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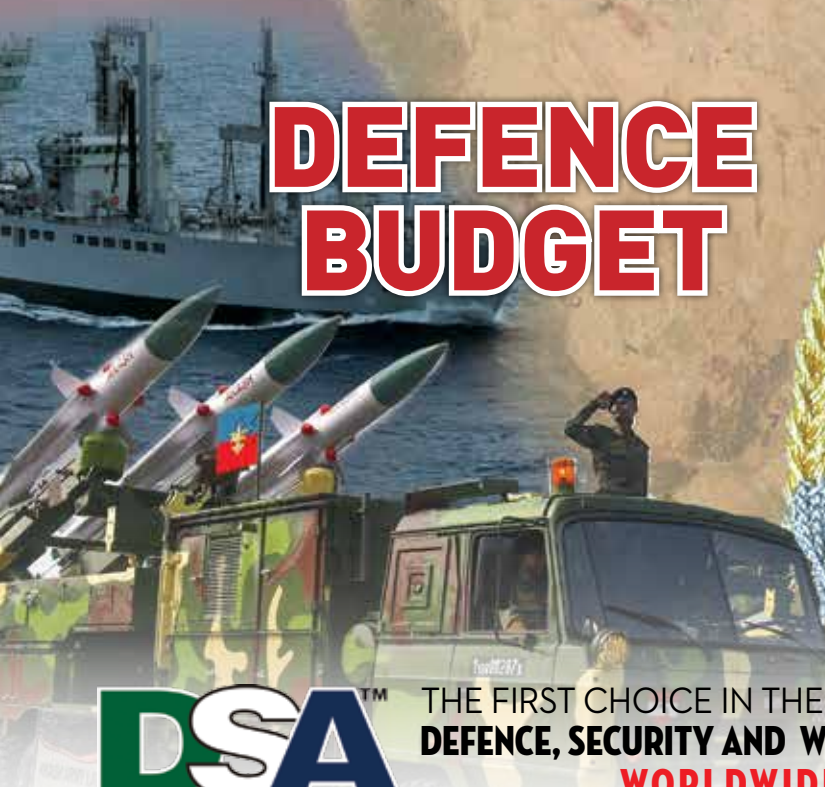
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ROLE OF THE CDS: GENERAL BIPIN RAWAT PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, ADC

DEFENCE BUDGET



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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!



The Union Government has allocated Rs 3.37 lakh crore as the defence budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21. While it accounts for about 15.49 per cent of total central government expenditure; it is a mere 5.8 per cent increase from allocations made in the last financial year. Economic stress, and other priorities, are the likely explanations for this trend. But what is more worrisome is that it represents a mere 1.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product. This has been the trend for the last half a decade or so, and represents the lowest allocations as percentage of GDP since the 1962 War.

For decades, observers and commentators had pegged two per cent of GDP as the bare minimum required to run an effective military capability in India. That figure reflected the country's commitment towards the defence of India based on what it could, and must, afford to pay. Within this figure lies military modernisation programmes, capital acquisitions, allowances and other revenue

expenditures. The main purpose being that India could then be in a position to handle two crises simultaneously, the perennial threat scenario analysts predict. This means that a border conflict with China and Pakistan can then be tackled at the same time.

A two-front war is of course the worst case scenario, and has to be avoided with all the diplomatic and other resources at play. But should it come about would India be in a position to confront the two adversaries together? Now even more unlikely given the pace of military modernisation the world over, and more particularly in China. India has faltered in its modernisation moves as they have been without a long-term tri-Service blueprint as to what the future shape and size ought to be. So, purchases have been episodic and expensive. This should change now.

At the end of 2019, Government of India announced the creation of a Chief of Defence Staff, and appointed outgoing Army Chief General Bipin Rawat as the first head. A new Department of Military

Affairs was also formed which he was to head as the CDS. He is to be the principal military advisor to the defence minister. But it is the full role that he is to play which is under scrutiny. As single point of reference for defence matters - will he be able to influence budgetary allocations? For that is where the main focus remains.

