally the Army has many formations of fighting but the most important of them are the strike and the holding formations. The former deals in striking deep inside enemy territory and capturing it while the other is to deal and neutralise an enemy attack and destabilise the enemy. In addition to that the Army also has its own intelligence unit which reports to the DMI and also works with the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO). Thus the role of the Army is to defend the territory if the need arises and also to capture enemy territory during the time of a war.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is the air wing of the armed forces of India and it too has a glorious history. Its arsenal is impressive where it has the Sukhoi series of fighter aircrafts, the Tejas, MIGs and the recently inducted Rafale fighters. In addition to that it also has Apache helicopters, Chinook heavy transport choppers, Chetak and Mi-8 helicopters. The IAF has two roles one is to engage enemy air units and to take them down and the other is to offer close air support to the friendly ground units. Fighting from the air has an advantage and in the event of a war it is important to ensure air superiority at all costs. Right from the 1948 war to the 1999 Kargil war the IAF has seen a lot of action from transporting troops to organising air strikes. In 1962 as some critics suggest a huge mistake was made to disallow the use of the IAF against the Chinese which if could have been done would have been beneficial to us. However in the 1965 war, the IAF actively engaged the enemy and also carried out air raids against enemy installations while providing ground support. Additionally they also destroyed many enemy air bases and despite being technologically down against the PAF it managed to completely restrain the enemy. In 1971 the IAF conducted devastating air strikes against the PAF airbases and also attacked the Karachi oil depot which critically hurt the Pakistani establishment. With over 2000 sorties in that war it had completely decimated the PAF and reduced its strength by around 35 percent. Later on in 1984 onwards the IAF launched observation missions around the Siachen Glacier which enabled us to understand the terrain effectively and later on India managed to capture it before the Pakistanis

could do. Also in the 1999 Kargil war initially the IAF lost a couple of aircrafts but that paved the way for the use of the Mirage 2000 which then took up the task of not only defending the ground troops but also conducting night time raids that completely hurt the Pakistani positions. However nothing comes close to the 2019 Balakot strikes that actually made the Pakistani establishment understand the seriousness of India's reaction to any form of terror strikes. The amount of ordinance dropped by the IAF sortie destroyed the terror camps in the region and shook Islamabad. Furthermore as the PAF tried to retaliate it was quickly intercepted which led to the loss of one aircraft on both the sides. As the Pakistanis failed in their mission and India succeeded it added another feather in the cap of the IAF.

Likewise the Indian Navy is the maritime wing of the armed forces and the navy is entrusted with the task of protecting the Indian waters and also to ensure that it carries out other forms of roles such as anti-piracy operations, offering escort to friendly ships and also to maintain an overall surveillance in that area. It is a blue water navy that can carry out extended operations in deep seas. It has a huge arsenal which consists of an aircraft carrier a nuclear powered submarine, corvettes, destroyers, minesweepers and other small boats for patrolling. The first engagement of the Navy was in the liberation of Goa in 1961 when it attacked the Portuguese navy and in the 1965 war it was more or less used in a defensive role to deter Pakistani naval attacks against Indian establishment. However the baptism by fire came in the year 1971 when it actually destroyed the Pakistani submarine PNS Gazi and also suffered a loss in the form of the sinking of the Ship INS Khukri. It not only stopped the Pakistani navy from supplying its troops in Bangladesh but also ensured that it sunk many Pakistani ships in the region. The navy also took up the task of civilian evacuation in the 2006 Lebanon conflict, in assisting in cyclone relief operations and also in controlling piracy in the region. Likewise in 2011 it also rescued people from Syria during the Syrian Civil War and again in 2015 it rescued Indian nationals from Yemen as a part of the rescue operations. The role played by the Navy in accordance to military doctrines is not just limited to containing Pakistan which actually has a small area of operation but also in countering the PRC which has an intention to restrict the Indian Navy in our own backyard. It also attempts to project the influence of India in far off regions so as to engage in a concept of power projection and to ensure that the Indian coastal waters are safe and sound. The Navy is very important when it comes to India not only because it faces two rivals which are Pakistan and the PRC but also because of the fact that the friendly nations in and around the area face the threat of piracy, therefore the Indian Navy on many occasions has led multiple exercises and such missions with navies of Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia to name a few in order to patrol these testing waters and to counter piracy. It not only boosts the power image of India but also gives confidence to these

smaller states. This is also an effective way to deter enemy states from taking India lightly.

