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# DEFENCE & SECURITY ALERT

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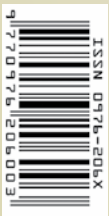
## DEFENCE BUDGET 2018-19

### TOO LITTLE FOR

# MODERNISATION

- ▶ ARMS CONTROL CHALLENGES
- ▶ FROM DETERRENCE TO WINNABILITY
- ▶ FOR FUTURE-READY CITIZENS

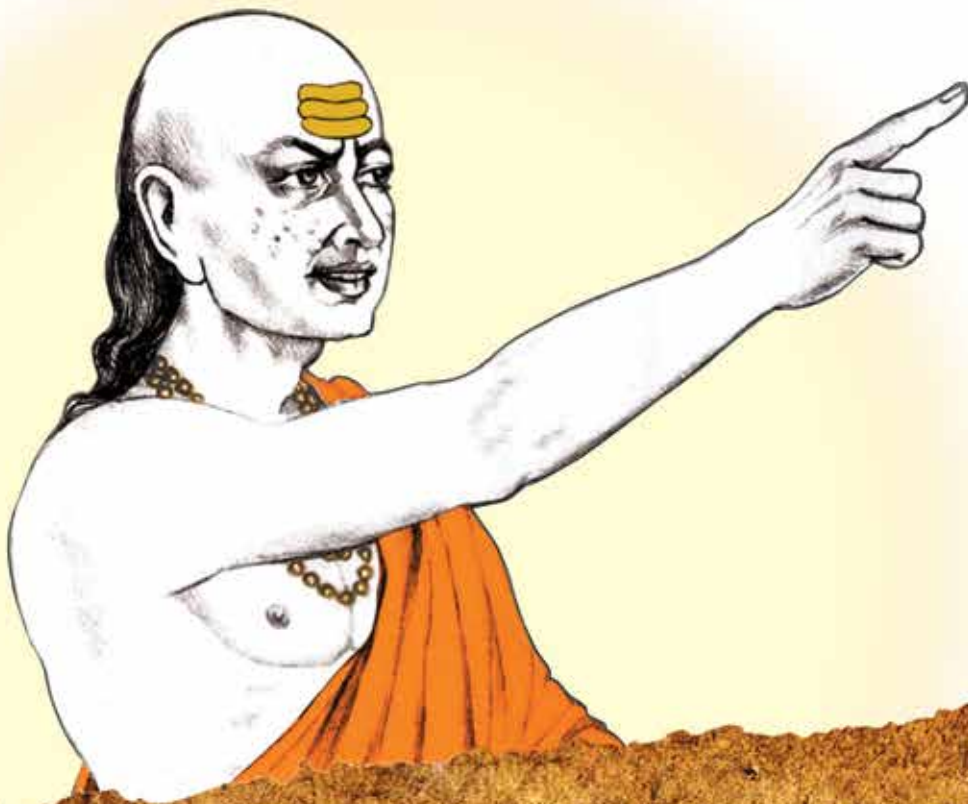
**CROSSED 100,  
PRESENTING  
101<sup>st</sup> EDITION**





## 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.



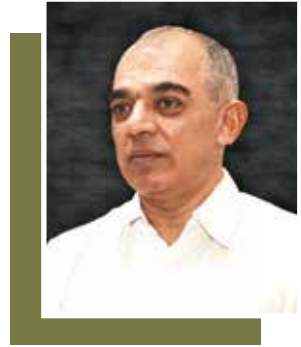
**The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...**

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!



**N**orth Korea is quite easily the strangest country in the world, so strange that it is well on its way to becoming a metaphor for various things, from isolation to idiocy in policy. Nothing else explains the bizarre country, given that it calls itself a democratic socialist, a euphemism for communism. And, yet, it is nothing other than a closed society being ruled by a family, long accustomed to surviving in a state of paranoia. A delusional family has created a society suffering from such deep disorders, that every crazy action of the ruler can be justified, as defence, or defiance. And both are in order.

In the last six months, North Korea has taken the arms control world by the scruff of its neck, wrung it, and tossed it onto the streets of Pyongyang, claiming it is simply an imperialist conspiracy. It has defied the globally set arms control norms, engaged in techno-verbal brinkmanship, and quietened down just as quickly. Its periodic missile tests are interspersed with an occasional nuclear test that sends diplomatic tremors across the world. For, in

the announcement, is language that can only feed more hysteria about North Korea's intentions.

