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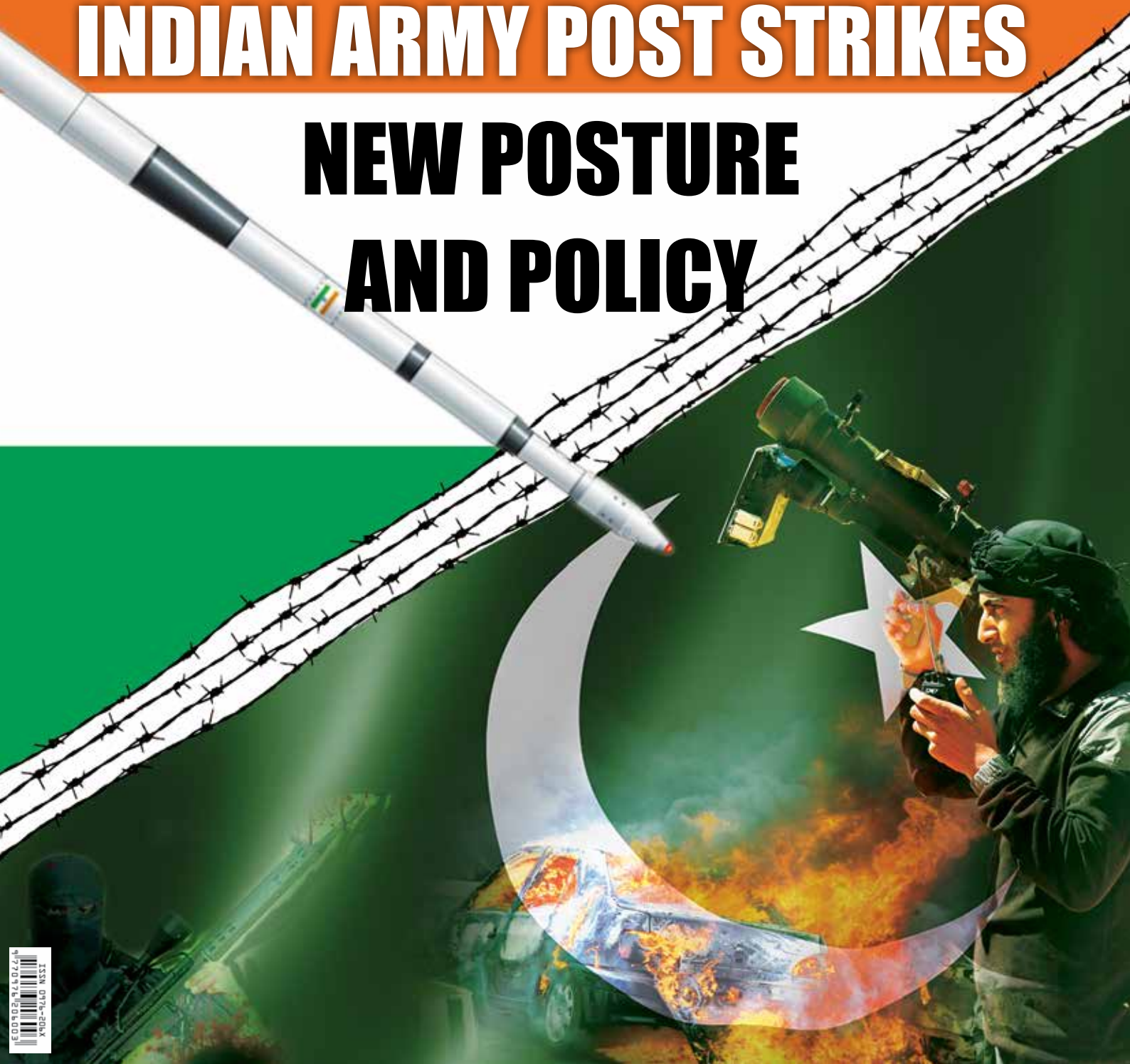
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## DSA<sup>TM</sup>

THE ONLY MAGAZINE AVAILABLE ON THE  
INTRANET OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE

# INDIAN ARMY POST STRIKES NEW POSTURE AND POLICY







# MISSION

We endeavour to sound **ALERTS** and create **AWARENESS** about the myriad dimensions and manifestations of **DEFENCE** and **SECURITY** in India and around the world.



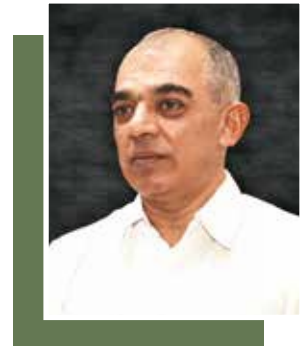
**The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...**

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because State is the only saviour of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the State.

- Chanakya



# *DSA is as much yours, as it is ours!*



**T**he Indian Army entered into a new terrain recently. Well not really new in the literal sense since the brave soldiers of the Army have crossed the Line of Control (LoC) on numerous occasions in the past as well. And more so, since Pakistan got actively engaged in training, funding, equipping and pushing armed militants into Jammu and Kashmir. Local skirmishes have always been a regular feature of life on the LoC. But the action in the end of September 2016, was different simply because Pakistan too changed the rules of engagement. The attack at the administrative base of the Uri Brigade was the last straw as far as India was concerned.