The idea behind the armed forces is to ensure that not only the territorial sovereignty of the state is not compromised under any circumstances but to also see that India emerges as a global power.

Check your Progress – I

Answer the following:

(a) Mention some units that the Army has.

(b) How did the IAF react to the Pulwama attack in 2019?

(c) Explain the navy attempts in power projection.

(d) Mention one theatre of war that saw the extensive use of the Airforce?

(e) With what did the Indian Army compensate in the Kargil War despite having to face the disadvantage of a difficult terrain?

5.3 THE PARAMILITARY ORGANISATIONS

The paramilitary in contrast are units that are designated to fight internal insurgencies, terrorism and also to aid in maintaining law and order in the country. The difference between the regular armies and the paramilitary organisations again stem from the fact that the former is specialised in dealing with external attacks (to some extent of course it deals with terrorism as well) whereas the paramilitary units take up various roles. For instance the BSF is the first line of defence when it comes to defending the India-Pakistan Border and the India-Bangladesh border, the ITBP protects the India-China border and the SSB protects the India-Nepal and the India-Bhutan border. The CRPF is well known to deal with Naxalites along with the IRB (India Reserve Battalion) whereas the CISF deals with protecting the vulnerable industrial and critical assets. At times like the standing armies they also assist the governments in dealing with various internal turmoil, assisting people in disaster affected regions and also engages in overseeing security in elections.

The idea behind the formation of the paramilitary units is to ensure that tasks and duties do not overlap and that the main standing army does not feel drained to take up a lot of tasks at one go. In addition to that it is also important to note that the nature of wars and other such activities have changed over a period of time and as a result of which it is but imperative that other organisations are present to deal with such issues.

Notably the BSF is considered to be the world's largest paramilitary force which has the most important task of guarding two porous and vulnerable borders. Whereas the India-Pakistan border is well guarded and the threat of Pakistan is quite dangerous, the India-Bangladesh border is known to be one of the most porous borders in the world with many instances of smuggling, trafficking and even illegal immigration. Thus the BSF has a task cut out for itself in defending these two key areas. In a similar fashion the ITBP was raised especially to protect the vulnerable northern border against the PRC as it is well known that like Pakistan the PRC also does not have any good intentions and hence to man such a huge border becomes a difficult task which the ITBP carries out efficiently. Actually the attack by Pakistan in 1965 witnessed the ineffectiveness of the state police force in dealing with the initial invasion and attacks in Beria Bet, Chhar Bet and the Sardar Post which were three key entry points showcased that a special force was required which would be more armed than the police forces but enough to deal with the initial attacks. While KF Rustamji was the first Director General of the BSF the force inducted officers and troops from all the sections of the defence units. The BSF distinguished itself in the next war when it not only stalled the initial invasion in 1971 but also fought shoulder to shoulder with the Indian Army especially in the Battle of Longewala in 1971. Later on the BSF would also distinguish itself when it came to

military service by participating in the Kargil war 1999, the Operation Parakram in 2002, various border skirmishes when in fact it became the first units to retaliate and also was on high alert in 2019 in the aftermath of the Balakot strikes. The BSF has its headquarters in New Delhi and various directorates and there are 13 frontier headquarters which also has infantry battalions, artillery and air wings. Later on as a part of the modernisation programme it has its own TSU or the Tear Smoke Unit, it also has thermal imagers, infra-red sensors and air surveillance equipment. A very special fact about the BSF is that it is one of the few defence forces in the world to actually maintain and operate an animal based wing which is the camel contingent and this is used extensively in the Rajasthan sector.