The recent verbal spat between the North Korean dictator and President of the United States is just another example of how little has changed, even though one side keeps changing leaders electorally. From the first North Korean nuclear test to the latest one, every US President has employed the same language of coercion, changed tack, offered negotiations, some aid, and then it is back to brinkmanship on the part of Pyongyang. President Trump, of course, took the threatening language to quite another, undiplomatic level. Just as it seemed North Korea's threats had run their course, and action was imminent, Pyongyang took a somersault that confounded everyone.

Most of all, its neighbours and estranged sister country, South Korea. From being in an eyeball to eyeball situation, North Korea changed the substance of dialogue, to the extent of even participating in the upcoming Winter Olympics in the south as part of a united Korean team. Unprecedented and

the stuff of diplomatic dreams. The Korean Peninsula will appear together and united for the first time since almost World War II. Makes for great news, but there is no certainty that this will extend to the world of arms control talks.

North Korea remains the bad apple in the arms control basket. Even as President Trump would like to include Iran in that list, there is no compelling evidence to believe so. But the evidence on violations by North Korea is legendary, not least its ongoing exchange programme with fellow violator Pakistan. Illicit nuclear trade with North Korea, and subsequently sales to other countries, destroyed the image of AQ Khan, from being Pakistan's hero to global arch villain. So, even as the two Koreas send their first, of hopefully many, joint teams, North Korea's arms control violations remain a matter of deep concern. Changing tack by tackling its illegal trade may prove more beneficial in the long run than the current threats. The entire international nexus needs to be exposed.

**Manvendra Singh**

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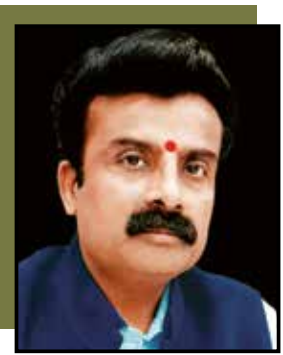
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# BUDGET AND NATIONAL SECURITY



**F**inance rules in every aspect of human existence. In economics, as we know it today, there are certain current expenses and there are certain expenses planned for the future, which sometimes become a challenge. These challenges can be countered only with advanced planning for such contingency expenses by keeping some buffer for any urgent requirement.

When the above principles are universally accepted practices in the lives of individuals, companies and nations, I fail to understand why the recently released Union Defence budget is so meager. More so, when it is generally known that the nation is facing an existential collusive threat from Pakistan and China on different fronts.

I don't see any strong reason for this shortfall when we know that our forces immediately require fighter aircrafts, submarines, tanks, bulletproof jackets and night vision devices among other gadgets. It looks as if the 2018 Defence Budget was just prepared to fulfill a ritual as there is nothing to boost the capabilities and, hence, morale of the Indian fighting man. What is now being suggested in certain quarters is a reduction in manpower. A reduction in the teeth-to-tail ratio is the usual *modus operandi*. But this has to be done in the context of the larger picture.

This is not the first time that it is being sought to be done. Counter-insurgency/counter-terror operations are manpower intensive. Immediately, after the series of nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, it had become obvious that encouraged by the possession of nuclear weapons, Pakistan would be emboldened to resort to misadventures. During the Kargil war, the NDA government, led by Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, implemented a cost reduction move which Pakistan exploited to the fullest.

Several such gaps will be created in the national security architecture by the combination of low outlay for Defence and the headlong rush to manpower reduction. We have sent a wrong message to the entire world and particularly, to our enemies. Hope that it is immediately rectified in the interest of the national security.

This edition is dedicated to the Defence Budget 2018 and the Arms Control Issues. Its contents will remain valid for a long time to come. I'm sure, dear readers, you will love to read and keep this edition in your personal library for your future reference.

**In the end of my write up, I would like to share with all esteemed readers that DSA has completed a Century of the Exclusive Edition and this is the 101st Edition in your hands. Team DSA stands committed to maintain the same standards for all coming editions as in the past 100 editions.**

The journey so far has been very exciting. I'm thankful to our esteemed contributors, who have been our strength and mentors to make DSA as one of the best magazine in this genre. I also remember and appreciate the contribution by all the past associates in the organisation who have devoted their efforts to shape DSA.

Happy reading!

**Pawan Agrawal**

# DEFENCE BUDGET 2018-19



An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Magazine

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