So, the surgical strikes launched by the Indian Army across the LoC on the night of 28/29 September served their purpose of modulated escalation. Just as Pakistan made its non-state proxies indulged repeatedly and violated a ceasefire agreement that had been in operation for more than decade, India too upped the ante. The LoC became hot in a very real military sense and no restraint was imposed on the Army in terms of means and methods of retaliation. And in the meantime, a trans-LoC operation was being planned.

By all accounts, the operation had limited objectives and those were achieved by the Army without incurring any casualties. There are enough Pakistani accounts of the number of casualties suffered. But the moot point is that the limited objectives of the surgical strikes were not centred around the number of casualties imposed on Pakistan. The objective was simply to retaliate in the place, time and by means of its own choice. Enter cleanly and return cleanly. That bit was achieved without a hitch. The larger objective was, however, to announce to Pakistan, its people and to the world at large, that India was taking responsibility for its actions.

The ownership of the surgical strikes was a first-of-its-kind in decades of trans-LoC operations. Neither India nor Pakistan, has ever declared ownership of an operation that it had launched across the LoC. Victimhood has always been the preferred position adopted. The eagerness to please the world at large, as also the locally deployed and totally irrelevant United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan has also been there. So, all trans-LoC raids, operations or strikes, went unreported as they were never owned by

anyone. Even when the casualties were heavy and brutal, ownership was never announced.

This time, however, ownership has been claimed and with this announcement the Indian Army has entered new territory, in more than a metaphorical sense. From now on, the people of India expect to be informed about each and every operation that it would conduct across the LoC. For it is now certain that there will be further actions to be taken that would require crossing the LoC. Now that is has 'crossed the Rubicon', so to say, there is no going back. It must claim and announce its operations, good or bad, successful or unsuccessful. After all, it is not dealing with an amateur opponent but a professional military force in the Pakistan Army.

This new posture comes at a very crucial time in India's history and evolution into a modern responsible global player. Decades of insularity from the hum drum of tricky political issues has kept the Army isolated from policy formulation and ownership of execution. Now that it has entered the realm of ownership of policy operationalisation, debate and discussion of policy formulation should also be the desirable goals. But that is currently under the monopoly of the civilian leadership, as it should be. Civilian leadership, unfortunately, also tends to include the bureaucratic structure in India.

This is where the current angst in the Army lies. It is well-nigh time for the political leadership to disassemble the antiquated pre-World War II structure and construct a new modern global model. One that reflects India's ambition, trajectory and capabilities to play on the world stage. An insular model is hardly in keeping with the current requirements. Thus, the logic of ownership of surgical strikes is that it should lead to further opening of the Army to greater responsibilities and roles. The current structure of governance, unfortunately, prevents the Army from accepting enhanced roles and responsibilities. Although, it has entered new territory, it had to, alas, return to its old worn out barracks. About time, these too were looked at, from a regional and global perspective.

**Manvendra Singh**





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# INDIAN ARMY POST STRIKES: NEW POSTURE AND POLICY?



It has been a period of interminable patience over the past 44 years since the signing of the Simla Agreement when India has used soft diplomacy to convince Pakistan that it is in the interest of both countries that we seek ways to live in peace, amity and cooperation. Nothing worked. Not even the return of 93,000 Pakistani prisoners of war evacuated from Bangladesh to prevent the people of that new nation from venting their anger on the Pakistan Army for the merciless genocide of Bengali people. So, the current government had resorted to the surgical strikes across the Line of Control (LoC) raising speculations of a new posture and the advent of a policy of 'offensive defence'. Perhaps, it is time to give our due thought to the former Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf (of Kargil infamy) who had remarked that even if Kashmir is settled to Pakistan's satisfaction India would still be under attack.

Indian leaders have done everything in their power to convince Pakistan to change its ways. The concessions in Simla were an investment in peace. It did not work. Even after the perfidy executed in Kargil by Musharraf during the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government headed by the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi truly stooped to try and conquer the recalcitrant neighbour. He made the unusual and humane effort when he, to everyone's surprise, broke journey in Pakistan on his return from Afghanistan to greet Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on his birthday. Earlier, the opportunity offered by the invitation to Nawaz Sharif to attend the oath-taking ceremony went a begging.

Last year, on 2 January 2016, we faced an attack on Pathankot Air Force base with cogent evidence of the involvement of Pakistani handlers. We kept our patience and made available all the facts and proofs on Pakistan Army's involvement but Pakistan denied them completely. Our patience was again tested by the world community when we raised the issue of Pakistan being the source of terrorism around the globe in the UN Assembly and sought action against Masood Azhar, leader of the *Jaish-e-Mohammad* terrorist organisation. China scuttled that move.

But the attack on 18 September 2016, on the Army Base Camp at Uri killing 17 soldiers and injuring 19 army personnel was the height of brutality by Pakistan. The government decided to take a stern action and inflict condign punishment on the perpetrators of terrorism in India. On the night of 28 September, the Indian Army struck at bases across the LoC in Pakistan-controlled territory.

India has never attacked any other State after its Independence. But as a matter of fact, we have paid a huge price in human lives and such an operation was long overdue. Medical science teaches that when sweet pills fail, surgery becomes inevitable.

Our Armed Forces have struck once but they are also ready to repeat surgical strikes if and when needed for the preservation of our national security and dignity. This edition is the first issue of 2017 dear readers and team DSA assures you to provide the same high quality content and impressive presentation for your reading pleasure.

**Wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous 2017!**  
**Jai Hind!**

**Pawan Agrawal**

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