Following the similar lines the SSB was also created in the year 1963 to ensure the defence of the norther borders and this unit has a very peculiar way of operation. Although it falls under the idea of a federal law enforcement agency, it actually takes up the role of defending the borders, counter-insurgency as well as the first line of defence against an invasion. Originally known as the Special Services Bureau it dropped the plans for an intelligence expansion and instead took up the task of defending the borders. One of the main functions of this unit is to engage the local population of the bordering areas to inculcate the feelings of nationalism among them and to ensure that in the event of a crisis they receive adequate support from their own governments. The idea of engaging the local population did not go to waste and in fact it expanded to other areas as well for instance it initially started in the former NEFA region then went to Himachal Pradesh, the Darjeeling District area, Manipur and Tripura in 1965, Sikkim in 1976 and even as far as Nagaland in 1989. The SSB depends a lot on employing guerrilla tactics which was also used in training the Mukti Bahini in 1971. As a Lead Intelligence Agency (LIA) for the Nepal border it has so far done an excellent job in not only guarding that region but has also recruited women battalions. Thus from being a sole motivator for the people to gathering intelligence it has also come a long way to actually become a counter force against enemy actions.

There are two other paramilitary units that are tasked to look into the internal security mechanisms which are the CISF and the CRPF, both have important roles and the CISF looks after the security of important installations that are vital for the state and more so in times of exigencies. Since 1969 the CISF has been tasked to defend over 500 important installations in the country and it is interesting to note that during wars, the enemy would surely attack those places which may cripple the state's finances or the fighting capacity such as financial institutions, factories and even hospitals for that purpose. Therefore the CISF is not only a force that does the job of guarding such places but also takes a huge part in disaster relief. Since 2009 the CISF also protects private and cooperative establishments across the countries and also some universities.

Additionally it also has a huge number of women personnel serving in various capacities in the force. In the similar way the CRPF is also tasked with battling insurgents, maintaining law and order and peace and also acts as an internal security force. While it was formed initially in 1939 just prior to the outbreak of the war it has gone a long way and is one of the world's oldest standing paramilitary unit. It has seen service abroad in various UN missions, and notably it is well known for its fight against the Naxalites in the country. Notably in 2001 it was the CRPF personnel who neutralised all the terrorists who were involved in attacking the Indian Parliament. Later on the CoBRA or the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action was created in 2008 in order to counter the Naxalites with tremendous success. The CRPF also bases its activities depending on the dynamics of the region as well as the conflict involved for instance it has a Rapid Action Force (RAF) to deal with riot like situations as already mentioned - the CoBRA.

Finally, the ITBP is also an important paramilitary unit, which was raised in 1962 and has the primary task of guarding the border with the PRC. After heavy losses in the 1962 war it was decided to form an organisation that would guard this area zealously. Its activities range from not only intelligence gathering but also engaging the enemy if required to offering vigil in the area and ensure that no unwanted elements cross over to the Indian side. Apart from that it also takes up the role of disaster management since the areas which it mans are prone to disasters.it also offers security to other personnel in foreign lands such as in Afghanistan.

Thus if one observes all the paramilitary units have specialised roles carved out for them and this was done especially after the end of the 1962 war when we observed our shortcomings and decided to act on them.

Check your Progress – II
Answer the following:

(a) Mention the main role of the CRPF.

(b) Why is the task of the CISF important?

(c) Why does India need paramilitary forces?

(d) What paramilitary unit is also known as the first line of defence?

(e) To which paramilitary unit does the CoIN operations subscribe to?

5.4 THE SPECIAL FORCES

Regarding Special Forces it would also be important to mention the fact that the BSF also has its own special force unit known as the Creek Crocodile which is a quick reaction force and is tasked to check infiltration and all other illegal cross-border activities. It finds its area of deployment in the Sir Creek sector in Gujarat as well as in the Indus River area. It was founded in 2009 and it is a very secretive unit.