Budgetary allocations are based on recommendations made by various ministries and the final adjudication of the Finance Ministry. Service HQs send their requests to the Ministry of Defence which makes its win analysis and then send their final documents across the road to Finance Ministry. Based on their wisdom figures are pruned and finally announced. Now that a CDS is in place, it is hoped that as part of his role, General Rawat will also be in a position to influence budgeting. As a tri-Service head, he would be best placed to prepare a comprehensive long-term blueprint for Indian defence needs - manpower and technological. That is the least to be expected from decades of military experience.

Manvendra Singh

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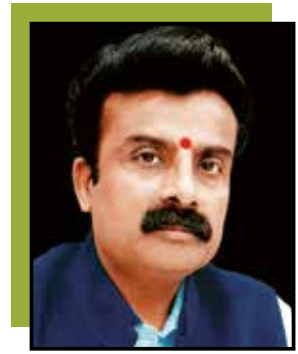
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MILITARY SYNERGY



As we all know joint or collective effort in any mission is the key to success. When it comes to the great mission of national defence and security, it becomes an absolute and inalienable imperative that the sinews of the State are deployed in unison and cohesion. This is more relevant today when warfare has transformed into a “hybrid” multi-dimensional assault.

And for a country like India which has been under various threats and challenges for a long time—rather there has been recurring ways to disturb the national security—it is essential that all efforts should be jointly done at every level; be it in defence, security or Intelligence collection, collation and analysis.

Would like to quote the American military historian George Tanham’s paper titled “Indian Strategic Thought and Interpretative Essay” (1992) which analysed the historical, geographic, and cultural factors influencing Indian strategic thinking: How India’s past has shaped present-day conceptions of military power and national security; how Indian elites view their strategic position vis-a-vis their neighbours, the Indian Ocean, and great power alignments; whether Indian thinking follows a reasonably consistent logic and direction; and what this might imply for India’s long-term ability to shape its regional security environment. He outlined four factors that explain the Indian view point viz. geography, history, influence of the British Raj and Indian culture. He underscores lack of coordination between the bureaucracy, parliament and military as the major festering points that afflict India.

Thus, taking a cue from the above and given India’s threat perception and given complexities of modern day warfare, a major structural reform in the Indian Armed Forces for an integrated approach was long overdue. The demand for this post has been raised and debated on multiple occasions, first being in 1999 after the Kargil War by the Group of Ministers headed by Sh L.K. Advani and thus, the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was a much-awaited and welcome move. The proposal was for a CDS who would be a four-star General considered primus inter pares ‘First Among Equals’ who will be the head of tri-Services in India and will act as a Principal Military Advisor to the government on all tri-Services matters. This architecture of joint command will promote jointness through collaboration in training, logistics, transport, joint exercises and drills, it will also enhance integration among the forces through joint operations and simulations, enhance expertise and ensure optimal utilisation of limited resources and augment combat capabilities of the forces.

Complimenting these changes has been the creation of a new Department of Military Affairs in the Defence Ministry with the CDS as its head and ex-officio Secretary and thus, has a dual-hatted role.

Finally, the Government of India announced the first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, ADC who recently retired as the Chief of Army Staff. Team DSA congratulates him on his new assignment and we are sure that under his guidance all the three forces will work jointly to maintain and manage the national security. It is to be seen how the CDS can manoeuvre any challenges it faces. Nevertheless, it is only the first step in the series of reforms required in the future. To ensure smooth restructuring, there should be transparency and responsiveness. It needs to be followed up with more reforms to ensure that the Indian Armed Forces are ready to shoulder India’s aspirations to become a global power.

This particular edition of DSA is a special edition which throws new light on the role and responsibilities of the CDS and its bigger role to counter any attempt to disturb our national security; be it on land, air or sea. We are sure that you would like this edition very much.

Happy reading!

Jai Hind

Pawan Agrawal
Chief Executive Officer



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INDIGENISATION
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- 04
- 10
- 14
- 18
- 24
- 30
- 34
- 38
- 44
- 48