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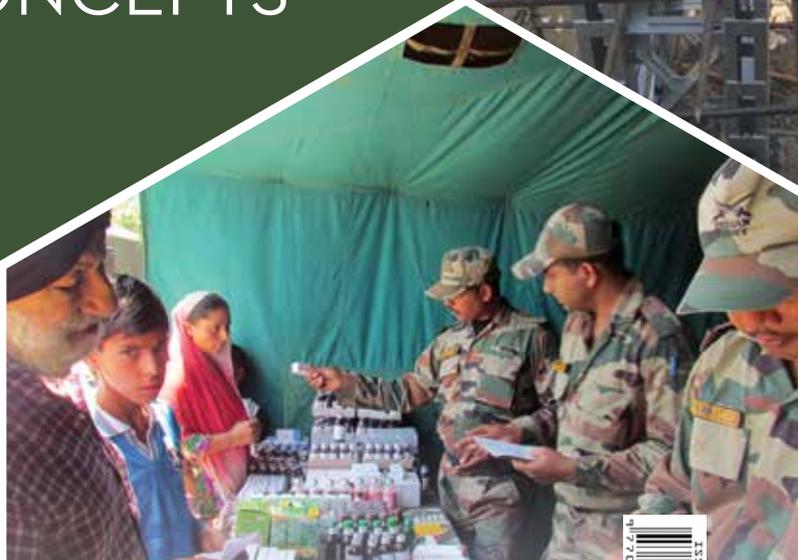
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ARMY SPECIAL

TERRITORIAL ARMY /
RESERVES, POLICY
AND CONCEPTS



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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!



India's largest armed force, and the one that conjures up the maximum brownie points, is making news about its structural studies, as well as solutions being thrown up for the related problems.

Indian Army has seen a number of assessments through various committees that have analysed its structures and cadres while recommending remedial steps. Over the years, many reports have been made available that seek to redress the internal manpower management shortcomings. Each report seeks to address the issue from a new perspective, offer new solutions, whether it is in terms of a cadre review, or, a structural assessment.

The problems, however, persist despite much analysis made over the years. Simply because none of the reports care to address the basic issue, major reason being military bureaucracy is more difficult to change than its civilian counterparts. When the military bureaucracy is itself reluctant and resistant to change, getting it to implement well intentioned review reports is a tall order, to say the least. This is not to say that there

is something rotten in the system, far from it. The army remains one of India's most outstanding institutions, largely untainted by the prevailing national malaise affecting everything else.

All militaries are an extension of their national cultures and ethos. They have to be since the same society that supports and sustains them also provides the legs on which the nation moves. So, it is worth analysing the role of society and its cultural impact on the army when it comes to assessing the outcome of all those remedial reports made over the years. And, the same applies to understanding the importance of a policy and clear concept for an effective Reserve system for the army. After all, every report that has been generated over decades has been motivated by budgeting efficiency.

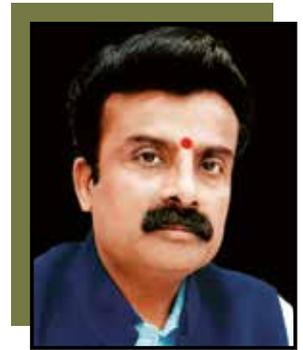
It is a proven fact across world militaries that a well constituted and efficient reserve system is the most important component of good budgeting. In some countries, it has been deployed to such an extent that reserve officers fly combat missions on top of the line fighter aircraft and

then return to their daily civilian life on disembodiment. The same holds true for some manning posts on naval combat vessels or tanks in the case of others. All it takes is a national will, ethos, spirit, and the political gumption to put the system in place.

In India's case all of the ingredients were in place way back in 1948 when late C Rajagopalachari pushed for raising the Territorial Army, with the same motivation that is in place in most of the developed world. Over a period of time, the concept was to include the other two services as well but nothing much happened. And, nothing can happen unless the prevailing national culture encourages it; particularly when it comes to the corporate and government sectors. Both have to be in tandem in order for this concept and policy to gain traction. The benefits are being enjoyed by many militaries worldwide, so there is no logic for India to deny itself the same. It does so at its own costs which are very heavy. Hence, the repeated cycle of new committees producing the same reports.

Manvendra Singh

KNOWING THE INDIAN ARMY



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 Editor: Manvendra Singh**

Do we really understand the importance of the Indian Army? Once a year we are reminded that it is the single largest group of volunteers in the world who have dedicated their lives to defend their motherland. And to die for it. Every strand of the varied religions, castes, languages and regions are represented in it. This year is also special as it is the centenary year of the end of World War I and occasion to remember and glorify the acts of bravery on foreign soil by warriors from the subcontinent.

Its participation in World War II has a special connotation in that there was general expectation that it would be repaid by the British Raj with the grant of dominion status to a colony that was acknowledged to be the “jewel in the crown”.

As it turned out the floodtide of the demand for self-rule germinated into the urgent insistence that Britain quit India after granting it independence and sovereign status. It eventually happened in 1947 with the partition of subcontinent into India and Pakistan. Almost immediately, those in the Armed Forces who opted to stay in India were confronted by former colleagues executing a sly manoeuvre to delink Jammu and Kashmir from the rest of India. Ever since then the Indian Army has been in a constant state of combat as hostile neighbours tried every trick to nibble away or instigate insurgencies all along the 7,000 km periphery from the northeast to Punjab in the west.

This is a factor not always appreciated by those who charge it with human rights violations in cordon-and-search operations. There are frequent demands for the repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act which provides protection to those fighting undeclared wars by proxies of India’s enemies. Most of these complaints have been proven to be false and recognised to be part of the psychological warfare intended to subvert the morale of a fighting force that gave the nation a resounding victory in 1971 and in 1998, showed exemplary grit and determination to dislodge Pakistani soldiers from the rugged heights of Kargil.

The Indian Army has protected and preserved the nation’s territorial integrity and has risen to the task when political will dictated stern action.

That is why it hurts when criticism of its actions in the defence of the nation are torn out of the extant geopolitics of the region.

I, sometimes, wonder what has happened to our brothers and sisters in media houses who hardly highlight the positive stories of the Indian Army in the current context and the admittedly glorious history of the Indian Army. In fact, glorifying the Indian Army would have added a great value to the overall development of the young minds that are still very eager to join the Indian Army as crowds at recruitment centres testify.

Beside the regular Indian Army, we also have another force in place known as Territorial Army which takes over the defence of the lines of support to the men fighting on the frontlines. The TA consists of well-trained civilians who opt to serve the nation through joining this force.

This edition, dear reader, is to highlight the Indian Army and the importance and role of Territorial Army and I am sure you will come to know many unknown facts about the best army in the world. So, enjoy reading this edition and do share your comments with us.

Jai Hind!

Pawan Agrawal



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