There are many Special Forces that operate within the length and breadth of the state and some of them have very specialised and elite role granted to them. While some specialise in counter terrorist operations others specialise in providing security to HVTs (High Value Targets). Under the command of the Indian army the Para SF (or the Parachute Special Force) or also known as the Para Troopers operate as a special force. Created in 1966 in the wake of the 1965 war it was initially known as the Meghdoot force and later on from a simple force of 2 battalions it increased its strength. It actively participated in the 1971 war where it specialised in air dropped raids deep behind enemy lines and the force was modelled on the lines of the British SAS (Special Air Service). In 1988 it also participated in operation Cactus in Maldives and also in the late 1980s it was deployed in Sri Lanka. Furthermore it was also deployed in a rescue mission in Sierra Leone and also later on participated in the 1999 Kargil war where it had to fight against Pakistani forces and did tremendously well. The PARA SF also participated in the surgical strikes in 2016 where it decimated enemy camps and also in Operation Hot Pursuit in replicating the same in Myanmar.

The MARCOS (Marine Commandos) are another Special Force unit that was first created in 1985 and this is the Navy's wing of Special Forces. It first saw action against the LTTE in Sri Lanka and was reportedly trained by the Navy Seals of the US. The MARCOS participated in the Kargil war and also in the 2008 Mumbai attacks. They specialise in amphibious operations, surveillance and reconnaissance, counter terrorism operations and also striking inside enemy territory deep behind the enemy lines. Surprise and quick reaction are their main elements along with stealth attacks.

The Garud Commando Force named after the legendary Garud in the Ramayana was first created in 2004 and it is the IAF's Special Forces unit. They are again employed to fight alongside the IAF and have an exhaustive training to their credit. Being a land and also an air based unit their activities range from organising strikes deep inside the enemy territory, disabling enemy air defences, destroying their logistics and radars as well as laser designating enemy targets for air strikes.

The Special Group that comes under the R&AW was a product of project Sunray and in 1981 the group was formed. Not much is known about this unit except that it is the most secretive of all units that actually is tasked to collect intelligence as well as deal in black operations. Such operations officially do not exist in the government's record and the government denies any involvement in such operations. The Special Frontier Force is another unit that falls under the R &AW and was created in 1962, also known in popular culture as the ghostly soldiers; they are a clandestine set of troops which is also known as the Establishment 22 and is tasked with the job of fighting against the Chinese. It is largely made up of indigenous Tibetan people who are given the task to fight behind the Chinese lines if the need so arise. The Tibetans are very defensive about India and since they have a long history of attrition against the PRC they willingly join the force. It is also reported that the SFF fought in the 1971 wars in organising deadly raids and gruesome retaliation against Pakistani forces to even deal psychological damage. Apart from that the NSG or the National Security Guard is another commando unit that is modelled on the British SAS and the German GSG-9. Popularly known as the Black Cats they combine all types of roles right from undercover operations to hostage rescue. The NSG is also divided into two units the Special Action Group (SAG) and the Special Rangers Group or the (SRG). The SPG or the Special Protection Group is another unit that was set up in 1985 after the unfortunate assassination of Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Its main function is to protect HVTs. The CoBRA of the CRPF is a special wing of that unit that is tasked with tackling Naxalite insurgency and has an impeccable track record, and is modelled on the lines of the Ghatak commandoes of the Indian army that is attached to every battalion and its main purpose is to deal devastating strikes against the enemy.

Thus if one may observe, the special forces are designated in such a way to ensure the use of sparse resources and effectively handle situations that can quickly spiral out of control, additionally they are also the most motivated among all the forces and can actually change the tide of a war or an event in our favour within a short notice.

Check your Progress III

Answer the following:

- (a) Outline the role of the MARCOS

- (b) Outline the role of the Garud Commando Force?

- (c) Describe the role of the SFF.

- (d) When was the operation Cactus done?

- (e) The SFF is modelled on the basis of which international commando force?

5.5 LET US SUM UP

The key thing here is to be able to distinguish between all the variants of the armed forces and to understand their mode of deployment. For instance the Special Forces are usually deployed in those situations which are quite grave or where stealth is required in order to overcome the enemy. Whereas the standing regular troops are in demand in those military operations which are mostly face to face with a conventional foe. On the other hand, the air force and the navy has also respective roles and their importance cannot be denied. For instance a naval blockade could very well mean starving the supplies for the enemy while letting our supplies work perfectly. In today's warfare, instead of massive battles on the battlefields it has rather taken a sharp and short turn in which technology, stealth and intelligence play key roles in determining the outcome of a war. Nevertheless a well-disciplined force which understands its role well cannot be discounted.

5.6 KEYWORDS

- **Philanthropic** Generous, Social
- **Imperative** important
- **Inculcate** instil
- **Exigencies** Crisis
- **Zealously** enthusiastically
- **Mans** oversees
- **Shortcomings** Problems
- **Replicating** Doing it similarly
- **Arsenal** Weaponry

5.7 SUGGESTED BOOKS

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Answers

Check Your Progress - I

- (a) The army is composed of not only infantry divisions but also mechanised infantry, supporting armour, artillery, strike teams and its own reconnaissance units.
- (b) After the ghastly attack at Pulwama was carried out the IAF was authorised to bomb enemy terror camps deep inside the LOC. It executed that task with precision and as a result of which it gave a damaging blow to Pakistan.
- (c) Power projection simply means that the Navy carries out rescue, anti-piracy and other relief operations also known as peace time operations. In doing so it proves that India seeks to extend its domination and control beyond just its territorial limits. As such the influence of India extends considerably.
- (d) The 1971 war
- (e) The extensive use of the 105 and 155 mm artillery guns gave a huge advantage.

Check Your Progress - II

- (a) The main role of the CRPF is to tackle internal security issues related to insurgencies and also to provide assistance to state and national governments. In addition it also takes up the role of riot control and counter-Naxalite operations.
- (b) The CISF is entrusted to protect key infrastructure and industries which are critical to the interest of the nation
- (c) The paramilitary forces are important because the standard armies cannot engage all kinds of scenarios and they will become over stretched and exhausted. The paramilitary therefore can take up

roles such as combatting internal security issues, riot control and also assisting in maintaining vigil and patrolling.

- (d) BSF
- (e) CRPF in anti- Maoist operations

Check Your Progress - III

- (a) The MARCOS or the marine commandoes are specialised units that execute counter terrorist operations properly and can fight in almost terrain; additionally they are also well equipped with some of the best armaments.
- (b) The role of the Garud Commando Force is to defend air installations, support the air force and also to take out enemy ground based air installations and engage in sabotage against the enemy.
- (c) The Special Frontier Force was created with the intention of countering the PRC. It is highly secretive in nature and is mostly composed of Tibetan exiles. They are suited for black operations, sabotage and operating deep behind the enemy lines.
- (d) 1988
- (e) GSG-9

યુનિવર્સિટી ગીત

સ્વાધ્યાય: પરમં તપ:

સ્વાધ્યાય: પરમં તપ:

સ્વાધ્યાય: પરમં તપ:

શિક્ષણ, સંસ્કૃતિ, સદ્ભાવ, દિવ્યબોધનું ધામ
ડૉ. બાબાસાહેબ આંબેડકર ઓપન યુનિવર્સિટી નામ;
સૌને સૌની પાંખ મળે, ને સૌને સૌનું આભ,
દશે દિશામાં સ્મિત વહે હો દશે દિશે શુભ-લાભ.

અભણ રહી અજ્ઞાનના શાને, અંધકારને પીવો ?
કહે બુદ્ધ આંબેડકર કહે, તું થા તારો દીવો;
શારદીય અજવાળા પહોંચ્યાં ગુર્જર ગામે ગામ
ધ્રુવ તારકની જેમ ઝળહળે એકલવ્યની શાન.

સરસ્વતીના મયૂર તમારે ફળિયે આવી ગહેકે
અંધકારને હડસેલીને ઉજાસના ફૂલ મહેકે;
બંધન નહીં કો સ્થાન સમયના જવું ન ઘરથી દૂર
ઘર આવી મા હરે શારદા દૈન્ય તિમિરના પૂર.

સંસ્કારોની સુગંધ મહેકે, મન મંદિરને ધામે
સુખની ટપાલ પહોંચે સૌને પોતાને સરનામે;
સમાજ કેરે દરિયે હાંકી શિક્ષણ કેરું વહાણ,
આવો કરીયે આપણ સૌ
ભવ્ય રાષ્ટ્ર નિર્માણ...
દિવ્ય રાષ્ટ્ર નિર્માણ...
ભવ્ય રાષ્ટ્ર નિર્માણ

